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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
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**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the September 4, 2019 Meeting**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:00 am on September 4, 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, Captain Andrew Connerty, Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Chief Tim Nelson, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Firefighter Billy Cabral, DCR Scott Bassett, and MFA Director Dave Evans.

Also present were DFS Counsel Steve Rourke, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, Call/Vol Program Coordinator Chris Norris, Special Hazards Program Coordinator Paul Betti, Curriculum Specialist Margaret Crisham, Recruit Assistant Coordinator Chris Madden, Paralegal MaryElizabeth Lynch, Todd Seligman, Swampscott Fire, and Director of Operations, Dave Clemons.

Not present: Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis 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 June 24, 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 7/1/2019 through 8/24/2019. We are well underway with FY20 scheduling and there's nothing outstanding.

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

- Chief Nelson –representing part paid/part call –nothing to report
- 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 – thank you to DFS and other fire service personnel that helped us through a tornadic event on the Cape.

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller – Mass Call/Vol’s annual training meeting is October 19 at Hadley Farms Meeting House.
- Assistant Chief Ruchala – same

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Captain Connerty – nothing to report

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Captain Tustin –The next meeting of the Fire Prevention Association will be September 10 in Auburn. This month’s topic is indoor playgrounds, rock gyms and those types of facilities. Fire Safety Division will go over code issues.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso - nothing to report

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Scott Bassett designee - nothing to report.

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – not present

D. Legislative Update – Counsel Rourke

- Bridgewater transfer has been reported out and is in the House Ways and Means committee. It seems to be going well.
- Legislative session is in full swing. We have a number of bills that we have either provided testimony or correspondence on a number of items. The governor submitted a bond bill that includes \$25 million for a grant program for local fire departments and \$10 million for construction for Bridgewater.

E. DFS Update – Marshal

- FY20 Budget has passed and we’re in the process of implementing it at DFS. The governor’s budget was favorable and it was accepted and approved by the conference committee. Included are earmark contracts that are not funded by assessments but in other ways.
- Our next focus is a couple of grant programs that were in the budget: personal protective equipment and a washer and extractor program.
- BFPR has approved revisions to the fire code and are in the administrative process and will hopefully be adopted in the January time frame.
- The tornado on Cape Cod and the Merrimac Valley incidents have produced after action reports that the department is participating in. The reports may result in future Academy training.
- Tech Rescue Council has been seated; it is a seven member council that are responsible for developing standards and overseeing statewide tech rescue response. The inaugural meeting will be on September 19 at the DFS.

- Bridgewater progress is going well; the bill for the land transfer made it over the first hurdle. We had the opportunity to speak to the Fall River legislators about Bridgewater with Secretary Turco and it was well received. DOC has property cleaned out is on schedule to leave the facility and we're on schedule for activating the facility. There may be an amendment to current agreements for use as we are limited to what we can do with the facility while owned by DOC. A preliminary study is underway with DCAMM for short and long-term use of the facility. Divisions on site in Bridgewater are FIU, code compliance, boiler and pressure vessel. Facilities personnel are active with HVAC and equipment purchasing.
- We're in discussion with Mass Maritime to provide training for their students. MFA did training for many years and then they went with another training facility. With closure of that facility, we are looking to reinstate the program. The Bridgewater site looks like a good place for this training and I want to credit the MFA staff for taking on the challenge to put the project together.

F. Academy Activities Report –Director Evans

- Career Recruit Graduation: 9-13-19 Stow class 276; 9-16-19 Springfield class S-12.
- Career Recruit waitlist: 191 Stow; 75 Springfield; 14 Bridgewater – January full, filling April. Stow class 277 begins 9-12-19; Springfield class S13 begins 9-16-2019. Filling March in Stow – 22 open seats. July S16 – 27 seats open. RFO Stow: 9-5-19, 10-17-19, 11-20-19, 12-8-19; Springfield: 10-18-19, 12-17-19.
- Call/Volunteer graduations: class #078 Stow 10-28-19; Springfield #079 10-30-19
- Next Call/Volunteer classes: #080 10-16-19 Leicester, #081 10-17-19 Hamilton, #082 2-6-20 Bridgewater, #083 Stow 2-13-20.
- Pro-board re-accreditation site team will be here on 9-12 & 9-13.
- CFO begins Thursday 9-12.
- Saving Those Who Save Others - Firefighter Behavioral Network - Professional development for instructors on 10-1 and SFOF on 10-2.
- Three FPO I and FPO II each scheduled through 1-2020. Fire Instructor I and II scheduled two classes in the fall. ISO scheduled three classes through rest of year.
- Registration has started a “notification list” to inform those that were on waitlists for our more popular classes. You will find out ahead of time when the training will be happening.
- The MFA is working on a bunch of online courses i.e., hydrogen gas course.
- Fire and Life Safety Conference– September 24& 25 in Marlborough.
- We're hiring 75 new instructors; 14 hired to date; additional 24 in the works.
- Two new Recruit Assistant Coordinators: Chris Rizza in Stow and Chris Madden in Bridgewater.
- We are looking to hire the following positions: Fire Prevention and CFO Adjunct Faculty; Fire Prevention, Fire Investigation, Advanced FF Skills, and Pub Ed PC positions; RIT, FF skills, Advanced FF Skills Assistant Coordinator; and an additional media person.
- The AFG prop in Springfield is almost ready to use in the Recruit programs.

A question was asked if Fire Inspector certification will be offered again; it will be a future project to be worked on.

A question was asked what the CFO selection process was; the first pre-requisite for this year's selection process was 1) Chief, 2) next officer for department, 3) what is shown on one's portfolio.

G. Old Business

H. New Business

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

- 1) Fees for Out of State Firefighter Training – Request to change fees applicable to training - Director Evans noted that the change will make it uniform for all classes. \$25/day for classroom, \$50/day for practical, and \$25/day for online. The Policy Sub-committee made a recommendation to approve the request. Chief Donovan made a motion, seconded by Director Evans, to approve the requested changes for out-of-state firefighter training fees. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- 2) Call/Vol Rules & Regs. – Under the Safety Rules & Regs., Section H- a statement was added to insure students are getting fit tested by their department before entering the Academy. The change will be implemented in November, 2020. This requirement will be in line with Career Recruit. Captain Tustin made a motion, seconded by Director Evans, to approve the additional section to the Call/Vol Rules & Regulations. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- 3) Training Non-Municipal Firefighters – A request for training from a federal-based fire department was received by the Academy and the question was whether the training could be offered free. The Policy Sub-Committee is recommending the MFTC policy be in line with the MFTC Certification Policy Manual that indicates the Academy trains state and municipal firefighters as civilians live on base. Federal fire departments do not house civilians and therefore will not receive free training. The Certification policy referred to is the Definition of Fire Service Personnel. The recommended changes will be brought back to the Council next month.

J. Review of Correspondence

- Seligman letter – A letter was received by the Training Council from Mr. Todd Seligman. Mr. Seligman appeared before the Council to present his request for the Council to reinstate the past practice of providing a reader for a qualified reasonable accommodation request.

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be Wednesday, October 2 at 11:00 am tentatively at the Springfield campus.

L. Public Comment

- The Fire Marshal invited members of the Training Council to participate in the agency's 9/11 event to take place in the drill yard at 9:45. There will also be an event in Boston at 5:00 pm to add names to the firefighter memorial.

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Director Evans made a motion, seconded by Captain Tustin, to adjourn the meeting at 12:05. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.