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Massachusetts Fire Training Council*

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CHIEF WALTER O. NELSON
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the May 1, 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 11:10 am on May 1, 2023, at the DFS Stow campus.

Members attendance: Chairman Chief Tim Nelson, Mr. Jason Cardoso, Chief Dave Celino, Chief Christopher Madden, Chief Justin Alexander, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, MFA Director Jeffrey Winn, and Lieutenant John Lombardo.

Also present were State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Public Information Officer Jake Wark, Recruit Coordinator Dennis Ball, Curriculum Specialist Sara Praguski Walsh, Waltham Department members James Perry and John Bonadio, and Administrative Assistant Susan Neaz.

Not present: Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, Attorney Courtney Mayo, Firefighter Billy Cabral, Chief Frank Barresi, and Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chief Christopher Madden made a motion, seconded by Chief Justin Alexander to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2023 Training Council Meeting. The vote passed in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report – MFA Director Jeffrey Winn

The Trust Fund balance for mid-April is just shy of \$15K. Various amounts of accounts receivables are slowly coming in. We're looking at all of our internal processes and rewriting our older templates so we can get a better financial snapshot.

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-- nothing to report
- Chief Barresi--representing call –not present
- Chief Justin Alexander – nothing to report

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral— not present

Mass Call/Vol

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

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Position open

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Lt. John Lombardo – nothing to report

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso— nothing to report

Bureau of Forest Fire Control – Chief Dave Celino

- We've had a pretty active two-weeks with three red flag warnings that hit all the criteria of extreme fire conditions. Year to date, we've had 525 fires with 800 acres burned. We had a couple of injuries which resulted in after-action lessons. 28 operations treated 1800 acres. Towers are in full swing and almost fully staffed. No updates for training.

Citizen of the Commonwealth

- Attorney Courtney Mayo – not present

E. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney

- Not much new to report until bills have been assigned to committee.

F. DFS Update – Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey

- Academy is working on a variety of fronts and having continued progress on some programs.
- Dave DiGregorio retired on Friday; he will be missed. In the process of identifying candidates.
- Brian Ingram is the newly hired Director of Fire Safety. He is neck deep in a host of issues. Public Educator Position Coordinator open.
- The agency will be hiring a new Deputy General Counsel next week.
- Work continues on end of FY23 and we're looking toward FY24.
- The search for a new Marshal is under way.

G. MFA report – MFA Director Jeffrey Winn

- Class 312 in Stow starts today.
- Class 315 in Stow will start with 36 recruits. Recruits have been assigned to this class and we have shy of 4 month waitlist. In about 3-6 months we will have about a 3 month waitlist.
- MFA will hold Instructor PT TtTs starting next week – Dr. Gaudin will attend the RFO training. We will continue to work with the doctor to help us continue to have a good program.
- Two Deputy positions are posted with 15 applicants.
- Administrative Assistant position has 60 candidates.

H. Old Business

I. New Business - Budget Presentation – State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey

Counsel Rooney provided the Council with information regarding the Council's statutory responsibilities, duties, and mission of the Council.

In Marshal Ostroskey's presentation, he reviewed FY23 agency accomplishments and reviewed where agency receives funding for our FY24 budget allocations. Deputy Marshal Fournier reviewed the MFA's process for scheduling programs.

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, June 7, 2023 at 11:00 am at our Stow campus.

L. Public Comment

- A question was asked about the re-accreditation process. The re-accreditation process will take place in 2024. The Academy is revising its processes.

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Chief Justin Alexander made a motion, seconded by Chief Christopher Madden, to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.