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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the June 24, 2019 Meeting**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:05 am on June 24, 2019 at the Department of Fire Services with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance were: Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Chief Richard Donovan, Vice Chairman Captain Rick Tustin, Jason Cardoso, Chief Frank Barresi, Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis, Captain Andrew Connerty, Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, and MFA Director Dave Evans.

Also present were DFS Counsel Steve Rourke, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, and Director of Operations Dave Clemons.

Not present: Chief Dave Celino, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Chief Tim Nelson, and Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Captain Tustin made a motion, seconded by Director Evans, to approve the minutes of the May 22, 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 4/21/2019 through 5/18/2019. We are receiving payments from our contract training.

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

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

D. Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Lt. Medeiros – The PFFM had their convention last week in Springfield and was well attended. They were able to do cancer screenings. Hyannis Captain Kenney passed away from cancer a couple of weeks ago, 14 weeks after retiring.

- 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 – We had our last meeting in June; will be off for July & August. Thank you to the DFS staff who assisted us with the topic of what to look for in motion picture assemblies. We're looking forward to more FPO programming.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso - nothing to report

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Chief Dave Celino – not present

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update – Marshal Peter Ostroskey

- There are a number of bills with new session and we have had the opportunity to testify on the bond bill. Bond bill includes \$1 billion financial package for a host of issues. \$35 million in the bill for the fire service: \$25 million for a grant program for equipment for fire departments and \$10 million for construction in Bridgewater.
- There's another bill for schools to install temporary locks on doors; DFS is against this.
- There are 200 fire service bills.
- Assignment to committees are being made.

E. DFS Update – Marshal

- Budget season – the senate budget and governor's budget align – house budget is lower. Working closely with EOPSS and governor's office and are hopeful we can go forward with the Bridgewater project.
- MFA staff have been doing an awesome job getting a variety of things going in Bridgewater. Target date for career recruit is January for Bridgewater. A lot has been done in the planning and once we get the capital and operating budget we will be able to get things going in Bridgewater.
- Director of Facilities retired and we now have a new Director. We will have a new Deputy Director for Facilities shortly.
- Code compliance and troopers from the south team and soon BPV are working out of Bridgewater. We hosted a course there in June.
- We have renewed our land use agreement with DOC while we await the transfer of property to DFS.
- We're closing out this fiscal year and opening a new year.
- We have a great construction project going in Springfield with our AFG funded search & rescue prop and will be fully operational by mid-July.

- We have a number of grant requests out and are hoping to get some positive results from AFG and homeland security.
- On July 11, we will be dedicating the arson investigation prop to former director William Hollick and trooper Perley Johnson.

F. Academy Activities Report –Director Evans

- We had a graduation out in Springfield last Friday for S11. The search & rescue prop is much bigger than expected and is coming together very nicely.
- This Friday we graduate class 274. We graduate two call/vol classes this week: 077 on 6-26 and 076 on 6-27. Career recruit list at 213 in Stow and 64 in Springfield. List will go down on 6-27 for both campuses. Filling class 282 in February. There's an RFO on 6/25; class 078 began on 6-10 in Stow and class 079 began on 6-11 in Springfield.
- Great week for safety standdown week – Doc Hamrock and Domenica DelValla spoke on health & wellness of firefighters. We also ran skin and oral cancer screenings on both campuses.
- Search & rescue prop will be complete at the end of week and a little into next week.
- Bridgewater – we're all working hard to get ready for a January recruit class. We will be running other courses in the first part of FY20. Classroom size is 28-32.
- A new group of instructors were sent offers and July 9 is new instructor orientation.
- The Director was asked about reaching out to facilities for burn building use for recruit in Bridgewater. Milford is on board and we've reached out to others. The Marshal shared with the Council that the Stow burn building is used a great deal for contract and recruit assistance training even for departments that have burn buildings. We are overworking our burn building.

G. Old Business

H. New Business

- Sheri Bemis gave the Council an update on her work with the IFSTA committee for the training manual for pumps and aerials.

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

- Review and Recommendation of MFTC Policies – Director Evans made a recommendation for each policy below:
 - 1) Admitting Call and Volunteer Firefighters to MFA Career Recruit Training: revised policy to add the word 'career' in front of recruit and remove #4. Captain Tustin made a motion, seconded by Captain Connerty to approve the revisions. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
 - 2) Policy on Fraudulent Representation: recommendation to delete policy from Training Council policies as the same policy is on page 74 of the Certification Policy Manual. Chief Donovan made a motion, seconded by Chief Barresi to approve deleting the policy from the Training Council policies. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
 - 3) Medical Release for Recruit Training: recommend cleaning up verbiage and removing #1.7 and #1.8. Captain Tustin made a motion, seconded by Captain Connerty to approve the changes. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
 - 4) Medical Requirement for Call and Volunteer Firefighter Training Program: will be amended to mirror Career Recruit Medical Requirement policy.

- 5) Fit Testing Policy for the Career Recruit Firefighter Training Program: amend language to the policy and remove #4. Captain Connerty made a motion, seconded by Chief Baressi to approve the revisions. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- 6) Career Recruit Reserved Seat Application Policy: amend policy to correct #3a -females. Captain Connerty made a motion, seconded by Captain Tustin, to approve the correction. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- 7) Adjunct Faculty: definition was changed. Goal is to hire subject matter experts (SMEs) for specific a topic or program area. The policy will give the Director the latitude to hire SMEs. Captain Connerty made a motion, seconded by Captain Tustin to approve the revised policy. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

J. Review of Correspondence

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

The Marshal noted that a discussion about moving the Council meetings around geographically. The next meeting of the Training Council will be Wednesday, September 4 at 11:00 am at the Springfield campus.

L. Public Comment

A member of the public spoke regarding a policy change. Counsel Rourke recommended he send a letter to Susan.Neaz@mass.gov with draft proposal. Mr. Rourke reminded him that the Commonwealth sets the policies for all state agencies.

M. Adjourn Meeting

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