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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the May 6, 2020 Meeting**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council via conference call at 11:05 am on May 6, 2020.

Roll call attendance: Jason Cardoso, Firefighter Billy Cabral, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Chief Tim Nelson, Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, MFA Director Dave Evans, Chief Fire Warden Dave Celino, Chief Frank Barresi, Chief Rick DeLorie, and Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller. Arrival after roll call minutes vote: Chief Richard Donovan.

Also present were DFS Counsel Steven Rourke, DFS Deputy Counsel Glen Rooney, Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Call/Vol Program Coordinator Chris Norris, and MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik.

Not present:

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Assistant Chief Connerty made a motion, seconded by Firefighter Cabral, to approve the minutes of the April 15, 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 3/29/20 through 4/25/20. Current balance is \$75,593.17; no abnormalities.

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

- Chief Nelson –representing part paid/part call –nothing to report
- Chief Delorie - representing metro – nothing to report
- Chief Barresi - representing call – nothing to report
- Chief Donovan – representing full-time – nothing to report

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Lt. Medeiros – still having PPE issues; receiving calls about the status of the academy reopening.
- Firefighter Cabral – re-working COVID-19 legislation for first responders.

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller – nothing to report
- 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 have had 348 wildfires of 256 acres. We're running with a staff of 56 with a number of openings. We have had a significant number of trespassing cases at our fire towers. We're producing an incident action plan for the COVID-19 situation and are functioning virtually. We have confirmed an additional four staff member testing positive for COVID. We're awaiting results on several that have not received their results but will reach out for help getting them.

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update –Counsel Steve Rourke

- There is work on a re-draft of a first responder bill.
- There was a discussion on the bond bill for Bridgewater and we're hoping that will result in a vote on the land transfer.

E. DFS Update –Fire Marshal Ostroskey

- The department is providing support for the first responder testing site and call center.
- Also providing support for the point of distribution sites in Bridgewater and Marlborough.
- DFS is having joint conversations with other academies in the Commonwealth and regionally on ways to go forward with training.
- Sadly, there has been an increase in fatal fires in the Commonwealth mainly smoking related.
- We are continuing to see hazmat response and fire investigation incidents as well as building code issues.

F. Academy Activities Report –Director Evans

- As I mentioned last month, we have implemented protocols for staff including temperature taking, wearing masks and social distancing. This has been on-going.
- Career Recruit numbers are the same: 171 in Stow; 57 in Springfield; and 47 in Bridgewater.
- Paul Betti has been leading the charge the last few weeks on purchasing three Adobe Connect licenses. A pilot program with a Fire Officer I class that was in progress resumed

virtually yesterday. 17 out of the 24 original participants plus five instructors were in the session and the feedback by students and instructors have been positive. This pilot will be used for future planning.

- The Career Recruit team produced a 3-week virtual session along with a 7-week practical session. Much communication will need to be made with the departments. Additionally, we will be altering the RFO. My hope is to start the virtual opening in early June.
- Marshal Ostroskey noted that from all perspectives and policies we've had, we don't foresee any reduction in the quality of the Career Recruit program. We are taking into account that people are safe and protected and feel this may enhance and improve accessibility and the amount of time spent on specific areas. Everything is being taken into account. The question was asked if the recruit class size would be expanded. Director Evans noted that it would not be something we could look at right now due to the social distancing protocols.

G. Old Business

H. New Business

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

I. Review of Correspondence

- Chairman Medeiros noted the letter from the FCAM requesting the Massachusetts Fire Training Council initiate preparations to re-open recruit training at the MA Fire Academy at the earliest possible time.

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be Wednesday, June 3 at 11:00 am via conference call unless otherwise noted.

L. Public Comment

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Director Evans made a motion, seconded by Chief Frank Barresi, to adjourn the meeting at 11:45. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.