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Massachusetts Fire Training Council*

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CHIEF CHRISTOPHER MADDEN
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the September 4, 2024 Meeting**

Vice Chairman Firefighter William Cabral opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and began the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:05 am on September 4, 2024, in the Boards and Commissions Room.

Members attendance: Vice Chairman Firefighter William Cabral, Chief Fire Warden David Celino, Capt. John Bonadio, Capt. John Lombardo, MFA Director Eric Littman, Chief Francis Barresi, Chief Christopher Madden, Asst. Chief Jonathan Miller, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Mary Clare Higgins

Also present were State Fire Marshal Jon Davine, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, DFS General Counsel Glenn Rooney, Instructional Design and Curriculum Development Specialist Sara Praguski Walsh, MFA Deputy Director Dennis Ball, MFA Deputy Director Joanne Gardiner, DFS PIO Jake Wark, Christine Dansereau and Administrative Secretary Susan Mondy Sykes

Not present: Chief Justin Alexander, Capt. Drew Piemonte and Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chief Christopher Madden made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2024, Training Council Meeting, seconded by Chief Frank Barresi. The vote passed in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report – Director Eric Littmann

- Ended fiscal year for the Trust approx. \$6,000 less than expected but very close to projected income. Normal to start off in red at beginning of fiscal year but will increase as outstanding funds are received.

C. EOPSS Update – Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey

- Not present

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

- Chief Madden – recently has been named to Board of Directors to FCAM so MFTC will now have representation at FCAM
- Chief Barresi – nothing to report
- Chief Justin Alexander – not present

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral—good turnout at PFFM international convention in Boston about 3500 delegates from all over North America; technical close of legislative session at end of convention to ban PFAS in fire gear--as of January 1, 2025 labels have to be put into all new fire gear sold in Massachusetts if it contains PFAS with a health warning; as of January 1, 2027, in Massachusetts illegal to sell any fire gear with PFAS in it. Any existing gear containing PFAS will be phased out as gear is replaced. Now looking for a funding mechanism to obtain new gear going forward once the ban is implemented. Deputy Marshal Fournier said DFS is receiving PFAS-free gear in December from Town of Hopkinton. DFS will be doing independent testing over next couple of years of the effects of the PFAS-free gear compared to current gear on firefighting practices and how it performs. PFAS-free gear is approx. \$700-\$1,000 more per seat than traditional firefighting gear.
- Capt. Piemonte – not present

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller— nothing to report
- Assistant Chief Ruchala— nothing to report; this may be his last meeting--new appointment is pending at the Governor's office; and he expressed his thanks for being a part of the Council

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Capt. John Bonadio – next MIFDI meeting 9/25 at Needham FD headquarters—representative coming in to demonstrate new turtle nozzles; appointment to Council expired however, ok to continue and is awaiting reappointment.

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Lt. John Lombardo – reassuming role as representative for FPAM. Hoping to explore NFPA 1030 to try to get ProBoard certification option for Fire Prevention Officer instead of just the credentialing process.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Community Action

- Mary Clare Higgins—Fire Marshal Davine introduced Ms. Higgins. She explained the purpose of the Community Action group. She feels there is an overlap of dangers with home repairs or lack thereof and fire dangers of people who using fossil fuel burning appliances and using stoves to heat their homes.
- **Bureau of Forest Fire Control -**
- Chief Fire Warden David Celino – slow wildfire season this summer, however, uptick of about 6 fires in the past week, approx. 2.2 acres. Year to date we are at 465 wildland fires for 434 acres burned. Nationally, 34,373 fires down by 10,00 fires. We sent 2 20-person hand crews to Montana and Idaho. Smokey the bear 80th anniversary programs across the State including at Fenway Park—over 90 smokey fire prevention programs so far this year and more to come. On track to getting 700-800 firefighters trained for wildland fires by end of year. On the climate connection side--looking at training for large wildland fire incidents maybe by April. MEMA and EPA?? looking to do some statewide training and may look to pulling in DFS.

