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FIREFIGHTER PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the January 3, 2018 Meeting**

Chairman Firefighter Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:10 am on January 3, 2018 at the Department of Fire Services with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance were: Chairman Paul Medeiros, Captain Andrew Connerty, Vice Chairman Captain Rick Tustin, MFA Director Dave Evans, Robert Craig, Chief Bruce Proia, Jason Cardoso, Chief Tim Nelson, and Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller.

Also present were: MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, DFS Counsel Steve Rourke, Operations Director David Clemons, Curriculum Specialist Maggie Crisham, EMS Coordinator Bryan O'Neil, Special Hazards Coordinator Paul Betti, Clinton Fire Chief John McLaughlin, and Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier.

Not present were: Undersecretary Patrick McMurray, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Chief Fire Warden David Celino, and Lieutenant Drew Piemonte.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Captain Tustin made a motion, seconded by Director Evans, to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2017 Training Council Meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report

Deputy Director Klucznik reported the MFA Trust Fund balance of \$197,547. The Fund continues to be dynamic and is healthy at this time.

C. Update of Affiliated Members -Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts

Chairman Medeiros recognized Jason Cardoso, representing Citizen of the Commonwealth, and Chief Bruce Proia, representing the Metro Region Fire Chiefs, as the newest members of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council.

- Chief Nelson – nothing to report
- Chief Proia – nothing to report

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Paul Medeiros –received a question regarding the Career Recruit program failure rate and was going to talk to the Director about it.

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 - The next meeting of FPAM will be next Tuesday at Auburn Elks at 10:00 am. Topics are maintenance of performance based fire protection systems.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso - Nothing to report.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Chief Celino - Not present

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Bob Craig – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Steve Rourke

- Welding Commission Update–The next meeting is next Wednesday at the state house where DFS representation from the Fire Safety division will speak to the task group. A future topic will be fees for violations.

E. DFS Update – Marshal Ostroskey

- The revised Mass fire code takes effect 1-1-18. The MFA and Fire Safety division have held classes already and have scheduled classes for the next six weeks. The big change is going from 2012 to 2015 base codes with Massachusetts amendments. Provisions for permit requirements take effect on July 1st.
- DFS is working closely with NFPA on some training opportunities. Boston adopted some provisions in the Boston Fire Code after the Back Bay fire and is the only community with legislation that allows them to have provisions. We've made sure that the State requirements mirror those of Boston.
- We are working with the National Association of State Fire Marshals on a program for safeguarding building construction. We know that there is an educational component. Instead of doing our training, we will work with the NASFM as they received a grant from Fire Administration.
- Next scheduled meeting of the Training Council will be a joint meeting with Fire Service Commission including a presentation to illustrate the budget and budget priorities for the department.
- The DFS received delivery of a new tractor and is now in operation. A maze trailer will be delivered in the next few weeks and the flashover is in production.
- Next round of AFG funding has been opened up. A grant proposal is being prepared for a search & rescue prop in Springfield.
- DFS received a grant for active shooter training in conjunction with EOPSS.

- The department received a grant for Homemade Explosives & Post-Blast training. An instructor from the Auburn police department will be providing the training and will be scheduled in Stow from January 23 through June.
- In April, the Post-Blast investigation course is being offered under the same grant and will be priority selection for folks on the marathon route. Training will be provided by staff that do the training for the Arson Investigation class.
- Staff changes – Recruit Assistant Chris Juda has retired and we are looking to replace her as soon as possible. DFS is expanding our course development staff by hiring a Video Curriculum Specialist. The position will work with local cable groups to help them work with local fire departments by producing some short PSAs.
- Sadly, we're at about 50 fatalities for 2017. We're working hard with fire departments to reduce those numbers in any way that we can.
- We are getting ready to send award notification letters and are happy to report that we've seen an increase of 19 communities that have applied for SAFE and Sr. SAFE funding.

F. Academy Activities Report – Deputy Director Klucznik

- Career Recruit waitlist is currently 215; we're filling Stow class 267 beginning July 26 with 33 openings. We're currently filling Springfield class S08 that begins on June 1; there are 23 openings.
- The Academy statistics report was distributed to the Council.
- Second round interviews were completed this week for the Career Recruit Program Coordinator and we expect someone to be hired soon.
- We are working on submitting an AFG application for a two-story combined modular structure for Springfield.
- Our 2nd first responders program is scheduled to begin in Turners Falls tomorrow.
- We are still reviewing all online programs to ensure content and formatting is correct in the new LMS.
- LMS training for super-users will be on Friday for instructors and is designed to help get students up to speed with the LMS.
- Pro-board accreditation will take place in 2018 starting with a visit in October.
- Christine Dansereau will take on the administrative duties of Chris Juda. Most reports to chiefs will be done electronically.
- The MFA recently advertised and hired an EMS Coordinator and Paul Betti introduced Bryan O'Neil.

G. Old Business - MFA Director Dave Evans

- Adjunct Instructor Policy Update- no new information. Topic will be taken off the agenda until there is something to present to the Council.
- Training Council policies have been numbered and copies made for each member.
- There was a question regarding the enabling statute clause and Steve Rourke explained the intent.

H. New Business

- Director Evans and Certification Program Coordinator Bob Rand will be heading to the Pro-Board conference next week.
- Reaccreditation Update – We have asked the Pro-Board to schedule their visit in October, 2018.

I. Policy Presentation/Policy

J. Review of Correspondence

- Request from the Northbridge Fire Department – The Chief of the Department is requesting four SAFER grant spots be held in the next available class. Captain Connerty made a motion, seconded by Captain Tustin, to approve the Chief's request. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Request from the Chief of the Scituate Fire Department to switch a recruit with long term injury status with a recruit that is returning from being dismissed from a previous class. All the paperwork for the returning student is in house and is assigned to the June class. The Chief still does not know when the injured recruit will be cleared for duty. Captain Connerty made a motion, seconded by Chief Nelson, to approve his request to switch recruits because of the long term line of duty injury to attend class #263 beginning February 23. 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, February 7, 2018 at 11:00 in the Boards & Commissions Room. It will start with a joint meeting with the Fire Service Commission for a budget presentation by Marshal Ostroskey. After the presentation, the Training Council will resume their meeting in the same room.

Clinton Chief John McLaughlin addressed the Training Council to express his frustration about recruits grading and feels many are not qualified to be a firefighter. He has come to the Council before and is asking the Council to provide some type of answer.

L. Adjourn Meeting

Director Evans made a motion, seconded by Captain Tustin, to adjourn the meeting at 12:15. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.