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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the February 14, 2019 Meeting**

Chairman Lt. Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 10:10 am on February 14, 2019 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, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Chief Frank Barresi, Chief Richard Donovan, Chief Tim Nelson, Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis and MFA Director Dave Evans.

Also present were Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, DFS Counsel Steve Rourke, Special Hazards Training Coordinator Paul Betti, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Certification Program Coordinator Bob Rand, MFA Curriculum Specialist Maggie Crisham Lt. Drew Piemonte, Operations Director Dave Clemons.

Not present: Chief Dave Celino.

The Chairman announced to the Council that it was brought to his attention that two officers are representing the PFFM since his promotion in October. Lt. Drew Piemonte has stepped down due to the statue indicating that one firefighter and one officer is required to represent the PFFM.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Rick Tustin made a motion, seconded by Dave Evans, to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2019 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 12/23/2018 through 1/26/2019 was presented. Dave Evans reported that the balance fluctuates due to outstanding contract training bills.

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

- Chief Nelson –representing part paid/part call –nothing to report.

- Chief Proia representing metro – the metro chiefs continue to pursue a training class with the Boston Fire Department. It hasn't been finalized but it looks like it will be held in the spring-summer time frame. They can take between 40-60 students.
- Chief Barresi - representing call – I have received a lot requests for Instructor I and Fire Officer I courses.
- Chief Donovan – representing full-time - nothing to report

D. Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Lt. Medeiros – Interesting situation in Mansfield at the fire station; he just wanted to give a heads up about having protective systems in place for fire.
- Thanked Drew for his service to the Training Council.

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller – had a couple calls regarding the certification change and deadline for exams. There is a concern that the timing of exams don't give people enough time to receive results and register for the next one. The Chairman suggested we take it up under New Business.
- Assistant Chief Ruchala – nothing to report

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Captain Connerty – nothing to report

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Captain Tustin – We have been getting a lot of requests for FPO I and PC2 courses and have responded that MFA is working on scheduling these courses. FPAM's annual conference will be May 6 & 7. Next meeting is March 12 in Auburn. It will be a full day quarterly meeting with the topic being the Ticketing process.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso - Nothing to report.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Chief Celino – not present

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Sheri Bemis – Just got back from the IFSTA conference. It was a productive meeting; next meeting is in July.

D. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Steve Rourke

- To date, we have about 150 bills filed that touch on the aspect of fire and fire protection. For DFS purposes, we've filed boiler pressure vessel requirements; dryer extract fund; clean up language for fire safe cigarette; some stuff on tannerite and binary agents and limiting that; sprinklers and CO detection in schools; carrying over fire protective provisions in the fire code.
- We have a handful of bills of interest to the training council: 1) an act for distinctive registration plates for firefighters. There is a fee that would be split between the MFA trust fund and the Firefighter Memorial Fund; 2) an act relative to fire training to allow firefighters employed at DFS to work in excess of 960 hours. 3) an act pertaining to fire safety training and professionalism; the head of the department has to be a uniformed

member of the department for a minimum of 10 years; an act authorizing voluntary contributions to the MFA trust fund; allow the state income tax law to individuals or joint filers to contribute any or all of their tax refund.

E. DFS Update –Marshal Ostroskey

- We have the joint meeting with the Training Council and Fire Service Commission to present the Department's FY20 budget. At that time, you will meet the new Undersecretary for Homeland Security, Jean Benincasa-Thorpe.
- Secretary Turco has brought in three new Undersecretaries; changes continue at EOPSS.
- Some of the work we're doing with the fire code with the BFPR and DFS staff is to have updates as new editions of the base code come out. We will have amendments to 2015 code and not adopt the 2018 fire code.

F. Academy Activities Report –Director Evans

- The Career Recruit waitlist is at 213 in Stow and 25 in Springfield. We are filling the October class and have 26 seats available and the April class in Springfield with 4 seats left. We have a graduation on March 8 for class 271 and two call/vol graduations at the end of this month. We filled both classes in March for Call/Vol with a waitlist. In 2018, the MFA had 408 requests for courses; we've had 75 requests for January. We are trying to schedule PCI and Fire Instructor I for the spring.
- The AFG bids are coming in for the Search & Rescue Prop for Springfield.
- Taking MFA Staff to Bridgewater on Friday to see the layout of the facility and figure out if we can schedule classes there.
- We are heading out to Huntington on Saturday to do a Cancer Awareness training and skin and oral screenings.

G. Old Business

H. New Business

- Election of Chairman - Dave Evans made a motion to nominate Paul Medeiros as Chairman of the Mass Fire Training Council, Chief Donovan seconded the nomination. Lt. Medeiros accepted the nomination. After closing the nominations, the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Election of Vice Chairman - Dave Evans made a motion to nominate Rick Tustin as Vice-Chairman of the Mass Fire Training Council, Captain Connerty seconded the nomination. Captain Tustin accepted the nomination. After closing the nominations, the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller asked if we can get folks through the certification process and what could a possible path be to sit for several exams. Director Evans will have a conversation with the Certification team. Dave Evans believes the certification amendment will help those have that already taken specific courses by adding a stand-alone practical component toward certification.
- Jonathan also mentioned one of his department members is having issues with his LMS account with regard to registering for a course. Dave asked that he reach out to him.

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

- The Chairman noted that back in November we made changes to Fire Instructor I, II, Fire Officer I, II that in order to take the certification exam for each of the courses, you would have to take the class through the Academy. There is no mechanism for anyone to

challenge the certification exam. We all got a lot of feedback from various people that there is a concern if someone that has not taken it at the Academy, they are out of luck to take the exam. The Certification and the Academy staff have created a mechanism for certification benchmarks for testing in Fire Instructor I & II and Fire Officer I & II. We struck “for an application to be received” on all four courses and added the statement after ...conducted by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy after July 1, 2019; ‘OR Candidates must successfully complete a multi-station practical examination with equipment and resources necessary to assess the job performance requirements of this level.” A person that hasn’t taken the Academy class will take the written exam, then take the practical multi-station exam. Kurt Ruchala made a motion, seconded by Rick Tustin, to approve the amended changes to the certification policy for Fire Instructor I & II, Fire Officer I & II. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

J. Review of Correspondence

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council is Wednesday, March 6 at 11:00 am in the Boards & Commissions Room.

L. Public Comment

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Rick Tustin made a motion, seconded by Andy Connerty, to recess the meeting at 10:55 for the Marshal’s budget presentation, then adjourn.