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FIREFIGHTER PAUL J. MEDEIROS  
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council  
Minutes of the November 15, 2018 Meeting**

Chairman Firefighter Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:12 am on November 15, 2018 at the Department of Fire Services with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance were: Chairman Paul Medeiros, Chief Bruce Proia, Jason Cardoso, Chief Tim Nelson, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Vice Chairman Captain Rick Tustin, MFA Director Dave Evans, Tom Muise, DCR Fire Control, Lt. Drew Piemonte, Sheri Bemis and Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller.

Also present were: MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, DFS Deputy Counsel Glenn Rooney, Director of Operations David Clemons, MFA Curriculum Specialist Maggie Crisham, Special Hazards Training Coordinator Paul Betti, Recruit Coordinator Dennis Ball, Randolph Chief Richard Donovan, and Certification Coordinator Bob Rand.

Not present were: Captain Andrew Connerty, Chief Frank Barresi and Undersecretary Patrick McMurray.

**A. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Sheri Bemis made a motion, seconded by Bruce Proia, to approve the minutes of the October 3, 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 9/23/2018 through 10/27/2018 was presented. Deputy Director Klucznik noted that the trust fund bank account is fluid and according to the report we're in the red, however, there are funds earmarked and entities have been billed for training.

**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
- Chief Barresi – not present
- Position open – representing full-time

#### **D. Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts**

- Paul Medeiros – Unfortunately, there's been a slew of cancer deaths in the fire service. Legislative session will include issues on health and safety in the fire service.
- Drew Piemonte – congratulated Paul on being promoted to Lieutenant.

#### **Mass Call/Vol**

- Assistant Chief Miller – The annual meeting for the MCVFA was last month.
- Assistant Chief Ruchala – nothing to report

#### **Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors**

- Captain Connerty – not present

#### **Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts**

- Captain Tustin – Had our monthly meeting two days ago out in Plymouth Plantation. Thank you to MFA and Fire Safety for New Code Orientation. Next meeting is December 11.

#### **Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry**

- Jason Cardoso - Nothing to report.

#### **Bureau of Forest Fire Control**

- Tom Muisse for Dave Celino – nothing to report.

#### **Citizens of the Commonwealth**

- Sheri Bemis – nothing to report

#### **D. Legislative Update – DFS Deputy Counsel Glenn Rooney**

- Update on a Mass Commission Against Discrimination case. A recruit that suffered from dyslexia sued the department for disability discrimination for failing the certification exam because he didn't have a reader. The department and Academy thought otherwise because he needed to perform the essential duties of a firefighter with or without a reader and a reader is not a reasonable accommodation. The case was dismissed for lack of probable cause.

#### **E. DFS Update – Dave Clemons**

- A number of DFS employees participated in Vigilant Guard. Based on after action comments, the drills were a success.
- Next week, on Tuesday, we have the Firefighter of the Year Awards at Mechanics Hall in Worcester.
- Work on the Springfield Search and Rescue prop continues to be ongoing with all parties involved.
- Director Evans has been working on the FY20 budget and we continue to move toward a southeast campus.

#### **F. Academy Activities Report –Deputy Director Joe Klucznik**

- As of today the number of recruits scheduled to attend a future Career Recruit class is 206. We are filling class #275 beginning 5-23-19. Next Springfield class S10 begins at the end of January.

- There is a graduation this Monday, November 19 in Stow for class #268. Chief Proia will represent the Training Council.
- Call/Vol Recruit class #074 in West Newbury will begin with 24 recruits and class #075 in Leicester will begin with 29 recruits.
- Due to a scheduling conflict with the Sudbury pool, we will be scheduling the water rescue segment of Career Recruit at the Mass State Police pool. The program will not change, just the location.
- The Commonwealth has changed the HRD medical form and we now require pages 1 & 8 instead of pages 1 & 6.
- We continue to add to our online portfolio and we will continue to add additional courses.
- The Chairman asked if there is a report that would indicate how many recruits took the certification test. Mr. Rand stated that the statistics would have to be compiled by hand and managing this could be challenging.

## **G. Old Business**

## **H. New Business**

- Recognition of Past Training Council Member – We would like to recognize Chief Craig with a plaque and breakfast at an upcoming meeting.
- Chief Proia asked if the Academy has been filling the Springfield classes and if the Academy could set boundaries for each campus in order to alleviate the burden on metro departments. He feels that it's not acceptable to wait several months to get recruits in a future Recruit class. Deputy Director Klucznik explained the limitations in Springfield and that we're looking to increase class size. Director Evans explained that a Waitlist Committee convened with no specific solution.

## **I. Policy Presentation/Adoption**

- Career Recruit Rules & Regs Policy change
  - Level 3 deficiency consultation change – under C, added 'or his/her designee'. Sheri Bemis made a motion, second by Rick Tustin to approve the change. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
  - Deportment change – a change to F. includes 'any and all' electronic devices are to remain in the student's vehicle during the training day. Bruce Proia made a motion, seconded by Tim Nelson to approve the change. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Certification changes for accreditation, testing and evaluation – Effective July 1, 2019, candidates must have successfully completed the training program(s) containing evaluations of the non-cognitive requirements of the training program(s) conducted by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. There will be testing components during the program and the written examination can be taken within twelve (12) months. Drew Piemonte made a motion, seconded by Kurt Ruchala, to accept the requested changes for Company Officer I and II and Fire Instructor I & II. The motion was approved with nine (9) votes in favor and one (1) vote opposed. Jonathan Miller dissented due to his feeling that the changes would make it difficult for Call/Vol firefighters to complete the certification process.
- Certification standard change for HazMat Operations Level Responder from NFPA 472, 2008 edition to NFPA 1072, 2017 edition effective June 1, 2019. Jonathan Miller made a

motion, seconded by Rick Tustin to accept the requested changes. The vote was unanimous in favor of the vote.

**J. Review of Correspondence**

- SAFER hold request from Winchester Fire Dept. to hold two (2) spots in the Career Recruit Class. Bruce Proia made a motion, seconded by Kurt Ruchala, to approve Winchester's request. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- SAFER hold request from Somerset Fire Department to hold four (4) spots in the Career Recruit class. Kurt Ruchala made a motion, seconded by Rick Tustin to approve Somerset's request. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- SAFER hold request from Lynn Fire Department to hold twenty (20) spots in the Career Recruit class. Bruce Proia made a motion, seconded by Tim Nelson to approve Lynn's request for ten (10) spots in two consecutive classes. 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, December 5, 2018 at 11:00 am in the Boards & Commissions Room.

**L. Public Comment**

- The Chairman received a letter from Springfield Commissioner Bernard Calvi to hold twenty (20) spots in the April & July Springfield classes. No action was taken.

**M. Adjourn Meeting**

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