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CHIEF CHRISTOPHER MADDEN
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the April 10, 2025 Meeting**

Chairman Chief Christopher Madden opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and began the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:05 am on April 10, 2025, via Microsoft Teams.

Members attendance: Chairman Chief Christopher Madden, Capt. John Bonadio, Capt. John Lombardo, Asst. Chief Jonathan Miller, Chief Fire Warden David Celino, Chief Andrew Puntini, Dr. Michael Goldstein, Firefighter William Cabral, Mary Clare Higgins and Chief Justin Alexander, Acting MFA Director, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier

Also present: State Fire Marshal Jon Davine, DFS General Counsel Glenn Rooney, Deputy Director of Operations David Clemons, Instructional Design and Curriculum Development Specialist Sara Praguski Walsh, Deputy Director of Training Dennis Ball, Deputy Director of Administration Joanne Gardiner and Administrative Secretary Christine Dansereau.

Not present:, Chief Francis Barresi, Capt. Drew Piemonte, Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Firefighter William Cabral made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2025, Training Council Meeting, seconded by Chief Andrew Puntini. The vote passed all in favor of the motion by roll call.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report – Acting MFA Director, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier

- The report is from February to March. As we approach the end of the fiscal year, our outstanding invoices are starting to get paid. The beginning revenue was \$555k. We received about \$80k and we are ending in the positive at about \$20k.

EOPSS Update – Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey – not present

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

- Chief Madden – The Marshal came out to the last Metro Chiefs meeting. We are working with the Metro Chiefs to get a plan together for some training.
- Chief Barresi – not present
- Chief Justin Alexander – nothing to report
- Chief Andrew Puntini (part call/part paid) – we had our District 14 Chiefs meeting and there was some concern by some of the team leaders about not being able to get people into the tech rescue programs.

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral— nothing to report
- Capt. Piemonte – not present

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller— nothing to report
- Dr. Michael Goldstein— MCVFA just published their Smoke Showing magazine. It is available on our website. The cover story is about Holliston Fire teaming up with Sherborn Fire and a variety of others for a training session.

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Capt. John Bonadio – the next MIFDI meeting is on April 23, 2025.

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Capt. John Lombardo – Nothing to report other than the Fire Prevention seminars in May.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Community Action

- Mary Clare Higgins— This season is coming to an end but the programs which help people heat their homes, so they don't use dangerous ways to heat their homes. All the people in the federal government who run these programs got laid off. Most of the money we get is Federal and the State won't be able to backfill it. If we don't have that money next year, we are looking at a scary situation. If you could talk to your groups about being in favor of fuel assistance or low-income heating energy assistance programs.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control – Chief Fire Warden David Celino – We have had 341 wildfires to date, not including the 19 acres in Wenham last night. We have had 420 acres burned to date. We are seeing the continuation of the drought effects from last fall.

Citizen of the Commonwealth

- Vacant

D. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney

- There are still committee assignments being made and bills getting very early hearings. House Bill 2723 was afforded a hearing yesterday and that bill is to expand American Sign Language and part of that bill would be expanding the duties of the Training Council. To establish training and ongoing education courses that allow for basic understanding of American Sign Language.

E. DFS Update – State Fire Marshal Jon Davine –

- The National Emergency Reporting System is going to replace the NFIR's system. NERS gave us the opportunity to onboard a couple of departments early. We are going to onboard Belchertown, Westborough, Hawley, Falmouth, Worcester and Beverly Fire Departments. Our goal is to have 100% compliance throughout the Commonwealth.
- We have got the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution coming up along with the Boston Marathon on Patriots Day weekend.
- Fire Equipment grants and Safe grants went out this week, so all of the Chief's should have gotten their notification.
- The Fire and Explosive Investigation Unit, which are the troopers assigned to our office, the Captain Mike Riley retired last month, and Lt. Eric Desrochers was appointed to the Commander of the Unit. Eric selected Mark Reedy, who is the Sargeant on the West Team as a fire investigator to be promoted to Lieutenant. So, he will be Eric's number 2.
- Our Haz Mat Director Jeff Winn plans on retiring in the next couple of months. We just went through the job description, and we should be posting that shortly.
- Our next Senior Fire Officer Symposium is on May 8th here in Stow from 9am to 1pm.
- Firefighter of the Year nominations are open. If you have any one in your department that should be recognized, fill out the nomination and send that in.

F. DFS and MFA Updates – Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier

- After an 18-month process, we have finally received our ProBoard Accreditation. I would like to thank Dr. Sara Praguski Walsh and her team for making this happen. They put in a lot of hours and hard work.
- Through the accreditation process we aligned the training programs with certification. During that process we became aware of an issue regarding the rope rescue programs. We are accredited to when you take a training program with certification embedded in it, you have 1 year from the date of that class to take your certification exam. That hasn't happened in the rope rescue programs, they were given more than a year. People were allowed to not have to go back and take their certification exam for rope, if they went in and took trench. They would take the trench class and then they were given more than a year to go back and take the rope class. We took those students, and we are offering four sessions for those that still need to sit for the rope certification.
- Over the past few months, we have had a new publisher for the certification test back for Haz Mat Operations Level Responder. We would buy our test banks from PTS and we would import them into our certification test banks. PTS is no longer in business, so we must buy them from the distributors or publishers. Our typical failure rate on this exam is about 10% in Career Recruit and 30% in Call/Vol. Over the winter months we noticed those failure rates started to double, and we couldn't figure out why. The standard didn't change, and it was updated on our training side. We had the Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator of the Haz Mat training programs and Dr. Sara Praguski Walsh of Curriculum Development and Certification take the exam with one of the career recruit classes. We all came to the same conclusion that there was something wrong with the test. We reached out to IFSTA and other states to see if they were having the same issues and they were. We fixed the questions on one exam and will administer that exam to the recruit programs. We are putting together a team to fix all the other questions in that test bank. Anyone in the recruit programs who failed the exam in the winter months those exams will be rescored with the fixed questions. So anyone who failed antically and passed after the rescore will be certified.
- The Directors position is still going through the screening process through the governor's office.

- Dean Babineau who is currently the coordinator for Special Hazards, has decided to do a lateral transfer to the coordinator of the recruit programs. The Special Hazards Coordinator position will be posted again.

G. Old Business – nothing to report

H. New Business – nothing to report

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption – Cadet Program – Chief Christopher Madden

- Civil Service is allowing fire departments to have cadet programs. The Training Council would oversee approving the curriculum for these fire departments to use to train their cadets. During the policy sub-committee meeting prior to this meeting, we approved the evaluation form that will be used by the fire departments that outline the criteria for their training. Everything on that evaluation is mandatory for every cadet to complete within those two years.

Firefighter William Cabral made a motion to accept the policy sub-committee's recommendation for the evaluation form with the revisions of the CPR first responder training, seconded by Chief Andrew Puntini. The vote passed all in favor of the motion by roll call.

J. Review of Correspondence – nothing to report

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 10 am in the Boards and Commissions room.

L. Public Comment -- none

M. Adjourn Meeting

Firefighter William Cabral motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Chief Andrew Puntini. Voted unanimously by roll call to adjourn at 12:28pm.