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FIREFIGHTER PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the September 5 2018 Meeting**

Chairman Firefighter Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:00am on September 5, 2018 at the Department of Fire Services with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present were: DFS Counsel Steve Rourke, Director of Operations David Clemons, MFA Curriculum Specialist Maggie Crisham, Deputy State Marshal Maribel Fournier, Tom Muisse for Dave Celino, DCR, DFS Deputy General Counsel Glenn Rooney, Call/Vol Program Coordinator Christopher Norris, MFA Instructor Michael Moriarty, and Special Hazards Training Program Coordinator Paul Betti.

Not present were: Undersecretary Patrick McMurray

Chairman Medeiros introduced Sheri Bemis as a new member of the Training Council serving as Citizen of the Commonwealth.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Dave Evans made a motion, seconded by Captain Connerty, to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2018 Training Council Meeting as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report

The MFA Trust Fund reports for the periods of 5/26/18 through 8/25/2018 were presented. Director Evans noted nothing outstanding.

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

- Chief Nelson –representing part paid/part call –nothing to report
- Chief Proia representing Metro – nothing to report
- Position open – representing call

- Position open – representing full-time

D. Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Paul Medeiros – It was a successful legislative session; one example being the cancer disability legislation.
- Drew Piemonte – nothing to report

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller – MCVFA's annual meeting will be October 13 in Hadley. There are some good seminars associated with that.
- Assistant Chief Ruchala – 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 the Fire Prevention Association will be next Tuesday, September 11 in Auburn, MA. The topic will be exterior cladding for buildings. The deadline to register is tomorrow at 5:00. We had a very good July meeting; we certified 100 people in Hotworks, presented by the NFPA.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso - Nothing to report.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Tom Muise – on behalf of Dave Celino – fire crews just returned from our 2nd assignment in Montana. We're working on management plans for hazard fuels mitigation which will be a great training opportunity for local fire departments. We trained 1,200 people in our Wildland Fire program and are projecting to have two programs this fall.

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Sheri Bemis – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Steve Rourke

- The two pieces of legislation passed was the cancer presumption disability and tech rescue laws. We just need to figure out the logistics pertaining to tech rescue legislation.
- Steve Rourke introduced Glenn Rooney as the new Deputy Counsel replacing the newly retired Peter Senopoulous.

E. DFS Update – Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier

- The first Active Shooter Symposium is tomorrow in Quincy at NFPA. There's one on September 20 and is already filled; we're looking for a bigger location, hopefully, at Stonehill College. There will also be one on September 21 at Westfield State University.
- The agency's spending plan for FY19 has been approved and has been distributed to DFS divisions with some minor changes. We will be submitting our FY20 budget in the next couple weeks.

- Another piece of legislation included an extractor bulk purchase of \$420,000 allocated to DFS. We're working with EOPSS and ANF on corrective language to the legislation to have a mechanism to purchase extractors.

F. Academy Activities Report –Director Dave Evans

- Career Recruit current waitlist numbers are 189 for Stow and 7 for Springfield. Class #266 just graduated on August 31; class #S09 in Springfield started last Thursday. Class #268 began in Stow last week.
- We had a very successful cancer awareness day last week in Stow. We ran two Cancer Awareness classes along with skin and oral screenings. There's also a class scheduled for November 8 in Springfield.
- The new Flashover and SCBA maze trailers are housed in Springfield.
- There's a meeting going on right now with all parties involved in the AFG-funded Search and Rescue Building being built at our Springfield campus.
- The Marshal has recently sent notification regarding new online classes. Subjects include Fentanyl, Human Trafficking, PPV and Confined Space. We have three new forcible entry classes; the first has already filled up in Springfield.
- Fire Instructor II started this week in Stow. We have five Fire Instructor I courses scheduled. One this month in Belmont, two in October in Stow and Weymouth, one in November in Haverhill, and one in December in Webster.
- Fire Prevention Officer I's scheduled for this month and November in Stow and a Fire Prevention Officer II also scheduled in November.
- The Chief Fire Officer Management program begins on September 13th and the Senior Fire Officer Forums start with an offering on September 12th.
- A question was asked about the Recruit Orientation and the injuries that have happened recently. The Director assured the Council that it was an anomaly. There have been no changes to the program, the recruits are exercising for about seven minutes.