Citizen of the Commonwealth

- Vacant

E. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney

- Formal session ended and new 2-year session begins late January. Filing deadline for bills for the next session is 5:00pm January 17, 2025, to secure a hearing for bills submitted and they will track.
- Glenn and Deputy Counsel Rachel Perlman have been out presenting supervisory liability in the fire service—have done 6 in person deliveries around the Commonwealth; have done a virtual delivery with about 120 attendees with about 6 more planned deliveries. We have had good feedback on the information presented. Next virtual delivery in October through Teams and one at the Springfield Campus next week.
- Building code 10th Edition is still being reviewed at A & F.
- **DFS Update – Marshal Jon Davine**
- Getting ready to meet with Division Directors to review the FY26 budget.
- The Annual SAFE Conference will be held on September 18 and 19 in Sturbridge same location as last year.
- Fire equipment grants are being closed out from last cycle. New fire equipment grant information will be coming out soon.
- Busy with the preparations for the 250th anniversary of the battles of Concord and Lexington next year. This will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 17 and 18, 2025. Depending on weather, they are anticipating approximately 1 million people to attend. And then on Monday is the Boston Marathon.
- **DFS Update – Deputy Marshal Maribel Fournier**
- Bridgewater Campus updates: construction for package A is underway; broke ground late May; 2 “L” shaped buildings (classroom and search and rescue building) have been torn down and removed; put piers and footings for Class A burn building and will start the foundation soon; starting excavation for water reclamation; there will be three 40,000-gal tanks of water. Also starting design/study with DCAM for package B for firehouse and crib. We need to advertise for project engineer and working on the design for the next year or so and advocating for further funding for package B; we have enough funding for design/study.

MFA Update – Director Eric Littmann

- Recruit classes: currently 2 at Stow have 34 recruits each; Bridgewater BW31 has 16 to graduate on 9/20; 9/23 should begin BW32 with 24 recruits; Springfield we had to postpone last academy scheduled on 8/5 with 18; next class is 10/21 and we have 31 recruits.
- Completed the CFO selection process; registered students were notified of their registration status. We had to turn away 35 Asst/Deputy Chiefs because we had so many apply. We had a large number of Chiefs/Acting Chiefs who took up half of the seats as they are automatically selected. We use a selection matrix for a fair and equitable selection process for all Chief Fire Officers who applied.
- Completed 1 Recruit class with JPR update and realignment; all recruits were successful and graduated. Bridgewater is the next class to graduate with the new JPR realignment and is going well.
- Today is first meeting for the internal MFA Peer Support Team.
- Senior Fire Officer Forum (SFOF) today on Solar and Lithium Ion batteries delivered by a colleague from Las Vegas Fire & Rescue which was a last-minute change because the originally SFOF had to be rescheduled.
- Spoke informally with Capt. Lombardo to overview all MFTC policies from Career Recruit to Certification to General Policies because there have been several updates and changes, and I want to make sure that they don’t conflict with any existing policies. Asking if Capt. Lombardo is interested in reviewing the General Policies working group.
- Chief Madden inquired about the roll out of the JPR

Old Business – none

New Business – General Counsel Glenn Rooney

- Nominations for Chairman due to the resignation of Chief Nelson for next 3-month period until regularly scheduled election in January.

FF William Cabral made a motion to nominate Chief Christopher Madden for Chairman; seconded by Capt. John Bonadio; no discussion; no other nominations; Chief Madden accepted the nomination. Voted unanimously to appoint Chief Madden as Chairman until next election cycle.

Policy Presentation/Adoption – Director Eric Littmann

- Recruit Assistance Program (RAP): purpose to streamline the process for depts. to request additional training for their Recruits not covered in their own recruit training programs (i.e, Flammable Gas, RIT, Certification). Policy has been approved at the Policy Sub Committee meeting.

FF William Cabral made a motion to accept the RAP Policy; Chief Frank Barresi seconded the motion; no further discussion; voted unanimously to accept the policy.

Review of Correspondence -- none

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 11:00 am
- **Public Comment - none**
- Chief Madden mentioned that FF Peter Kannler's anniversary of passing was recently and that his sister, Dr. Christine Kannler, has promoted a lot of cancer screening of firefighters. Director Littmann also acknowledged that Abby Baker at MFA has done a tremendous job at bringing many cancer screenings to the Firefighters of Massachusetts and has brought the Cancer in the Fire Service program to where it is today.

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Chief Barresi motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Asst. Chief Ruchala. Voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:54 a.m.