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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the March 26, 2020 Meeting**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council via conference call at 11:05 am on March 26, 2020.

Roll call attendance: Jason Cardoso, Firefighter Billy Cabral, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Chief Richard Donovan, Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Chief Tim Nelson, Chief Frank Barresi, MFA Director Dave Evans, and Chief Fire Warden Dave Celino.

Also present were DFS Counsel Steven Rourke, Director of Operations Dave Clemons, Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, Deputy Marshal Maribel Fournier, and MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik.

Not present: Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, Chief Rick DeLorie, and Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Director Evans made a motion, seconded by Firefighter Cabral, to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2020 Training Council Meeting. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report

Director Evans presented the MFA Trust Fund report for the period of 1/26/20 through 2/22/20. The trust fund has no abnormalities and is healthy.

C. Update of Affiliated Members - Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts

- Chief Nelson –representing part paid/part call –nothing to report
- Chief Delorie - representing metro – not present
- Chief Barresi - representing call - nothing to report
- Chief Donovan – representing full-time – nothing to report

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Lt. Medeiros –
- Firefighter Cabral – Shortage of PPE is big problem; talking with DPH to help first responders get the equipment along with hospitals.

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller – not present
- Assistant Chief Ruchala – nothing to report

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Assistant Chief Connerty – couple of questions regarding academy: 1) will academy continue after current class – Director Evans notes that everything has been cancelled until further notice. 2) any word on suspended PATs starting again; Marshal Ostroskey stated HRD is in holding pattern and not operating; they will come up with contingency plans. The governor cancelled schools through May 4 and there is concern about the identified cases and deaths.

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Position open

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso – business is close to 100% operational at this time.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Chief David Celino – We were able to bring on seasonal workers to bring to our total of 38. The bureau continues to work out of our duty stations as essential workers. A lot of conversations on a national level on how we're going to handle the 2020 fire season. Update on the fire line leadership training, coinciding with the new statewide mobilization – we've met and decided that we cannot do the training virtually as it is the type of training you have to do in person. We will postpone and get it rolling as soon as we're cleared to do training. Doing a lot of training virtually.

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update –Counsel Steve Rourke

- There has been a flurry of bills filed related to the coronavirus, most are not through the process. Bill by the PFFM to see if 111f benefits could be paid as a result of illness due to the coronavirus.

E. DFS Update –Fire Marshal Ostroskey

- The agency is nearly 100% remote operation as far as administrative aspects. MFA is operating at a limited capacity at the moment.
- We have a number of things going as a state operation in support of the EOC. Administration support for the bulk of staff to work remotely.
- Continuing to work on open items like the PPE extractor grant initiative; departments are moving forward as well.
- The MPTC will be using the Springfield campus for their recruit academy.
- We had planned to present the overview of the budget and hope to do that at the next meeting.

F. Academy Activities Report –Director Evans

- We have cancelled, postponed or suspended everything but career recruit training that was ongoing up through April 17. Class 281 and BW01 finished within the last week. Class 282 is ongoing.
- We have invoked temporary protocols at the academy and DFS where we have a new COVID-19 protocol with the help of the executive office, hazmat response and our EMS coordinator. We will be taking the temporal temperatures of all instructors, recruits, and support personnel each day and will send folks home if they have a temp of 100.4. Ask four CDC questions.
- Career Recruit assignments: Stow – 171 – filling class 286 8-20-20 with 11 seats open
Bridgewater – 47 – filling class BW05 9-10-20 with 9 seats open
Springfield – 57 – filling class S16 7-9-20 with 10 seats open
- Call/Vol classes 081 and 082 were put on hold for a future date.

- Full-time staff are working remotely except for the Recruit Coordinator. Dennis is here with recruit class and the Deputy Director and I are here alternating days. My coordinator team has been meeting on Zoom on a regular basis.
- We have been tasked by the Marshal to figure out the process for restarting academy classes.
- We are continuing the interview process for the Educational Specialist on the Zoom platform in addition to the RIT Assistant Coordinator.
- Peter Burke has been promoted to Maritime Coordinator and program is on hold.

G. Old Business

G. New Business

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

J. Review of Correspondence

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be Wednesday, April 15 at 11:00 am.

L. Public Comment

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Director Evans made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Connerty, to adjourn the meeting at 11:35. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.