G. Old Business

H. New Business

- Call/Vol Chiefs from Bristol County – Recruit Application Requirements. Chief Richard Arruda, Darmouth Dist. 3, Chief Eric Hajder, Swansea, and Chief Chris Maguy, Dighton representing small combination fire departments. They met with the Academy in past regarding a couple of issues that hinder their recruitment of firefighters. Chief Hajder addressed the council with some concerns that limit their ability to hire firefighters and is hoping to work with the Fire Academy on solutions. Specifically those that have not graduated from high school, do not have the required high school diploma, or a GED to enroll in the Call/Vol Basic Firefighting program. This rule places limits on fire departments in the southeast area. Departments' ability to recruit and keep recruits are hindered because if we don't get them right away, we lose them to other interests. Since this rule has been in effect, it has made it difficult to hire and keep students from high school. The second issue involves a small minority of non-civil service recruits that are hindered in an appeals process. We need to have a process or guideline if someone fails the HRD physical with specific issues. Can we get a specialist letter or sign off from the chief of the department? We are asking the Council for direction on this.

Jonathan Miller confirmed that the high school diploma requirement does not to change the age requirement. Miller asked what the HRD appeals process is for civil service departments. Chairman Medeiros explained that if there was a specific medical issue, the doctor will ask you to see a specialist. HRD in turn makes the call to the specialist. The expectation is that you meet a certain standard as a firefighter.

Sheri Bemis shared that she understands what the departments go through to hire recruits from high school. As a former chief of Oxford, they offered an Explorer Program and was successful hiring high school students. Sometimes we would lose them and know that it's important to keep them interested.

The Director spoke about the timing of the Fall River Call/Vol class, which was scheduled around the same time as finals and senior week and other things that the recruit has in their life, which makes it difficult for them to focus on both.

Chris Norris reviewed the rationale of the decision to change the Call/Vol entrance policy. The Fall River class is typically held in March and during the month leading up to the students' graduation, other activities have taken precedence over attending class. Students were missing mandatory days and were subsequently dismissed from the program. In the best interest of the student, we didn't want to put them in that situation. The MFA holds six Call/Vol classes per fiscal year. Instead of holding the Fall River class during that time, we could swap time frames and hold the Springfield class in March and hold the Fall River class in July so that those seniors will have graduated by that time.

Jonathan Miller suggested that he bring the idea of swapping to the Chiefs meeting in a couple of weeks. He hasn't heard of any issue with the high school diploma/GED requirement but he will would like to talk with the Mass Call/Vol leadership to make sure we don't move the problem.

Chairman Medeiros thanked the Bristol County chiefs for their presentation and explained that the Council will have further discussion with the MFA staff in regards to the high school diploma/GED requirement. He explained that we have to make decisions that will affect the whole but understand their situation.

- Regarding an appeals process for medical exam failure due to a specific issue, Counsel Rourke said the advice from HRD suggested non-civil service departments use the same HRD specialist form that civil service departments use to meet certain health criteria. Chief Arruda asked they be given guidance for making an appeal. Fire Marshal Ostroskey suggested the MFA Director craft a procedure to be provided upon request to describe the process a department should follow for medical exam failure.

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

J. Review of Correspondence

- SAFER hold request from Stoneham Fire Dept. to hold four (4) spots in the Career Recruit Class #273 beginning March 11. Bruce Proia made a motion, seconded by Rick Tustin to approve Stoneham's request. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- SAFER hold request from Needham Fire Dept. to hold eight (8) spots in Career Recruit class #274 beginning April 18. Drew Piemonte made a motion, seconded by Andrew

Connerty to approve Needham's request. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

- SAFER hold request from Westborough Fire Dept. to six (6) spots in the next available class in Stow or Springfield. The department will take the spots in the next Career Recruit class in Springfield – class #S10 beginning January 25. Andrew Connerty made a motion, seconded by Tim Nelson to approve Westborough's request. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council is Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 11:00 am in the Boards & Commissions Room.

L. Public Comment

M. Adjourn Meeting

Kurt Ruchala made a motion, seconded by Dave Evans, to adjourn the meeting at 12:20. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.