



MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TERRENCE M. REIDY
SECRETARY

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Massachusetts Fire Training Council*

P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road

Stow, Massachusetts 01775

(978) 567~3100 Fax: (978) 567~3229



CHIEF WALTER O. NELSON
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the April 5, 2023 Meeting**

Chairman Chief Tim Nelson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and began the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:15 am on April 5, 2023, at the DFS Stow campus.

Members attendance: Chairman Chief Tim Nelson, Mr. Jason Cardoso, Firefighter Billy Cabral, Chief Christopher Madden, Attorney Courtney Mayo, Chief Justin Alexander, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Chief Frank Barresi, and Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala.

Also present were State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Special Hazards Coordinator Paul Betti, Public Information Officer Jake Wark, Waltham Fire Depts. Members John Bonadio and James Perry, and Administrative Assistant Susan Neaz.

Not present: MFA Director Jeffrey Winn, Lieutenant John Lombardo, Chief Dave Celino, and Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Firefighter Billy Cabral made a motion, seconded by Chief Frank Barresi, to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2023 Training Council Meeting. The vote passed in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report – Deputy Marshal Fournier

Reporting on two months of fiscal reports. First report we were \$16,000 in the positive. We are receiving more revenue and are now in the positive for \$26,000. We expect to continue to be in the positive through the end of the fiscal year and do not foresee any issues.

C. EOPSS Update – Undersecretary -Jeanne Thorpe – not present

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

- Chief Nelson--representing part paid/part call – nothing to report
- Chief Madden-- Metro had monthly meeting at FCAM conference – nothing to report
- Chief Barresi--representing call –We're working on enrollment for the Fall River class coming up.
- Chief Justin Alexander – nothing to report

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral— there's a bunch of bills in the State House; they're assigning the committees; hopefully we will see votes. There's an international lawsuit against the NFPA – looking forward to seeing the outcome.

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller— we had our regional meeting. There's a new president and there are a couple of board seats available.
- Assistant Chief Ruchala— same as above.

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Position open

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Lt. John Lombardo – not present

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso— 2nd half of winter started to pick up with claims from deep freeze. We're also dealing with a lot of fires of our homeowners. Arson watch program brought an arrest of a teen reporting an arson by way of snapchat.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control – Chief Dave Celino

- Not present

Citizen of the Commonwealth

- Attorney Courtney Mayo – nothing to report

E. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney

- Not much new to report until after the committees are set.
- In the Governor's supplemental budget, there's a clause extending open meeting provisions for online meetings; status quo until March 2025.

F. DFS Update – Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey

- The Marshal thanked the insurance company for continuing to support the Arson Watch Program.
- This is the agency's busy season; we are in the throes of the budget process. Our budget looks good for FY24. The Marshal will give his budget presentation at the next Training Council meeting with specific information for Training Council.
- Attended a Joint Ways & Means committee hearing yesterday in Springfield. The Marshal continues to answer questions on a variety of legislative fronts.
- The agency is spending a lot of time and effort on support of the Active Shooter program – NFPA 3000. The Commonwealth is engaged with a company, ALERT, for standardization of our programs. Two AIR –An Integrated Response sessions were held for instructors from MPTC, DFS, MSP to learn how to do the training. Coordinator is teaming up with MSP to map out AIR curriculum. The Director of ASHER programs will be in place in the near future and will be a peer for MPTC. The two organizations will work together to support the programs.
- Met with states' Fire Marshals in Emmitsburg. Massachusetts is one of the first in US to adopt NFPA 3000.
- There's been a few retirements in addition to other changes in the agency.

- Progress in BW is going well; we are in good shape with DCAMM. We still have a full commitment for the construction of the burn building and the installation of the infrastructure.

G. MFA report – Deputy Marshal Fournier

- Our spring season is extremely busy. Recruit – we’re filling October in Stow, September in BW, and June in Springfield. There’s 226 total on the assignment list.
- Career Recruit shifts are being filled and we are looking to increase class size to 36 in Stow beginning with the August class. Class size is 24 in Bridgewater and we can train up to 32 in Springfield. Recruits are moved up based on when their application was submitted.
- As you may know, Career Recruit had three cases of rhabdomyolysis. During our Fitness Orientation, which happens 6 weeks before the class starts, we stress that they should avoid supplements or energy drinks. The recruits may not be taking that information seriously. We have held three Instructor improvements stressing the importance of this information to recruits. We have reached out to a Sports and Medicine doctor; he took a look at the training and PT matrix and has given some initial recommendations. One was to install scales in the locker rooms to encourage weighing themselves at the beginning and end of the day.
- We are updating the Administrative Assistant and Deputy Director job descriptions and are in the process of getting those positions posted.
- MFA now has 13 Instructors certified in the AIR program. We are hoping another series will be offered in the fall for additional Instructor training.

H. Old Business

I. New Business - Counsel Glenn Rooney

The Training Council’s enabling legislation indicates approval of each piece of property donated.

- Approval of recently accepted donations to Academy
 - Ballistic vests, shields and helmets from Whitman Fire-Rescue in support of the ASHER program. Chief Madden made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Ruchala to accept the donation. The vote passed in favor of the motion.
 - Railroad tank car dome assemblies (2) donated by CSX. Assistant Chief Ruchala made a motion, seconded by Chief Madden, to accept the donation. The vote passed in favor of the motion.
 - Bullex confined space prop from Sanofi - this \$60,000 prop took about a year to acquire due to title issues. Chief Madden made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Ruchala to accept the donation. The vote passed in favor of the motion.
 - ISG thermal imaging cameras (3), truck chargers (2), batteries and 110V charger from Sudbury Fire Dept. – these are great training tools for the Academy. Chief Madden made a motion, seconded by Chief Barresi, to accept the donation. The voted passed in favor of the motion.

J. Policy Presentation/Adoption

K. Review of Correspondence

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 11:00 am at our Stow campus.

L. Public Comment

- A question regarding getting a new LMS system for registration. The Deputy Marshal indicated that a new LMS system discussion is probably a year or two away from researching.

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Chief Justin Alexander made a motion, seconded by Chief Christopher Madden, to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.