

**FIRE SERVICE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
October 21, 2021**

The Fire Service Commission held a meeting on Thursday, October 21, 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 Stephen L. Archer  
Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe  
Chief John S. Ingram

**Absent** from the meeting were the following Commission members:

Ms. Roberta Fitzpatrick  
FF Richard D. MacKinnon Jr.

**DFS staff present** at the meeting:

State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey  
Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier  
General Counsel Steven Rourke  
Deputy General Counsel Glenn Rooney  
Alanna Malatos  
JoAnne Caruso  
Sara Praguski Walsh  
Jake Wark

**There were no guests present.**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Gregory Burns at 1:08 p.m.

The meeting began with Marshal Ostroskey presenting the members of the Fire Service Commission with a Proclamation from Governor Charles D. Baker, commemorating 25<sup>th</sup> years since the establishment of the Fire Service Commission. Marshal Ostroskey and Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe, also on behalf of Secretary Terrance M. Reidy, congratulated the Commission on their contributions to the fire service and communities across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Commission also took a moment to recognize the dedicated service of General Counsel Steven Rourke as he prepares for retirement. General Counsel Rourke was the first General Counsel for the Department of Fire Services and has worked tirelessly as an advocate for fire and life safety for over 25 years.

**AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes of the September 29, 2021 Meeting**

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded Chief Archer that the minutes of September 29, 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 Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe and seconded by Chief Ingram to award accreditation to the following:

- Deputy Chief Brian McCarthy – Turners Falls Fire Department
- Chief Gregory Pachico – West Tisbury Fire Department
- Chief Micheline Turgeon – Granby Fire Department
- Captain Christopher Bascomb – Amherst Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Archer and seconded by Chief Ingram to award re-accreditation to the following:

- Deputy Chief Chad Absten – Falmouth Fire Department
- Captain Brian Monahan – Duxbury Fire Department
- Deputy Chief David Pelonzi – Bourne Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

## **C. Review memorandum to be posted regarding the temporary one (1) year extension issued on September 8th, 2020, for the Credentialing and Re-Credentialing program**

Captain McCullough suggested an amendment to the memorandum. Ms. Malatos will make change and post on the website terminating the extension effective December 31, 2021.

A motion was made by Chief Archer and seconded by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe approve the memorandum with amendment.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

## **D. Firefighter Service Awards**

The Commission discussed the response from the firefighter to the type of military classification they held during the years of service in question. The intent of the Commission was to capture those whose primary “Military Occupational Specialty” as firefighting rather than ancillary, therefore, those years did not meet the Criteria for the Massachusetts Fire Service Award.

A motion was made by Captain McCullough and seconded by Chief Archer that a letter of explanation regarding the decision be sent to the firefighter along with gratitude for their military service.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

Marshal Ostroskey updated the Commission on current projects such as the FY23 budget, S.A.F.E and Fire Equipment grants, and the posting of key positions of General Counsel and Director of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.

The Department currently has approximately sixty employees who are not currently compliant with Executive Order #595, but the Department does not anticipate issues with service as there are contingency plans in place. The vaccine mandate applies to both full time and contract staff.

Fire Prevention Week is October 3<sup>rd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> and this year's theme is, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety".

Deputy Marshal Fournier stated that the FY23 cancer screenings in will be up and running once the contract is finalized and there is already a waitlist. Due to the success of the program they are looking to enhance with 3D imaging in the future.

Marshal Ostroskey presented the Bridgewater Campus Master Plan to the Commission explaining that the Department has been working with Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), our architect, Dore and Whittier, and their design team. He shared the long-term vision and the benefits it will bring to the agency and the fire service.

He explained the two key planning objectives, maximizing usage across the campus and allowing for flexible, modular development over time while being respectful of our neighbors and thoughtful about environmental impacts.

Some of the packages in the long term will include, a three-story Class A burn building, a water reclamation system, a 20,000-gallon concrete drafting pit, a mini gas field prop, a five-story Class B training tower, concrete pads for HazMat and Vehicle Extrication training, a technical rescue prop with structural collapse, rubble pile and confined space rescue as well as administrative, warehouse and firehouse buildings with modern office/classroom spaces, locker rooms, and apparatus bays.

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

The date of the next meeting of the Fire Service Commission will be determined via meeting poll.

A motion to adjourn was made by Chief Archer and seconded by Chief Ingram.

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

The meeting of the Fire Service Commission concluded at 2:25 p.m.