**Massachusetts Fire Training Council**

**Minutes of the Policy and Certification**

**Sub-committee Meeting**

**January 4, 2017**

Vice Chairman Firefighter Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Policy & Certification Sub-Committee of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 10:15 am on January 4, 2017 at the Department of Fire Services.

Members in attendance were: Vice Chairman Paul Medeiros, Captain Rick Tustin, Chief Tim Nelson, Robert Craig (late arrival), Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Certification Program Coordinator Robert Rand, DFS Counsel Steve Rourke, and Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik.

1. **Request for Certification Policy Change**

The purpose is to modify the definition of the Massachusetts fire service to more accurately reflect the intent of MGL c.6, section 165 (attached). The recommended proposed change would to be remove E. Retired, full time, career members of municipal fire departments in States other than the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, under Definition – Fire Service Personnel (PO-06/13/90).

The discussion centered around out of state firefighters asking the Academy for certification. It was pointed out that neighboring states have many programs similar to Massachusetts and offer certification. It was stated that the Massachusetts Fire Training Council is the sole certifying agency of the Pro-Board for the state Massachusetts and firefighters from other states also have the same opportunity for Pro-Board certification by their state. After a lengthy discussion, the Council voted to remove the statement.

Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller made a motion, seconded by Captain Tustin, to remove Definition E under Fire Service Personnel policy. The vote was unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

II. **Accident Waiver and Release from Liability**

Due to time constraints, this topic was tabled to be brought up at the Fire Training Council meeting.

III. **Training Out of State Firefighters**

Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik asked the Training Council to clarify the policy under Availability of Training Courses: 1) All Massachusetts Firefighting Academy courses, except Recruit Training will be available for enrollment by out of state firefighters. In the past, we have allowed people to enter the Call/Volunteer program. Of late, out of state firefighters have requested certification for this program. To avoid confusion in the future, it was requested to include Call/Volunteer in statement #1. Captain Tustin made a motion, seconded by Robert Craig, to clarify statement #1 by stating Career Recruit and Call/Volunteer Training be the exception. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10.