

**FIRE SERVICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 17, 2021**

The Fire Service Commission held a meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2021, 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 Alan J. Roy
Chief Stephen L. Archer
Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe
Ms. Roberta Fitzpatrick
FF Richard D. MacKinnon Jr.

No absent Commission members.

DFS staff present at the meeting:

State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey
General Counsel Steven Rourke
Deputy General Counsel Glenn Rooney
JoAnne Caruso

There were no guests present.

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

The Commission meeting began with the presentation of a plaque for Chief Alan Roy to show appreciation for his many years in the fire service and those for which he was a member of the Fire Service Commission. The Commission wishes him well on his well-deserved retirement.

AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes of the May 20, 2021, Meeting

A motion was made by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe and seconded Captain McCullough that the minutes of May 20, 2021, meeting be approved as written.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. Credentialing/Re-Credentialing Process

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

1. Credentialing –
 - i. Deputy Chief Brian Nardelli – Brockton Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

1. Re-Credentialing –
 - i. Assistant Chief Stephen Abell Jr – Rockport Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. Discussion regarding the temporary one (1) year extension issued on September 8th, 2020, for the Credentialing and Re-Credentialing program

Marshal Ostroskey provided the Department’s staff recommendation that the extension be extended through either July 1, 2021, or December 31, 2021. The Commission discussed the continued lack of access to conferences and classes due to the COVID-19 pandemic and determined that it will be extended through the end of the calendar year.

A motion was made by Ms. Fitzpatrick and seconded FF MacKinnon Jr. by to extend the extension for the credentialing and re-credentialing program through December 31, 2021.

D. General Issues and Updates from DFS

General Counsel Rourke and Deputy Counsel Rooney informed the Commission that Governor Charles Baker signed into law an Act to extend remote meeting provisions until April 1, 2022. The new law allows boards and commissions to continue to provide live meeting access via alternative means to public meetings (phone or video conferencing).

Discussion amongst Commission members determined that they would like to be polled in advance of each meeting and determine whether to meet in person, remotely, or hybrid based on the agenda.

Department operations will be shifting as the orders change and updated guidelines are issued. The Department is working closely with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to have an approved re-opening plan in place for July and September.

Marshal Ostroskey briefed the Commission on the progress of hiring a Academy Director; the budget process; code development; and the Bridgewater campus’ Master Plan which he hopes to present to the Commission in the Fall.

The Fire Investigation Unit has absorbed 19 members of the MassPort Bomb Squad to make responses across the Commonwealth uniform.

The Mobile Extractor Unit (MEU) which is essentially a “laundromat on wheels” cleans and inspects turnout gear for instructors, staff, and recruits. It can also be utilized as an emergency delivery for municipalities.

E. Determination of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The date of the next meeting of the Fire Service Commission is tentatively scheduled on September 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the Boards and Commissions Room at the Stow Campus.

A motion to adjourn was made by FF MacKinnon Jr. and seconded by Captain McCullough.

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

The meeting of the Fire Service Commission concluded at 11:05 a.m.