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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS  
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council  
Minutes of the March 3, 2021 Meeting**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council via webex with the Pledge of Allegiance at 11:05 am on March 3, 2021.

Roll call attendance: Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Vice Chairman Chief Tim Nelson, Chief David Celino, Fire Marshal Michael Swain, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Retired Chief Sheri Bemis, Jason Cardoso, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala (arrived after roll call), Chief Frank Barresi, and Chief Richard DeLorie (arrived after roll call).

Also present were Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, DFS Counsel Steven Rourke, DFS Deputy Counsel Glenn Rooney, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Assistant Chief Tim Choate, Educational Specialist Sara Praguski Walsh, Call/Vol Program Coordinator Chris Norris, MaryAnn Smith (host), Fire Safety, and Administrative Assistant Susan Neaz.

Not present: Chief Richard Donovan and Firefighter William Cabral.

**A. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty made a motion, seconded by Chief Dave Celino, to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2021 Training Council Meeting. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. Fiscal Affairs Report**

Deputy Fire Marshal Fournier presented the MFA Trust Fund report for the period of 1/24/21 through 2/20/21. We continue to be busy with contract training in a variety of courses and are billing out for these trainings. We feel we are going to exceed our projected revenue for the fiscal year.

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

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

### **Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts**

- Firefighter Cabral – not present
- Lieutenant Medeiros – I've been getting calls relative to the CT scan testing grant with UMass and questions regarding the prerequisite of the course Taking Action Against Cancer in the Fire Service.
- Two friends of the fire service have lost their battle with cancer: Spike Lawless and Dan O'Connell have done so much to advocate for us all.

### **Mass Call/Vol**

- Assistant Chief Miller – nothing to report
- Assistant Chief Ruchala –nothing to report

### **Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors**

- Assistant Chief Connerty – nothing to report

### **Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts**

- Fire Marshal Michael Swain – the association has confirmed our 2-day conference will be held virtually May 11 & 12, 2021.

### **Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry**

- Jason Cardoso – we are expecting a number of claims as a result of the severe winds yesterday.

### **Bureau of Forest Fire Control**

- Chief Celino – there was some fire activity in areas with no snow in the last couple days. In March of last year, we had the highest fire activity for the year; if dry weather continues we may see increased fire activity. We have about eight vacancies for DCR fire staffing and we expect to be fully staffed by April. Volunteer Fire Assistance grants for communities under the population of 10,000 are low at 28 applicants. The balance in the grant funding will be used to increase our foam supply. We are encouraging communities to apply.

### **Citizens of the Commonwealth**

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – nothing to report

### **D. Legislative Update –Counsel Steve Rourke**

- One of the bills of interest to the Training Council is a bill to lift the restriction of the 960-hour rule for retired instructors.

### **E. DFS Update –Fire Marshal Ostroskey**

- The agency is continuing to work on the Fire Equipment grant and hope to push them out in the near future. There has been a good response from communities.
- A lot is going on with the MFA and the Deputy Marshal will update.
- We issued some information on safety and security for local fire departments for houses of worship.
- Yesterday we announced the Firefighter of the Year Program video version will be rolled out on March 8 at 10:30 am. These folks were nominated in November for their heroics and community action.

**F. Academy Activities Report –Deputy Fire Marshal Fournier**

- The recruit assignment list is at 139; we’re filling the July classes for Springfield and Bridgewater and just started filling the August class in Stow.
- The civil service list is expected to be out on March 15 and after that we expect that communities will be hiring. We are having internal discussions on how we will be handling an increase in career recruit applications and how we can increase the class size.
- The MFA staff has been tasked with releasing additional virtual sessions. 10 additional classes have been scheduled. Within a matter of days, we had 75 to 90 enrolled in a single Impact class.
- The CT scan program has been successful in that we have approved 320 firefighters for testing. It looks as though we will make our goal of 800 participants.
- We started the new career recruit 4:1 matrix last week; recruits are in the classroom for 1-2 hour max then out on the drill yard for PT or for a practical component.
- Assistant Chief Connerty asked if the Fire Officer and Fire Instructor students can get on a waiting list by priority based on need. Deputy Director Klucznik explained that there is an email sent from LMS that indicates an open class. If the class gets full, the student can be added to a notification list the next time a class is opened.
- The Chairman inquired about the Director’s position; the Deputy Marshal noted applications have been received and the agency will also distribute the open position through another avenue. The plan is to start interviews in the next month or so.

**G. Old Business**

**H. New Business**

- DFS FY22 Budget Presentation – Marshal Ostroskey shared with the Council the agency’s FY22 budget submission. The budget request is tentative however members can make a request through his office for a copy of the presentation.

**I. Policy Presentation/Adoption**

**I. Review of Correspondence**

- Notice of SAFER hold request for Wakefield Fire Department

**K. Determination of Next Date and Location**

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be Wednesday April 7, 2021 at 11:00 am via webex call unless otherwise noted.

**L. Public Comment**

**M. Adjourn Meeting**

- Chief Frank Barresi made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, to adjourn the meeting at 12:50. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.