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CHIEF CHRISTOPHER MADDEN  
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council  
Minutes of the May 15, 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 10:12 am on May 15, 2025, in the Boards and Commissions Room, Stow Campus.

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

Also present: 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, Julie Kilbride Certification Office and Administrative Secretary Christine Dansereau.

Not present:, Chief Fire Warden David Celino, Capt. Drew Piemonte, Mary Clare Higgins, Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey

**A. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Captain John Bonadio made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2025, Training Council Meeting, seconded by Firefighter William Cabral. The vote passed all in favor of the motion.

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

- The report is from March through April; the beginning revenue was \$636K. We did receive the donation from PGANE for \$55k and that will be used for repairs and ongoing maintenance in the gas school. Our ending balance is \$51K, you will see next month that we are trying to close out any contracts by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**EOPSS Update – Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey – not present**

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

- Chief Madden – Cambridge fire was asking what the process was for the Cadet program.
- Chief Barresi – went to a meeting at the Rhode Island EMA headquarters, redoing mutual aid to Rhode Island and will be adding Rehoboth Fire to their run card. The Call/Vol in June is full.
- Chief Justin Alexander – nothing to report
- Chief Andrew Puntini (part call/part paid) – nothing to report

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

- Firefighter Cabral— PFFM convention coming up in June, the whole board is up for re-election.
- Capt. Piemonte – not present

### **Mass Call/Vol**

- Assistant Chief Miller— nothing to report
- Dr. Michael Goldstein— Joe Maruca and I just attended the Massachusetts Board of Directors for the National Volunteer Fire Council.
  - Presentation by the AES which is a power system company, which supplies commercial battery packs. Key points of the presentation were treat it like a gas fire, don't go into the building.
  - The National Volunteer Fire Council and NFPA Research Foundation are working jointly on a study on training and recruitment and retention for Call Volunteers nationwide.

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

- Capt. John Bonadio – We had some questions about Certification within my department as well as some counterparts in other communities. I had a Microsoft teams meeting with Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier and Dr. Sara Praguski Walsh yesterday, I was able to get a lot of answers and it was productive and I now have a contact if questions should arise in the future.

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

- Capt. John Lombardo – FPAM just had their educational seminar, which was great.

### **Citizen of the Commonwealth – Community Action**

- Mary Clare Higgins— not present

### **Bureau of Forest Fire Control – Chief Fire Warden David Celino – not present**

### **Citizen of the Commonwealth**

- Vacant

### **D. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney**

- Not much to report, the bills that were before the hearing deadline got a hearing last week. We will track the progress of how they get reported.

### **E. DFS Update – State Fire Marshal Jon Davine – not present**

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

- Career Recruit class S42 in Springfield starts July 28<sup>th</sup> has currently 9 spots available, class 334 in Stow that starts on September 22<sup>nd</sup> has currently 8 spots available, and Bridgewater class BW37

that starts on October 6<sup>th</sup> has 6 spots available and the 2 Call/Volunteer classes that start at the end of June are full.

- The MFA Director position is currently in salary negotiations, and they should start by the end of June.
- The state issued a hiring freeze for state positions; this shouldn't affect our contractor jobs that have been posted.
- I talked about the Haz Mat OLR certification exam at the last meeting; 18 sessions are being reviewed from July through early January. There are about 300 students between the open exams, Call/Volunteer and Career Recruit that are being reviewed. We hope to notify all the students by the end of May.
- Firefighter of the year nominations are due by July 15<sup>th</sup>, send those over to Kerry Weihn.
- The Agency is preparing for the Esplanade 4<sup>th</sup> of July event.
- NEARS is being updated on our website with all the changes. Multiple departments are in the testing stage. NEARS is telling us that they are still on target for the 1/1/26 deployment.
- The Executive Office is working with EOTSS to select an LMS project manager. That will help us transition from our current LMS to a new LMS system.
- Bridgewater Campus update – we are currently working on package A which is the infrastructure of the Burn Building and the water reclamation system. We are scheduled to complete that project on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The paving of the facility has started and should be completed by mid-June. We are working to set up a schedule to do test burns in the new Burn Building. We are also working on package B which is the fire station and the crib room. That is scheduled to be completed by the end of October.
- Springfield campus has updated AV equipment including new large interactive LCD monitors in the classrooms.
- In the June meeting we will be bringing to the council 2 updated policies on burn qual and the no show/cancellation policy.
- Marshal Davine will give his yearly presentation on the Governors recommendation on the budget at the June meeting.

**G. Old Business** – nothing to report

**H. New Business – Deputy State Fire Marshal** – the MFA is seeking councils' approval for Quincy Fire Department for 10 seats in the recruit program in September.

*Firefighter William Cabral made a motion to approve and seconded by Chief Francis Barresi. The vote passed all in favor of the motion.*

**I. Policy Presentation/Adoption** –

**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, June 4, 2025, at 11 am in the Boards and Commissions room.

**L. Public Comment** -- none

**M. Adjourn Meeting**

Chief Francis Barresi motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Chief Justin Alexander. Voted unanimously adjourn at 11:20am.