

**FIRE SERVICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 18, 2018**

The Fire Service Commission held a meeting on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at the Department of Fire Services, Boards and Commissions Room, Stow, Massachusetts.

Present at the meeting were the following Commission members:

Chief John Nash
Captain Michael McCullough
Chief Gregory J. Burns
Undersecretary Patrick McMurray
Mr. John Golembeski

Absent from the meeting were the following Commission members:

FF Richard D. MacKinnon, Jr.
Chief Alan J. Roy

DFS staff present at the meeting:

State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey
General Counsel Steven Rourke
Deputy General Counsel Glenn Rooney
JoAnne Caruso

Guests present at the meeting: FCAM Working Group

Chief Joe Maruca - Chairman
Chief Chris Norris - Member
Chief James Broderick - Member

Meeting called to order by Chairman Chief John Nash at 10:15 a.m.

AGENDA

The meeting began with the introduction of Deputy General Counsel Glenn Rooney by General Counsel Rourke. He replaced Peter Senopoulos who retired in August. Deputy General Counsel Rooney came from the Massachusetts State Police.

A. FCAM Working Group for Fire Chief Credential Review

Chief Maruca introduced the FCAM Working Group members and asked for some clarification from the Commission in regard to the current Fire Chief Credential process; FSC took on the role with help from the Department of Fire Services to roll out the program statewide and help to facilitate the process of application approval by the members. Course approval for credits sits in the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Profession Development group. The policy side is driven by the Commission whereas the procedure side is driven by DFS/MFA.

The Group expressed concerns on behalf of the fire chiefs from the courses being offered for credits, policy changes, and the tedious application process. Discussion about lack of regional training offerings and advertising has made it difficult for chiefs to maintain their credentials every three years.

State Fire Marshal Ostroskey spoke about the online resources through the Learning Management System (LMS), the current research into distance and online learning opportunities, and other sources for credits.

Chief Nash said the Commission is willing to work with all participants to make reasonable changes while maintaining the integrity of the program which is designed to promote and increase the professionalism within the fire service.

B. Approval of Minutes of June 19, 2018 Meeting

A motion was made by Chief Nash and seconded by Chief Burns that the minutes of June 19, 2018, meeting be approved as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. Credentialing/Re-Credentialing Process

A motion was made by Captain McCullough and seconded by Mr. Golembeski to award accreditation to the following:

1. Credentialing –
 - Captain Andrew Connerty – Burlington Fire Department
 - Lieutenant Robert Wollner – Belmont Fire Department
 - Chief Edward Harvey – Blandford Fire Department
 - Captain Robert Harrison – Wrentham Fire Department
 - Deputy Chief Richard Nelson – Peabody Fire Department
 - Chief Laurent McDonald – Monson Fire Department
 - Chief James Cleveland – Ashburnham Fire Department
 - Deputy Chief Glenn Davis – Lynnfield Fire Department
 - Assistant Chief Mark Haskell – Rehoboth Fire Department
2. Re-Credentialing –
 - Deputy Fire Chief Barry Galvin – North Reading Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

D. General Issues and Updates from DFS

State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey spoke about the upcoming Firefighter of the Year event being held at Mechanics Hall in Worcester, on November 20th.

He was pleased to say that the “Cancer in the Fire Service” programs have been very well received and that DFS recently hosted a cancer screening day which was a great success. Another event at the Springfield site will be offered in the next several weeks.

DFS has been awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) which will fund the construction of a search and rescue prop for the Springfield Academy. It will be ready and available for use in training within one year. The legislation just passed a tech rescue bill which will formalize and establish regional rescue teams throughout the state, which will be very similar to the current Hazardous Materials Regional structure.

DFS had a busy summer with planning and coordinating several public safety collaborative events, including a series of upcoming Active/Hostile Shooter symposiums and a major National Guard event.

Lastly, State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey expressed that the recent Merrimack Valley explosions could not have gone smoother in terms of mass mobilization; he was very proud of the activity level and overall response.

E. Determination of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The date of the next meeting of the Fire Service Commission is tentatively scheduled on October 16th at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Fire Services, Boards and Commissions Room.

A motion to adjourn was made by Captain McCullough and seconded by Chief Burns. Said motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

The meeting of the Fire Service Commission concluded at 11:10 a.m.