

**FIRE SERVICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 30, 2024**

The Fire Service Commission held a meeting on Monday, September 30, 2024, via conference call 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 John S. Ingram
Chief Peter J. Burke Jr.
Chief Brian J. Cook
Ms. Roberta Fitzpatrick
Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey

Absent Commission members:

FF Richard D. MacKinnon Jr.

DFS staff present at the meeting:

State Fire Marshal Jon Davine
Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier
General Counsel Glenn Rooney
Deputy General Counsel Rachel Perlman
Public Information Officer Jake Wark
Alanna Malatos
JoAnne Caruso

There were no guests present at the meeting.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Gregory Burns at 10:04 a.m.

AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes of the June 20, 2024 Meeting

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded Chief Burke Jr. that the minutes of June 20, 2024 meeting be approved following a title correction.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. Credentialing/Re-Credentialing Process

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded by Chief Burke Jr. and Deputy Secretary Terrey to award accreditation to:

- Captain John Amento – Cotuit Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded by Captain McCullough to award accreditation to:

- Deputy Chief Brian Barry – Danvers Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded by Captain McCullough to award accreditation to:

- Deputy Chief Micheal Oteri – Andover Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded by Captain McCullough to award accreditation to:

- Captain Timothy Shea – Ayer Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded by Captain McCullough to award accreditation to:

- Captain Christopher Ferreira – Norton Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded by Captain McCullough to award accreditation to:

- Chief Gregory Lagoy – Gardner Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded by Captain McCullough to award accreditation to:

- Deputy Chief Eric Littmann – Eastham Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded by Captain McCullough to award accreditation to:

- Assistant Chief Jeffrey Gogan – Marlborough Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded by Chief Burke Jr. to award accreditation to:

- Lieutenant Peter Ostroskey Jr. – Concord Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded by Chief Burke Jr. and Captain McCullough to award accreditation to:

- Lieutenant Brian Wright – Andover Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded by Captain McCullough to award accreditation to:

- Deputy Chief Scott Perry – Waltham Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

One Fire Chief credential candidate was tabled until further information is provided due to incomplete application.

A motion was made by Captain McCullough and seconded by Chief Ingram to award re-accreditation to:

- Deputy Chief Chad Absten – Falmouth Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Cook and seconded by Chief Burke Jr. to award re-accreditation to:

- Deputy Chief Pamela Garant – Lakeville Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Cook and seconded by Chief Burke Jr. to award re-accreditation to:

- Chief John Kelley – Wareham Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded by Chief Burke Jr. to award re-accreditation to:

- Chief James McNeilly - Manchester Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded by Chief Cook to award re-accreditation to:

- Deputy Chief Neal Aspesi – Northborough Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Chief Ingram and seconded by Chief Cook to award re-accreditation to:

- Chief Neil McPherson – Wayland Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. Discuss Prior Credentialing Decision

One Fire Chief credential candidate was denied during the June meeting. Candidate does not hold any fire officer certifications and oversees the Department's emergency medical system. The Commission will draft a denial letter to communicate this to the applicant.

The Commission discussed how to clarify the intent of the application and will update the language to clarify "Any fire officer holding the rank of Lieutenant or above shall be eligible to apply for credentialing." from "Any officer holding the rank of Lieutenant or above shall be eligible to apply for credentialing".

A motion was made by Deputy Secretary Terrey and seconded by Chief Burke Jr. to change the language on application to state "fire officer".

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

D. Discuss Credential Commitment Statement

General Counsel Rooney reviewed the application and noted that the "Credential Commitment Statement" on the last page of the application currently reads, "I will execute the necessary documents and supply further information as determined by The State Fire Marshal". The State Fire Marshal does not have vote or involvement in the application process and should be replaced with "Fire Service Commission".

A motion was made by Chief Burke Jr. and seconded by Chief Ingram to strike "The State Fire Marshal and update to "The Fire Service Commission" on the FCC/FCRC applications.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. General Issues and Updates from DFS

Fire Marshal Davine briefed the Commission on the resignation of the Academy Director; the IST made its debut at the "Big E" and will be supporting the bomb squad, HazMat and JHIRT; divisions are working on FY26 budgets; and the Fire Equipment Grant period is open for submissions.

Deputy Marshal Fournier updated the Commission on the Bridgwater campus' "Package A" (infrastructure, water and burn building) being well underway and that the next phase (Crib Room and Fire Station) will move forward once an architect is chosen and the study can begin.

Lastly, a reminder that the S.A.F.E. grants must be submitted no later than April 15, 2025.

F. Determination of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

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

DFS staff will poll the Commission for October's meeting date.

A motion to adjourn was made by Chief Burke Jr. 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 10:58 a.m.