

**FIRE SERVICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 29, 2021**

The Fire Service Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, September 29th, 2021 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 Stephen L. Archer
Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe
FF Richard D. MacKinnon Jr.
Chief John S. Ingram

Absent from the meeting were the following Commission members:

Ms. Roberta Fitzpatrick

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

There were no guests present.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Gregory Burns at 11:02 a.m.

Chief Burns began by congratulating Marshal Ostroskey on receiving the 2021 National Association of State Fire Marshal's (NASFM) award recognizing the Commonwealth's success in reducing child fire fatalities. The Commonwealth has not had a child under the age of 18 die in a fire in over two years.

AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes of the June 17, 2021 Meeting

A motion was made by Chief Archer and seconded Captain McCullough that the minutes of June 17, 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 FF MacKinnon Jr. and seconded by Chief Ingram to award accreditation to the following:

- Captain Sandra Krauss – Easthampton Fire Department

- Deputy Chief Pamela Garant - Lakeville Fire Department
- Deputy Chief John Quatieri – Chelsea Fire Department
- Deputy Chief Thomas Clancy – Littleton Fire Department
- Captain Kevin Benson – Easthampton Fire Department
- Assistant Chief Jeffrey Olmstead – Amherst Fire Department
- Captain Michael Killeen – Grafton Fire Department
- Captain Stephen Gaughan – Amherst Fire Department
- Lieutenant Gary Daugherty Jr. – Hopkinton Fire Department
- Chief Peter O’Connor – Beverly Fire Department
- Captain Christopher Beal – Barnstable Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

- Captain Daniel Donovan – Bellingham Fire Department
- Deputy Chief Jason Cavallaro – Hanover Fire Department
- Captain Dean Babineau – Charlton Fire Department
- Captain Angela Lawless – Maynard Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Chief Burns asked if any Commission members would like to assist with the Fire Chief Re-Credential application review. Chief Ingram volunteered to assist.

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

Ms. Malatos asked the Commission to clarify whether the December 31, 2021 extension was to be based application submission date or the date of the vote. The Commission said it would be based on the submission date on the application.

A motion was made by FF MacKinnon Jr. and seconded by Chief Ingram to base the extension for the credentialing and re-credentialing program through December 31, 2021 on the application submission date.

D. Firefighter Service Awards

Chief Burns briefed the Commission on the recent inquiry received regarding military time being used toward the Massachusetts Fire Service Awards. The Commission discussed the current criteria and proposed a few questions to be asked relative to the type of military classification the firefighter held during the years of service in question.

A motion was made by FF MacKinnon Jr. and seconded by Chief Archer to table until the response is received.

E. General Issues and Updates from DFS

Marshal Ostroskey explained that the Department is in post-pandemic operations with full-time staff members reporting four days per week. The Fire Academy is working diligently to work on the backlog of MFA courses which were impacted by the pandemic.

The Fire & Life Safety Education Conference was held last week on the Cape and two DFS retirees were recognized; Jennifer Mieth, the Public Information Officer, and Cindy Ouellette, Coordinator for the Fire Data and Public Education Unit. The HazMat Tech Conference was also held in Plymouth and was another successful event.

The Department was involved with the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and sent ten firefighters from three departments to Louisiana for a fourteen-day deployment following Hurricane Ida.

The Marshal has requested that the Commission hold its next meeting at the Stow campus so they can be briefed on the Bridgewater campus' master plan.

E. Determination of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The date of the next meeting of the Fire Service Commission is tentatively scheduled on October 21st 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 11:36 a.m.