

**FIRE SERVICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
August 20, 2020**

The Fire Service Commission held a meeting on Thursday, August 20th, 2020 via Conference call per COVID-19 Guidelines under Mass. General Law Chapter 30A, Section 20.

Present at the meeting were the following Commission members:

Chief Gregory J. Burns
Captain Michael McCullough
Chief Alan J. Roy
Ms. Roberta Fitzpatrick
Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe

Absent from the meeting were the following Commission members:
FF Richard D. MacKinnon, Jr.

DFS staff present at the meeting:

State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey
Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier
Deputy General Counsel Glenn Rooney
Alanna Malatos
JoAnne Caruso

There were no guests present.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Chief Greg Burns at 10:02 a.m.

AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes of the June 18, 2020 Meeting

A motion was made by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe and seconded by Captain McCullough that the minutes of June 18, 2020, meeting be approved as written.

B. Credentialing/Re-Credentialing Process

A motion was made by Captain McCullough and seconded by Chief Roy and to award accreditation to the following:

1. Credentialing –
 - Deputy Chief Jonathan Sawyer – Yarmouth Fire Department
 - Deputy Chief Lincoln Thibeault – West Bridgewater Fire Department
 - Deputy Chief Craig Thornton – Harwich Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Captain McCullough and seconded by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe to award re-accreditation to the following:

2. Re-Credentialing –

- Chief John Burke – Sandwich Fire Department
- Chief Raymond Goodwin – Onset Fire Department
- Chief Douglas Janvrin Jr. – Newbury Fire Department
- Chief Fred Mitchell Jr. – Georgetown Fire Department
- Chief Robert Parsons – Spencer Fire Department
- Chief David LeBlanc – Harwich Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. Old Business

The Commission discussed how to move forward with the action plan following the, “Report and Recommendations of the FCAM Re-Credentialing Task Force”. Marshal Ostroskey suggested that DFS Staff prepare an outline for point allocation and an updated mission/vision statement to the Commission for consideration at the next meeting.

The Commission also discussed at length how to take the COVID-19 pandemic into consideration in terms of difficulty obtaining credits with conferences and training offerings being cancelled or postponed.

A motion was made by Chief Roy and seconded by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe and Captain McCullough to grant a temporary one (1) year extension to those holding an active Fire Chief credential as of January 1, 2020 and until rescinded by the Commission.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Captain McCullough and seconded by Chief Roy to grant a temporary one (1) year extension to those seeking credit for Fire Chief re-credentialing as of January 1, 2020 and until rescinded by the Commission.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

D. General Issues and Updates from DFS

The Massachusetts Fire Academy graduated the first group of recruits Friday, August 14th from the new blended learning program at all three (3) campuses. Forty eight (48) successfully completed the 10-week blended program which included Fire Fighter I/II, HazMat OLR, certification. The Academy is also beginning to restart as many programs safely using either blended programs or virtual classrooms.

Governor signed the Bond Bill which included funding for Bridgewater and an equipment grant program for communities. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) will be announce awards tomorrow August 12st.

The Department continues to work with the environmental consultant and soil excavation has begun.

E. Determination of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The date of the next meeting of the Fire Service Commission is tentatively scheduled for September 17th at 10:00 a.m. via Conference call.

A motion to adjourn was made by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe and seconded by Ms. Fitzpatrick.

Said motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

The meeting of the Fire Service Commission concluded at 11:18 a.m.