

**FIRE SERVICE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
December 15, 2022**

The Fire Service Commission held a meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2022, at the Department of Fire Services, Boards and Commissions Room, Stow, Massachusetts.

**Present** at the meeting were the following Commission members:

Chief Gregory J. Burns  
Captain Michael McCullough  
Chief Stephen L. Archer  
FF Richard D. MacKinnon Jr.  
Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe  
Chief Peter Shedd

**Commission members absent from the meeting:**

Ms. Roberta Fitzpatrick  
Chief John S. Ingram

**There were no guests present at the meeting.**

**DFS staff present** at the meeting:

State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey  
Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier  
Public Information Officer Jake Wark  
JoAnne Caruso

Meeting called to order by Chairman Gregory Burns at 10:05 a.m.

Chairman Burns opened the meeting by presenting a plaque reflecting his gratitude for Chief Stephen L. Archer's years of dedication to the Fire Service Commission and to Massachusetts fire service. The Commission wishes Chief Archer all the best in his upcoming retirement.

**AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes of the November 17, 2022 Meeting**

A motion was made by Captain Archer and seconded by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe to discuss the minutes of the November 17, 2022, meeting.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Captain McCullough and seconded by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe that the minutes of November 17, 2022, meeting be approved as written.

The vote was otherwise unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. Credentialing/Re-Credentialing Process**

A motion was made by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe and seconded by FF MacKinnon Jr. to award accreditation to:

- Deputy Chief Harrie Ashley – Freetown Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by FF MacKinnon Jr. and seconded by Chief Archer to award re-accreditation to:

- Captain Enrique Arrascue – COMM Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by FF MacKinnon Jr. and seconded by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe to award re-accreditation to:

- Deputy Chief Seth Colby – Shrewsbury Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by FF MacKinnon Jr. and seconded by Chief Archer to award re-accreditation to:

- Assistant Chief Walter Latta Jr. – Maynard Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Archer and seconded by FF MacKinnon Jr. to award re-accreditation to:

- Captain Aaron Roy – Shrewsbury Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by FF MacKinnon Jr. and seconded by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe to award re-accreditation to:

- Chief Shawn Simmons – Norton Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by FF MacKinnon Jr. and seconded by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe to award re-accreditation to:

- Assistant Chief Andrew Tobio – Belmont Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

### **C. Annual Report Discussion**

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded by Captain McCullough to discuss the Annual Report for submission to the Governor and Secretary of Public Safety.

The Commission discussed edits to the draft report which DFS Staff will amend.

A motion was made by FF MacKinnon Jr. and seconded by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe to submit the Fire Service Commission's Annual Report after it's been amended.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

#### **D. General Issues and Updates from DFS**

Marshal Ostroskey began by thanking Chief Archer again for his dedication over the years to the fire service and to the Commission.

The Director of the Massachusetts Fire Academy, Jeffrey Winn, will begin on January 3, 2023. Director Winn comes to the MFA following a 34-year career with the Massachusetts National Guard. His experience includes service as chief of the Guard's Training Division, where he was responsible for the planning, coordination, and design of individual and collective training; commander of the 1st Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Team, where he worked closely with civilian authorities responding to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive events; and deputy chief of staff for personnel, where he was responsible for human resources services to some 6,000 soldiers. He is a qualified Hazmat technician, CBRN responder, and former call and volunteer firefighter in several western Massachusetts communities.

Marshal Ostroskey and Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe both thanked Deputy Fire Marshal Fournier for her all her efforts as Acting Director of MFA over the last couple years.

The amendment to the fire code was issued on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, and training sessions (both in person and distance learning opportunities) are being scheduled.

Marshal Ostroskey and Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe also updated the Commission on the new position for the Director of ASHER which is an initiative Secretary Reidy has moved forward with which will have a similar responsibility on the law enforcement side and will have a unified response on Active Shooter response plans.

The Bridgewater Campus' Search and Rescue building has been getting very positive reviews as recruit can now burn on campus; the MEP project (mechanical/electrical/plumbing) began a couple weeks ago, and the study was certified by DCAMM.

The Department will be posting several key positions such as the Director of the Fire Safety Division; their Chief Engineer; Deputy General Counsel; Deputy Director of Special Operations; and we continue to post and fill contractor positions as the Department has had to cancel some field classes due to staffing and safety issues.

Lastly, January is Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month. The lavender ribbon has been chosen to signify firefighter cancer awareness. The Department will be wearing lavender clothing on Thursdays to raise awareness. The DFS Store designed shirts specifically for Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month.

#### **E. Determination of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment**

The date of the next meeting of the Fire Service Commission is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 19th at 10:00am.

A motion to adjourn was made by Chief Archer and seconded by FF MacKinnon Jr.

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

The meeting of the Fire Service Commission concluded at 10:46 a.m.