**Massachusetts Fire Training Council**

**Minutes of the January 4, 2017 Meeting**

Vice Chairman Firefighter Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:08 am on January 4, 2017 at the Department of Fire Services.

Members in attendance were: Vice Chairman Paul Medeiros, Captain Andrew Connerty, Captain Rick Tustin, Lt. Drew Piemonte, Chief William Scoble, Chief Tim Nelson, Robert Craig, Chief Dave Celino, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, and Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik.

Also present were: Curriculum Specialist Maggie Crisham, Department of Fire Services General Counsel Steve Rourke, Certification Program Coordinator Bob Rand, Special Hazards Training PC III Paul Betti, Call/Vol Program Coordinator Chris Norris, Call/Vol Registration Assistant Christine Dansereau, Operations Section Chief Dave Clemons, and State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey.

Not present were: Chairman Chief Mario Orangio, Undersecretary Patrick McMurray, James Pappas, and Captain Kurt Ruchala.

**A. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chief Scoble made a motion, seconded by Chief Nelson, to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2016 Training Council Meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. Fiscal Affairs Report**

* Deputy Director Klucznik presented the MFA Trust Fund Report; ending balance is quite healthy. Deputy Director Klucznik asked the Council if they want to continue to receive the report. Vice Chairman would like to continue to be informed.

**C. Update of Affiliated Members**

* **Fire Chiefs’ Association of Massachusetts**
* Chief Nelson – nothing to report
* Chief Orangio –not present
* Chief Scoble – Commissioner of Springfield Dept.’s contract will not be renewed.

* **Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts -** Lieutenant Piemonte – nothing to report
* **Mass Call/Vol -** Assistant Chief Miller – nothing to report
* **Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors -** Captain Connerty **–** nothing to report
* **Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts-** Captain Tustin
* Training meeting is on January 10 – speakers are Paul Zipper and Jim DeSimone regarding fire safety cigarette regulations.
* FPO program expired on December 31 for the first group of people. The FPAM continues to work with MFA.
* **Insurance Industry-** James Pappas – not present
* **Bureau of Forest Fire Control-** Chief Celino
* We are getting ready to set up two Wildland Firefighter Type 2 “red card” courses in the western part of state. Will forward training announcement to the Training Council Admin Assistant for distribution.
* A good article came out in USA Today about how the Gatlinburg TN fire came down. There were some very good after action lessons.
* **Citizens of the Commonwealth-** Bob Craig – nothing to report

**D. Legislative Update-** Marshal Ostroskey

* We’re in limbo in the legislature. It doesn’t look like there’s going to be any action on a number of bills we were hoping to pass. We’re hoping to get some bills re-filed. There’s been a change in the legislature and we’ll need to educate them about the fire service and why we’re looking to do certain things and take their advice on how to approach a bill.

**E. DFS Update –** Marshal Ostroskey

* The fire death numbers have come in lower than the previous years but still on the high side. There was an unfortunate carbon monoxide incident at the end of the year. We need to continue to push for smoke and CO alarms and electrical faults that need to be reported.
* My intent will be to take time at the next meeting to give the Council an overview of the department’s current budget and would like to make a presentation annually.
* I have a concern with respect to the PAT situation and how civil service is handling these exams and wanted to make the Council aware of the situation. The Hudson Amory will not be available for these tests and it will impact many fire departments and the Career Recruit program. An appointing authority cannot hire someone without a PAT. There’s already a question about the validity of the PAT.
* We are in the process of replacing the arson prop.
* Preparing for FCAM conference at end of February. We are rolling out an active shooter program with the Fire Academy and the Mass State Police.
* MFA and DFS staff has spent a tremendous amount of time and effort to replace the current course management system with a new Learning Management System. There are many challenges with this changeover.

