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Massachusetts Fire Training Council*

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CHIEF WALTER O. NELSON
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the September 14, 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 11:05 am on September 14, 2023, at the DFS Stow campus.

Members attendance: Chairman Chief Tim Nelson, Chief Frank Barresi, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey, Captain Drew Piemonte, Chief Christopher Madden, Lieutenant John Lombardo, MFA Director Jeff Winn, Jason Cardoso.

Also present were State Fire Marshal Jon Davine, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney, DFS Counsel Rachel Perlman, Instructional Design and Curriculum Development Specialist Sara Praguski Walsh, Recruit Programs Coordinator Dennis Ball, John Bonadio from the Waltham Fire Department.

Not present: Chief David Celino, Firefighter William Cabral, Attorney Courtney Mayo, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Chief Justin Alexander.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller made a motion, seconded by Chief Christopher Madden to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2023 Training Council Meeting. The vote passed in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report – MFA Director Jeffrey Winn

- Started the last financial period at \$200,092K

C. EOPSS Update – Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey

- We had a great day yesterday with the Marshal's official swearing in with the Governor.
- Latest update from MEMA is hurricane Lee going out east.

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 –nothing to report
- Chief Justin Alexander – not present

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 – ramping up to Fire Prevention month and looking forward to the Pub Ed Conference

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso— nothing to report

Bureau of Forest Fire Control – Chief Dave Celino – not present

Citizen of the Commonwealth

- Attorney Courtney Mayo – not present

E. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney

- Not much to report the Public Safety bills are still in committee, the couple that were heard yesterday included a bill for Fire Chiefs only serving 10 years.
- There is a bill that will affect the training council relative to American Sign Language. That would require that the fire training council establish training and ongoing education courses to allow for a basic understanding of American Sign Language by all members of the fire service. MPTC and MSP would also be tasked with doing the same.
- **DFS Update – Fire Marshal Jon Davine**
- Academy Director Jeff Winn will be moving over to the Haz Mat Division
- Will be posting Jeff's position within a week or so.
- Lithium-Ion batteries training will start on October 13th in Stow, don't know if they will be able to live stream it but it will be on the DFS YouTube channel. The class should fill up.
- Putting together an online training program for Lithium-Ion batteries, on our LMS
- **MFA report – MFA Director Jeffrey Winn**
- In the past 12 months we have graduated over 490 firefighters out of the academy.
- Class 315 kicked off 2 weeks ago and we are back to our full complement of 36 recruits
- Our Springfield class just kicked off 2 weeks ago as well and Bridgewater kicked off on a very poignant day this past Monday with 26 recruits
- 2 Call Vol classes will start at the end of October
- In 2023 so far 8,300 plus have completed a course at the MFA
- Staffing shortages are coming to an end. We are in the process of hiring 45 new instructors. On the full-time side of things our Deputy of Administration should be starting around October 8th, the second Deputy of Training looks to start at the end of October, wrapped up the PCIII interviews of Registration and reposting the Special Hazards Coordinator

- In the middle of budget woes for FY25
- **Old Business**
- **New Business –**
- Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier - We are in the process of finalizing the expansion of the Cancer program, which will include CT Scans, PSA's, Mammograms, Ultrasounds. 3 hospitals will be participating in this program and we will have a mobile service that will offer CT Scans, PSA's, and Ultrasounds, that will expand our coverage around the Commonwealth. We are finalizing the contracts and we have \$300,000 in this year's budget to cover the costs.
- Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller would like to welcome State Fire Marshal Jon Davine to the training council for the first time
- State Fire Marshal Jon Davine – looking to expand the Juvenile Fire Setter program, working with Lt. Deroshers from the MSP Fire Investigation Unit.
- **Policy Presentation/Adoption – Revision of Live Burn Policy**
- Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier started working on revising the live burn policy about a year and a half ago. The last time it was updated was 2007. It was a complete re-write and had input from all program coordinators at the MFA. Presented the draft policy to the sub-committee earlier in the morning.
- One of the issues that came up was formatting of the policy, wanted to make sure that everyone that does live burns had a chance to review the policy and put in their input.
- Agreed that it need to be updated.
- The policy should be available to the Commonwealth. There are a lot of departments that do live burns in their community.
- All of our live burn instructors will have to complete a bridge program and all new instructors will take the new live burn program.
- Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller motioned to adopt the sub-committee's recommendation and was and seconded. All in favor.
- **Review of Correspondence**
- K. Determination of Next Date and Location**
- The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 11:00 am at our Stow campus.
- **Public Comment**
- M. Adjourn Meeting**
- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.