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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS  
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council  
Minutes of the April 15, 2020 Meeting**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council via conference call at 11:05 am on April 15, 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, Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, MFA Director Dave Evans, and Chief Fire Warden Dave Celino.

Also present were DFS Counsel Steven Rourke, DFS Deputy Counsel Glen Rooney, Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, and MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik.

Not present: Chief Frank Barresi, Chief Rick DeLorie, and Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller.

**A. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Assistant Chief Connerty made a motion, seconded by Director Evans, to approve the minutes of the March 26, 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 2/23/20 through 3/28/20. The trust fund is fluid with changes up and down.

**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 – not present
- Chief Donovan – representing full-time – nothing to report

**Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts**

- Lt. Medeiros – nothing to report
- Firefighter Cabral – Trying to push bills through legislature to help police and firefighters if presumed to have COVID-19.

### **Mass Call/Vol**

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

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

- Assistant Chief Connerty – nothing to report

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

- Position open

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

- Jason Cardoso – nothing to report.

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

- Chief David Celino – We've been able to staff our fire towers with an average of 22 to 24 tower staff. We are running our mission by producing an incident action plan on a weekly basis. We have one staff member test positive for COVID in one of the districts.

### **Citizens of the Commonwealth**

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – nothing to report

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

- Two bills were heard – no action as of today.
- Bridgewater land transfer bill still in committee.

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

- The department is working in support of the EOPSS with a COVID-19 testing site for first responders.
- The agency staff went from typical operations to remote operations about a month ago.
- Some staff are working at the MEMA warehouse and the MEMA point of distribution in Bridgewater.
- HazMat response working on key functions at the testing site locations.
- Deputy Marshal is working with some DFS admin and registration staff on the call center.
- Unfortunately, class 282 suffered a set-back yesterday. Because of a COVID-19 positive test, we ceased the class temporarily. The plan is to still graduate the class on time on 4-24-20.
- The department is also working with EOPSS on a number of executive orders relative to suspension or variation in codes.

### **F. Academy Activities Report –Director Evans**

- We were informed last night that one of our instructors tested positive that led to the suspension of class 282. The last time this instructor was at the academy was April 6 and thereby using the 14-day quarantine directive, we have suspended the class until 4-21-20. All 33 recruits will be tested at the Big-E site. All instructors have been given the call center number to get tested. We intend to do a burn on 4-21-20; final exam on 4-22-20; 4-23 retake; and 4-24 CISM and last day.

- We continued our protocols by screening recruits and staff when first coming in and at lunch.
- Recruit assignment list hasn't changed.
- We have cancelled everything through 5-3-20.
- We all have been working on programming, redeveloping, and the call center.
- We are also working on plans to re-start recruit and call/vol; looking at hybrid situations and online classroom situations.

## **G. Old Business**

## **H. New Business**

### **I. Policy Presentation/Adoption**

- **Recommendation of Recruit Medical and PAT Requirements due to COVID-19:**  
Director Dave Evans explained that as a result of the suspension of classes, some recruits that have been assigned to upcoming classes will have an expired physical examination by the time their class begins. After discussion with DFS Counsel, Director Evans is recommending that the medical requirements be waived for all recruits currently assigned to a class. This is not a change in policy as it only applies to those that are currently assigned to a recruit class. All new completed applications will be subject to the current policy requirements.

Assistant Chief Connerty made a motion, seconded by Chief Donovan, to waive the time frame for medical and PAT requirements for all currently assigned recruits. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

In addition, Director Evans discussed the mandatory fitness orientation six weeks prior to a recruit class. When the academy is back in session, the Director proposed using discretion with time frames for RFO. Chief Donovan made motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Connerty, to give the Director the discretion to waive the time frame for the mandatory recruit fitness orientation until the academy gets back to regular operations. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

### **J. Review of Correspondence**

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

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be Wednesday, May 6 at 11:00 am via conference call unless otherwise noted.

### **L. Public Comment**

### **M. Adjourn Meeting**

- Director Evans made a motion, seconded by Chief Richard Donovan, to adjourn the meeting at 11:40. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.