

**FIRE SERVICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 17, 2020**

The Fire Service Commission held a meeting on Thursday, September 17th, 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
FF Richard D. MacKinnon, Jr.

There were no Commission members absent for this meeting.

DFS staff present at the meeting:

State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey
Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier
Alanna Malatos
JoAnne Caruso

There were no guests present.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Chief Greg Burns at 10:03 a.m.

AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes of the August 20, 2020 Meeting

A motion was made by Chief Roy and seconded by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe that the minutes of August 20, 2020, meeting be approved as written.

B. Credentialing/Re-Credentialing Process

A motion was made by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe and seconded by Ms. Fitzpatrick to award accreditation to the following:

1. Credentialing –
 - Chief Patrick Egloff – Westfield Fire Department
 - Deputy Chief Jason Cantara – Charlton Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by FF MacKinnon, Jr. and seconded by Captain McCullough to award re-accreditation to the following:

2. Re-Credentialing –
 - Chief Adam Lavoie –Warren Fire Department

- Chief Thomas Rullo – Mashpee Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. Old Business

The Commission reviewed the proposed changes made by the Department in a memorandum to the Commission on September 11, 2020 in an effort to expand the categories and increase opportunities for applicants to earn points and create more consistency and uniformity between the initial credential and the re-credential program.

The first recommendation was in relation to the proposed updated vision and mission statement. Chief Burns had some language suggestions that the Commission and General Counsel Rourke agreed should be incorporated.

A motion was made by Captain McCullough and seconded by Chief Roy to adopt the vision and mission statement with amended language.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The second recommendation was regarding language addressing an applicant aggrieved by a decision of the Commission.

A motion was made by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe and seconded by Chief Roy to adopt this language.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The next several recommendations covered point allocation for certifications. The Commission reviewed categories one (1) through (6) on the applications.

A motion was made by Chief Roy and seconded by Captain McCullough to accept the proposed changes for categories (1) through (6) on the application.

Following further discussion Captain McCullough made a friendly motion that was seconded by Ms. Fitzpatrick to expand the discussion through the remaining certification categories before passing a vote.

Categories seven (7) through ten (10) on the applications were reviewed thoroughly.

The Commission accepted the proposed changes for categories (1) through (10) of the FCC and FCRC applications to be effective October 1, 2020.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

D. General Issues and Updates from DFS

Marshal Ostroskey explained some of the guidance documents that the Department is working with the Division of Professional Licensure on such as tents, temporary heating, and school openings all with regard to the fire code.

The Department will be working remote through December 31, 2020. Staff is coming in on a staggered schedule when occupancy limits permit.

The Governor signed the Bond Bill which included funding for Bridgewater and we have selected an architect for the large construction project as and we have received an AFG grant for the next phase of construction.

The Department welcomes Mary Ann Smith as the new Fire Code Administrator.

E. Determination of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The date of the next meeting of the Fire Service Commission is tentatively scheduled for October 15th at 10:00 a.m. via Conference call.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Fitzpatrick 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 11:21 a.m.