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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the September 2, 2020 Meeting**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council via conference call at 11:05 am on September 2, 2020.

Roll call attendance: Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, MFA Director Dave Evans, Undersecretary Jeanne Benicasa Thorpe, Chief David Celino, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Vice Chairman Chief Tim Nelson, Retired Chief Sheri Bemis, Chief Richard DeLorie (arrived late), Jason Cardoso, Chief Frank Barresi, Chief Richard Donovan, and Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala.

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

Not present: Firefighter William Cabral

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Assistant Chief Connerty made a motion, seconded by Chief Donovan, to approve the minutes of the June 3, 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 07/01/20 through 08/22/20. The trust fund continues to be fluid. Negative balance represents instructor costs for contract training and will stabilize when payments are received for the training.

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 – Bristol county received \$200,000 AFG for PPE.
- Chief Donovan – representing full-time – nothing to report

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Lt. Medeiros – Still working on legislation.

- Firefighter Cabral – not present

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 – 220 DCR fire responses from cities and towns. Epicenter of drought is in the southeast, Bristol county area. There's 131 active incidents out west with 2.2 million acres. We just released the latest volunteer fire assistance grant and that announcement should be getting into email boxes of all the fire departments in areas of under 10,000 of \$80,000 in available funds. The bureau is still running our incident management team and running two-week incident action plans. We've had four helicopter missions between state police and aviation. We were able to use the DFS' drone for the infrared for one of those missions.

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update –Counsel Steve Rourke

- Very little action in legislation. Bridgewater is in its 3rd committee; there's an amendment for larger parcel of land for the DOC. It's not affecting the training portion of the legislation.
- Status of FPAM position – the nominee is awaiting appointment from the Governor's office.

E. DFS Update –Fire Marshal Ostroskey

- Compliment effort the team at MFA that put together a great launch of the recruit program.
- The department will be working remotely until at least 1-1-2021 with minimal staff on site. People are adapting and we are providing some tools to make it work.
- The department is receiving a grant from EOPSS for additional funding for COVID preparedness and reaction that will put us in a better position to provide PPE and other materials and policies and procedures for those that do come on site.
- DFS received a new AFG award to enhance our PPE programs. We are in the process of purchasing a mobile PPE cleaning unit with drying capabilities.
- PFAS mitigation process continues; excavation of contaminated materials started last month. It is not impacting training.

- Happy to report that Bridgewater was included in the bond bill that Governor Baker signed for \$10 million for props and necessary improvements. We're working with DCAMM on the product development phase.
- The \$500,000 AFG project has been extended by the federal government by one year and this will be similar to the one in Springfield. We anticipate groundbreaking to be in the spring.
- We received a donation of pumping apparatus for Bridgewater from the Palmer Fire Department.
- We received capital funding approval for additional apparatus and anticipate going out to bid specifically for Bridgewater.

F. Academy Activities Report –Director Evans

- We graduated our first group in the new hybrid model last month. We currently have nine career recruit sessions running currently; three started this past Monday. Coming up, we will be graduating three classes at the Stow campus coupled with a 9/11 ceremony.
- Class assignment list– filling out to February class #292 in Stow, Springfield to October class #S20, Bridgewater to November class #BW08. Total number of recruits on assignment list is 274. 102 in Stow; 26 in Springfield; 46 in Bridgewater. The Director and Registration staff are working to balance the training calendar throughout the campuses.
- Three Call/Vol classes in sessions currently: class 086 in Stow will graduate Nov 5; class 087 in Fall River will graduate on 11/4; class 088 in Springfield on 12/16. Essex county class 089 will start on 10/19 and class 090 will begin on 10/20 in Leicester.
- MFA staff is working on redeveloping Fire Officer and Fire instructor and our goal is to have them up by the end of September/early October.
- Working with departments that are doing their own recruit classes to help them get their training done.
- The Academy recently got approval to work with the Mass Maritime Academy and we are finishing up training for their freshman classes.
- Certification is up and running and Deputy Klucznik has scheduled two exams a month. We have to limit the number of candidates due to the COVID restrictions. We created a notification list for those students waiting to take exams.
- Reference checks have been completed for the Educational Specialist position and is now in the hands of our HR department.
- We brought on 33 new instructors and are getting them through their audit time.

G. Old Business

- Assistant Chief Connerty noted that civil service is providing a short notice for taking the PAT.

H. New Business

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

I. Review of Correspondence

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 11:00 am via conference call unless otherwise noted.

L. Public Comment

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Director Evans made a motion, seconded by Chief Richard Donovan, to adjourn the meeting at 11:50. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.