**F. Academy Activities Report –** Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik

* The current waitlist for career recruit is 128 and we are currently filling class #256 beginning on 6/2/17. Springfield class #S04 has 20 openings.
* Presented the Academy summary statistics through November 30, 2016. Corrected erroneous information given last month regarding certification.
* We submitted the application for AFG and are hoping to hear by the Spring. Last year’s AFG equipment, flammable liquids and railcar props, have been received. Hydraulic equipment bid will be going out soon.
* Ladder 1 replacement will be delivered by November of 2017.
* We are still working on rolling out the FPO II program. We want to make sure we are accurate and everything is in alignment.
* We have made 106 deliveries of the Cancer Awareness program. It has been very popular and successful program and we will be presenting it at the FCAM conference.
* We are looking to add another Springfield career recruit program this calendar year because of the hiring situation in western Mass.
* We are looking to re-implement Saturday classes in our Career Recruit program because the recent change has had issues.
* LMS project – we are getting close to the testing stage and will have four people from certification, registration, scheduling and recruit to do the testing. We have made recommendations for changes to Technomedia. We are hiring temp employees to cover for the full-time staff.
* There was a question regarding the hiring of the Recruit Coordinator position. DD Klucznik stated that we are subjected to a hiring freeze. We have a plan in place for senior instructors to take on an administrative role. Marshal Ostroskey added that he would like the MFA Director in place before we hire a Recruit Coordinator. Collins Institute is working with the Steering Committee for their recommendations for the agency going forward.

**G. Old Business**

* In response to Chief Burger’s point about the Training Council’s review of the MFA’s programs, Deputy Director asked the Council how involved they wanted to be in this process. There are 340 active classes with much to review and we always update courses based on changing standards. What kind format does the council want to receive from the director’s office? Someone suggested reviewing the Training Resource online. Joe offered a presentation by each PC III on an annual basis. Operations Section Chief Clemons suggested the academy detail out what they plan to do each year once the budget is approved and present it to the Council on an annual basis.

**H. New Business**

* Accident (Liability) Waiver – DFS Counsel Steve Rourke - last month, the Council asked if there should be a liability waiver for out-of-state firefighters. I’m suggesting we incorporate this waiver for all firefighters. It is recognizing that firefighting training and certification is an inherently dangerous activity. The student agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the department for ordinary negligence. The recommendation would be any program or certification that requires physical activity the student be required to sign off on and would become part of the application process. DD Klucznik stated he would like to see sign off for all training because there are classes where the students will be brought to a prop for a demonstration. Counsel prefers to have it signed before the class takes place. DD Klucznik asked how long we would keep the waiver on file? Counsel suggests 3-5 years. Bob Rand asked if a student can check a box in the new LMS system as the liability waiver record. Counsel prefers electronic signature but will discuss an alternative. The Vice Chairman stated that this Accident Waiver and Release from Liability (AWRL) is a Department of Fire Services/Massachusetts Firefighting Academy policy and is shared with the Council for information purposes only.
* Training Council Sub-Committees – Vice Chairman requested that we keep current sub-committees and utilize them when necessary and if anyone on the Council is interested in being on any of these committees, let him know.
* Posting of new open meeting law requirements – we’re supposed to post any decisions and minutes of open meetings. More information forthcoming.

1. **Policy/Presentation**

* Request for Policy change for Certification- to modify the definition of Fire Service Personnel to more accurately reflect the intent of MGL c.6, section 165. Request is to remove statement E. Retired, full-time, career members of municipal fire departments in States other than the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Policy and Certification Sub-Committees voted to unanimously support the request. Captain Tustin made a motion, seconded by Deputy Director Klucznik, to support the request effective January 4, 2017. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
* Training Out of State Firefighters Policy Change adopted on May 1997. 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. The Policy Sub-Committee supported clarifying the statement to say except Career and Call/Volunteer Recruit Training. Captain Tustin made a motion, seconded by Lieutenant Piemonte, in support of the request. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**J. Review of Correspondence –**

Request from City of Newton, NH Fire Department to certify a student enrolled in the Call/Volunteer Recruit Program. The law states that the Massachusetts Fire Training Council will not certify any out of state firefighter. Captain Tustin made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, to deny the request. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Deputy Director Klucznik will notify the chief of the department.

**K. Determination of Next Date and Location**

The next meeting of the Training Council will be Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 11:00 in the Boards and Commissions Room.

**L. Adjourn Meeting**

Chief Scoble made a motion, seconded by Deputy Director Klucznik, to adjourn the meeting at 1:15. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.