Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the June 7, 2017 Meeting

Vice Chairman Firefighter Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:05 am on June 7, 2017 at the Department of Fire Services with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present were: Curriculum Specialist Margaret Crisham, Certification Program Coordinator Bob Rand, Metro Region Chief Bruce Prioa, Jason Cardosa representing James Pappas, Special Hazards Training Coordinator Paul Betti, MFA Instructors Scott Jensen and Robert Cembor, Operations Section Chief Dave Clemons and Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier.

Not present were: Chairman Chief Mario Orangio, Undersecretary Patrick McMurray, Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Captain Kurt Ruchala, and Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Captain Scoble made a motion, seconded by Robert Craig, to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2017 Training Council Meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report

Deputy Marshal – The MFA Trust Fund is healthy and does not indicate anything out of the ordinary.

C. Update of Affiliated Members

Fire Chiefs’ Association of Massachusetts

- Chief Nelson – nothing to present
- Chief Orangio – not present
- Chief Scoble – there will be no interruption in PAT tests as DCAM is keeping the building for this function. He also reported that Chief Orangio has announced his retirement from the Watertown Fire Department.
Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts
- Lieutenant Piemonte – nothing to report
- Firefighter Medeiros – PFFM bi-annual convention is coming up in Hyannis and we’ll be setting the agenda for the next two years.

Mass Call/Vol
- Assistant Chief Miller/Captain Ruchala – not present

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors
- Captain Connerty – nothing to report

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts
- Captain Tustin - the next FPAM meeting is June 13. It is a full day, including quarterlies and four point sessions for the FPO program. Two speakers: Matt Murray, Division of Fire Safety, will be talking about special effects and Chris Lynch from Code Red Consultants will be talking about what they’ll be looking for in fire stopping in construction.

Insurance Industry (Citizen of the Commonwealth)
- James Pappas – not present.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control
- Chief Celino – will send invite to Training Council to come to some prescribed burns – make it an educational kind of thing.

Citizens of the Commonwealth
- Bob Craig – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update
- Deputy Marshal – bills that the agency is following continue to go through the legislative process. We have offered some written testimony and there are hearings coming up for these bills. Chief Scoble added that the Senate budget has headed to the conference committees for DFS. If you have something that should be pushed forward, you should contact your individual representatives. On the house side, it’s Dempsey, Kulik and Smola and on the senate side is Spilka and DeDominico.

E. DFS Update – Deputy Marshal
- Replacement for the academy director began round one with seven candidates with a recommendation for round two. There is a vast group of candidates from fire service, education, business administration and town manager. We’re thinking of adding an assessment portion for the third round. The application is still open until we hire a person. We received approximately 53 resumes.
- New LMS system– MFA staff is working very hard to get the system up and running. Our timeline is to go live sometime in July. Changes would allow students to register online, tablet, phone, PC and view the course catalog any time. New students to the academy would have to create a profile; existing students will be requested to check their profile. When you register, you’ll get a reminder and students will have to register by a deadline. Walk ins will no longer be allowed. Any payments will be made electronically. We are moving away from the purchase order process. The training council currently has a No Show policy but MFA is not able to enforce it. With the new system, if a student is a no show three times in calendar year, they will be banned from taking a class for a year.
The student has to cancel themselves out of the class. The extended duration classes (career and call/vol recruit and hazmat tech) will not have this penalty. The structure of staff is changing as well.

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

- **Vice Chairman Paul Medeiros** read Joe’s report: As of May 25th, the Wait List for Career Recruit is 164. We are now filling Class 259 which begins on September 29, 2017. There are currently 10 openings in the class. Class S05, slated to begin on July 10th, has 1 opening, and Class S06 scheduled to begin on September 25th has 19 openings.
- The next Career Recruit Graduation is scheduled for Monday, June 6th at 1:00 pm. Chief Scoble will be representing the Council. Class S04 graduates at the Springfield Campus on Wednesday, June 21st, and Chief Miller will be the MFTC Rep.
- **C/V Class 064** will be graduating on Thursday, June 22nd, at Kuss Middle School in Fall River, and no MFTC member has signed up as of yet. C/V Class 065’s graduation ceremony will be on Monday, June 26th in Stow, and Captain Ruchala will represent the Council.
- All of the remaining Vehicle Extrication equipment has been received from last year’s AFG Grant. The equipment must be inventoried, and then Train-the-Trainers will be scheduled. The remaining funds from that grant will be used to purchase a custom cover for the rail car prop.
- **MFA Staff** is still working on data issues for the LMS project. Another round of data validation will have to be completed once the data is migrated from the current Access system to the Technomedia software. Student Transcripts are a major component of this recent data migration/validation project.
- All online classes will be taken offline on or about June 5th. This is necessary as we switch from our current software to the Technomedia software. No new registrations for online classes will be accepted after May 26th.
- The Pro Board’s Committee on Accreditation recently approved the MFTC’s request for an Extension of Accreditation for Surface Water Technical Rescue I & II, and Swift Water Rescue I & II.

**G. Old Business**

- **Letter from MFA Instructor** – Misters Jensen and Cembor attended the Certification Sub-Committee requesting the Training Council review the policy regarding out of state MFA instructors taking certification exams. Bob Rand presented the Certification Sub-Committee with a change to the definition of fire service. The proposal will be brought before the full Training Council at the September meeting. If the proposal is approved, the issue of out-of-state MFA instructors participating in certification exams would be resolved.

**H. New Business**

- Chief Scoble was asked by a constituent to discuss the new FPO II program. People have been removed because they had not done their online work and was told that it was a training council policy. Captain Tustin replied that the current syllabus says that if they didn’t get a 70% on each quiz, then they would be considered failed from the course. He feels that it needs to be reviewed. Operations Section Chief Clemons said there will be an after action meeting of the development team and the coordinator of the program. We will talk about whether the quizzes and tests are cumulative or independent. There are some differences in opinions with some subject matter experts. Captain Tustin said that it was the goal of the development team to set the bar high and that it should be a 10-week program. There was discussion that if a student failed test, they would be removed.
We wanted to insure they did the online work prior to going into the classroom. He can’t find a policy that says that if they didn’t receive a 70%, that they would be removed from the class. The development team suggested a 70% to insure learning and there seems to be confusion. It wasn’t the intent of the team to fail students.

- Chief Scoble also brought up the hiring of MFA instructors for discussion. There are some iron clad requirements that a candidate needs to have to be hired by MFA. There may be those candidates that have the qualifications and because of these requirements aren’t being hired. Dave Clemons talked about subject matter expert, or some other specialty positions as a way of hiring qualified individuals. The question from Chief Scoble is would someone with 35 years of chief and firefighter experience be able to teach recruit as a subject matter expert.

I. Policy Presentation/Policy

J. Review of Correspondence

- Nantucket Fire Department requested to hold three spots for the September 28 class. Chief Scoble made a motion, seconded by Lt. Drew Piemonte, to grant the department’s request. There was discussion that this motion is not our normal response. Chief Scoble and Paul Medeiros both responded that Nantucket has unusual circumstances that require them to plan like this. The department is also going through a chief transition. After discussion, the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017 at 11:00 in the Boards & Commissions Room.

L. Adjourn Meeting

- Captain Tustin made a motion, seconded by Chief Scoble, to adjourn the meeting at 12:05. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.