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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the December 5, 2018 Meeting**

Chairman Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:20 am on December 5, 2018 at the Department of Fire Services with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance were: Chairman Lt. Paul Medeiros, Chief Bruce Proia, Jason Cardoso, Captain Andrew Connerty, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Vice Chairman Captain Rick Tustin, MFA Director Dave Evans, Chief Dave Celino, Lt. Drew Piemonte, Chief Sheri Bemis, Chief Richard Donovan (not sworn in as of this meeting), and Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller.

Also present were: MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, DFS Counsel Steve Rourke, Director of Operations David Clemons, MFA Curriculum Specialist Maggie Crisham, Recruit Coordinator Dennis Ball, State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Call/Vol Program Coordinator Chris Norris, Recruit Assistant Christine Dansereau, and Certification Coordinator Bob Rand.

Not present were: Chief Tim Nelson, Chief Frank Barresi (not sworn in as of this meeting), and Undersecretary Patrick McMurray.

Chairman Medeiros noted Chief Nelson's father passed away and is with his family.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Sheri Bemis made a motion, seconded by Bruce Proia, to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2018 Training Council Meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report

The MFA Trust Fund report for the period of 10/28/2018 through 11/24/2018 was presented. Deputy Director Klucznik noted nothing out of the ordinary to report. The Fund is healthy at this time.

Chief Richard Donovan has been appointed as the affiliate member of FCAM representing full-time departments.

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

- Chief Nelson –representing part paid/part call –not present
- Chief Proia representing Metro – nothing to report
- Chief Barresi - representing call
- Chief Donovan – representing full-time

D. Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Lt. Medeiros – This is the time of the year when I think about the losses we've had - 19 years ago we lost six firefighters in addition to Firefighter Davies.
- Lt. Piemonte – nothing to report

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller – region 4 meeting was held in Belchertown last week
- Assistant Chief Ruchala – nothing to report

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Captain Connerty – nothing to report

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Captain Tustin – our next meeting is Tuesday, December 11 in Auburn at 10:00 am. We'll be talking about code requirements for engineered wood I-joist in the International Residential Code.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso - Nothing to report.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Chief Celino – seasonal budget looks the same as last year and we are working to bring on people for 2019. We are working on a prescribed fire handbook which is the first in the state. We're in the final stages and hoping to have that signed off by the end of the year. We also have four fire management plans that are in the final stages.

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Sheri Bemis – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Steve Rourke

- Nothing currently up before the legislature that would affect this group now. We are putting together legislative initiatives, drafting and vetting those through the secretariat. We'll start shortly on technical corrections in relation to trusts we're responsible for.

E. DFS Update – Marshal Peter Ostroskey

- Remind folks of the first anniversary LODD of Chief Frye from Montgomery. We have continue to be vigilant.
- Published reports say that Dan Bennett's, Secretary of EOPSS, last day is today. Tom Turco will take office tomorrow. We've had the opportunity to work with Mr. Turco.

- The Department continues to be very active with the Merrimac Valley disaster in support of those communities. What you're going to see is that it is an ongoing event with our Department collaborating with utility companies and we have the appropriate codes. We're seeing carbon monoxide and fire incidents.
- We are making progress on the AFG for the search and rescue prop in Springfield for completion by June 30, 2019.
- We have been made aware of a grant that was given to the emergency management agency for the statewide mobilization of emergencies. Large scale responses are becoming more and more prevalent. The legislature's action on tech rescue will be built into the mobilization plan.
- The FY20 base budget has been submitted and I will be back to present the Governor's approved budget to Council. We have put forward a proposal to the secretary's office to acquire a piece of land in Bridgewater – 18 acres of property. This property was previously used by the DOC and there are some structures that we can use. The Secretary has approved it and it has moved forward to ANF. We're looking to transfer the property from DOC to DFS. We plan to model Bridgewater after the Springfield campus. We also hope to make this a permanent training facility for the tech rescue team. The number of students in the Career Recruit program in Springfield will be 28, there will be two classes of 36 in Stow, and we plan to have 28 students in Bridgewater.

F. Academy Activities Report –Deputy Director Joe Klucznik

- As of today the number of recruits scheduled to attend a future Career Recruit class is 264. We are currently filling class #276 beginning 7-5-19. We're also currently filling Springfield class S11 beginning on April 11th. The next Career Recruit class graduation is Friday, December 21 and Captain Tustin will be representing the Council.
- We've hired 22 new instructors with 12 completing their audit time.
- Work continues on the Springfield Search & Rescue building through the AFG. We're looking at possibly cutting FY19 budget due to higher preliminary cost estimates.
- SAFER notifications have been made from last month.
- Sheri Bemis asked about the Academy numbers of class cancellations due to low enrollments. Deputy Klucznik noted that the number of class cancellations now is lower due to weekly class notifications.
- Call/Vol update – Chris Norris gave the following report: two call/vol classes have recently graduated immediately followed by the start of two new classes: West Newbury and Leicester. Logistically, the current locations have challenges, namely we have to use trailers for equipment and we rely on the department's resources. Looking ahead, we have two classes starting in March: Fall River and Stow. Fall River class is full with a waiting list. We have 23 people enrolled in the Stow class. We are having challenges in terms of reasonable accommodations. A couple people have been denied because they missed the deadline. We have tried to send out the information to all students far in advance. The IFSTA 7th edition is coming out in January-February time frame. We will be looking at that curriculum with the Career Recruit folks and making changes by early summer. We've had some new instructors complete their audit time and are helping to bring them up to speed on the program. Josh Shanley, MFA's media specialist, has been working with staff and recent graduates to develop a marketing campaign to draw folks from different regions. We recently recognized the anniversary of the LODD death of Marty McNamara. Each graduating class receives an outstanding student award. A brand new plaque with all the outstanding students is in hall in MFA.

G. Old Business

H. New Business

- The Policy Sub-Committee met for a request for a former instructor to be re-hired without Firefighter I/II requirement. The person worked here for over 23 years and there's no question he has the credentials to teach. There were some issues with communication with a person in the Academy and HR terminating him. The member received support by the recruit coordinators. The Council made a change in 2008 and in then 2017 for requirements to teach at the Academy. The motion the committee came up with was to give the director the ability to reinstate the person without the Firefighter I/II requirement. Chairman Medeiros explained that there was confusion as to whether the person resigned. HR requires a notice from the Training Council stating that we waive the policy requirements only in this incident. That this is not precedent setting. Kurt Ruchala made a motion, seconded by Rick Tustin to allow the MFA Director special consideration to waive the policy requirements for instructor re-hire in this incident only. The vote was ten (10) in favor and one (1) not in favor.

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

- Jonathan Miller asked that the above Policy be looked at by the Academy.

J. Review of Correspondence

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council is Wednesday, January 2 at 11:00 am in the Boards & Commissions Room. We will invite Retired Chief Craig for the next meeting.

L. Public Comment

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Andrew Connerty made a motion, seconded by Rick Tustin, to adjourn the meeting at 12:35. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.