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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the April 17, 2019 Meeting**

Chairman Lt. Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:00 am on April 17, 2019 at the Department of Fire Services with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance were: Chairman Lt. Paul Medeiros, Captain Andrew Connerty, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Chief Richard Donovan, Chief Tim Nelson, Captain Rick Tustin, Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, Jason Cardoso, and MFA Director Dave Evans.

Also present were DFS Counsel Steve Rourke, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, MFA Curriculum Specialist Maggie Crisham, Operations Director Dave Clemons, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Tom Muise, DCR Fire, and Special Hazards Training Coordinator Paul Betti.

Not present: Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis, Chief Frank Barresi, Chief Bruce Proia, and Chief Dave Celino.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Captain Connerty made a motion, seconded by Director Evans, to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2019 Training Council Meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report

Director Evans presented the MFA Trust Fund report for the period of 2/24/2019 through 3/25/2019. We are receiving payments from our contract training as we're now in the black. The balance fluctuates regularly.

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

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

D. Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Lt. Medeiros – We had a board meeting yesterday where the waitlist numbers came up during the discussion. We're hoping the expansion of the Bridgewater site will help bring numbers down. There's also issues with civil service and general hiring issues. Still receiving calls regarding the new contractor staff pay rate index. A lot of our members are trying to get information on the washers for departments and communities relative to their health and safety.
- Second position open

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller – not present
- Assistant Chief Ruchala – nothing to report

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Captain Connerty – nothing to report

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Captain Tustin – Annual conference for FPAM is May 6 & 7 at Southbridge Conference Center. Registration is going well with over 225 registrants. We want to thank DFS for their assistance with some of our sessions. Happy with additional FPO courses being offered.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso - Nothing to report

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Chief Dave Celino – not present - Tom Muisse represented DCR.

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – not present

D. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Steve Rourke

- We are monitoring approximately 7,000 bills and culled out 100 bills that would affect the fire service. We have narrowed down the count to approximately 40 bills that would be related to the state and have summarized them. We have compiled a briefing booklet for an internal meeting with the Marshal on what our position would be.

E. DFS Update –Deputy Marshal Fournier

- We just finished the Boston Marathon with no issues. Our own Tim Howe from Special Ops ran this year. Thanks to Special Ops, HazMat, and FIU personnel; it was a great job by everyone at DFS.
- Bridgewater facility – the Legal office is working on the legislative language for transfer of the property over the next month. We've started the study process with DCAMM. We have issued letters to employees of their new home unit for state trooper investigators and fire code and boiler pressure vessel staff.
- The Governor supported a \$3.2 million expansion budget. We saw some slight cuts but hope to have some amendments passed to restore the cuts. The Governor's budget was due yesterday and we have submitted our requests with EOPSS support.

- Deputy Marshal is on the Large Venue Task Force made up of various public and private entities. We're at the end stage with the narrative due on April 20. We've compiled our goals and a strategic plan to be delivered to Governor. Large venues consist of any kind of venue that hold 5,000 or more.
- The funding mechanism for the Extractor program budgeted in FY19 needed to have the language fixed in order to disburse grant funds. The language has been fixed in supplemental budget and we've asked to use the funds in FY20. A draft for disbursement of funds is being assembled and we hope to start using the program with municipalities.
- AFG Springfield prop - we have more firm construction schedule and will start in June and end in July to be occupied in August.

F. Academy Activities Report –Director Evans

- The Career Recruit waitlist is 227 for Stow and we're filling January with 25 spots available. Springfield has 44 slots taken and we're filling October with 12 spots available.
- We just started TD1 in Springfield and intro day tomorrow for Stow. We are holding an RFO today.
- We have two Call/Vol classes running, class 076 in Fall River and class 077 in Stow.
- There are a couple of Senior Fire Officer Forums scheduled in the next few weeks. DFS Resources for the Fire Officer in Stow on 4/25 and Springfield on 5/20.
- We have had several Fire Prevention and Fire Instructor classes scheduled.
- The first class in Bridgewater will be the Homemade Explosives class on June 3.
- I just got back from FDIC. It was an excellent opportunity to evaluate speakers for future Senior Fire Officer Forums and our Chief Fire Officer program. They had some great 21st century leadership classes.
- Question: How many Career Recruit classes does the Academy run? Usually nine (9) in Stow with 36 in a class and three (3) Springfield with 28 in a class. The Marshal would like to run five (5) in Springfield. Would additional funds help run more classes? We have tried to come up with different scenarios. Our goal is to run the same amount of classes in Bridgewater when up and running.

G. Old Business – MCAD

- Counsel Rourke updated a couple of MCAD cases: One case was dismissed in favor of the Academy and was then appealed. Counsel Rourke will keep us apprised of the appeal.
- In the second case, a firefighter failed the certification, was dismissed, then discovered a disability. The case was filed in superior court and we expect a trial at the end of August. Counsel Rourke expects MFA staff will be deposed as witnesses.

H. New Business

- **Request from Chief of Bellingham Fire Department** - Chief Steven Gentile came to the Policy Sub-committee meeting and requested that a new member be able to return to complete the Career Recruit program. This member worked for another department and had 13 days left and got injured off site. He was released from the department after 90 days. The policy states that a recruit withdrawn can return within 90 days and pick up on the day the recruit left however he did not get cleared for duty and was subsequently released from his department. We discussed the particulars of the situation and concluded that he didn't fit the criteria for return and would have to start from the beginning. We advised the Chief we understand their dilemma however we have to abide by the policy and not recommend his request at the next full council

meeting. Captain Connerty made a motion, seconded by Chief Donovan, not to fulfill the Chief's request to allow his recruit to come back for the last 13 days of career recruit training. The vote was unanimous in favor of motion.

- The question of the Training Council's quorum was discussed. Counsel Rourke reported that it is set at the majority of the council which is eight (8) for the 15-member council. This is the number whether all the Council positions are filled or not. Legal is proposing legislation that would not require meeting if nothing is on the agenda for discussion. If something comes up, then we could have a meeting that month. Also being proposed is the removal of a position being vacant after three absences.

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

J. Review of Correspondence

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council is Wednesday, May 1 at 11:00 am in the Boards & Commissions Room.

L. Public Comment

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Director Evans made a motion, seconded by Captain Tustin, to adjourn the meeting at 12:00. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.