



MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT 7

Chief Matthew R. Belsito, Sutton
Chairman
(508) 865-8737

Chief Robert P. Parsons, Spencer
Vice Chairman
(508) 867-8825

Chief William T. Kessler, Uxbridge
Treasurer
(508) 278-2787

Chief Richard P. Hamilton, Millbury
Secretary
(508) 865-5328

District 7 Chiefs Meeting Minutes May 20, 2021 - 6:30 p.m. Carbuncle Pond Beach House, Oxford

Call to Order – 19:22 by Chairman Belsito
Pledge of Allegiance
21 in attendance from 16 Towns/Cities

Chairman Belsito thanked the Oxford Chief and Oxford Deputies for hosting the meeting and arranging the meal from Oxford Casual Dining.

CHIEFS UPDATE: Chairman Belsito acknowledged Northbridge Deputy Chief Steve Dupre, in attendance tonight. He recently turned 65 and transitioned roles to the Northbridge Emergency Management and will perform some duties with the fire department. He welcomed him back anytime.

Treasurer and Secretary Report

M – Chief Gauthier: to accept both as emailed

S – Chief Vinson

V – Unanimous

As a note: Chief Kessler will send out the District's tax-exempt certificate to the Chiefs and it should be used for any purchases made for District 7.

MEMA: No report

DCR: D7 Warden Liard is in Warren with a large brush fire, they have been very busy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- *Training:* Chief Vinson: No meetings, will start to have meetings now that Covid is easing up, he thanked Chief Kessler for classes he coordinated, they will work on classes for RIT and FIU.
- *Radio:* Chief DiFronzo: Not much going on, grant radios are in and the programming is in process, he spoke with N. Smithfield and they have our D7 Red channel, we need to address mutual aid

agreements before doing more radio work with each bordering town. Chief Hamilton gave an update on the Zello program, 18 towns are live now, others in progress of coming on line, system is working good, Southbridge Lt. Lavoie is doing a great job putting it all together. Greg Lynskey stated the PJ for replacement of LPS-7 base stations is in the works that District Chief Fleischer had proposed.

- *FCAM*: Chief Coleman: A new President (Chief Winn) and new Board of Directors were installed, over 200 bills in legislation, they are not returning to monthly meetings due to the great increase in attendance, maybe a few special meetings in person but most will be remote.
- *Homeland Security*: Per Chairman Belsito: Chief Normandin stepped down as the alternate, Chief Kochanowski filled in with his Assistant Chief Paul Konieczny, Chief Kochanowski felt this was his duty to appoint someone, much discussion followed regarding the position and how it should be filled,

M – Chief DiFronzo: to send a letter to Homeland Security to ask how the alternate appointment is made and to raise our concerns regarding this (and to discuss this with Chief Kochanowski before sending), with an amendment by Chief DiFronzo if the language seems different than what Chief Kochanowski informed us.

S – Chief Coleman

V – Unanimous

Chairman Belsito will contact Chief Kochanowski to discuss it first and to be discussed further at the next meeting, Frisker Radiation Alert meters came in and have been distributed.

- *Tech Rescue*: Chairman Belsito: PJ submitted for trench trailer equipment (in Oxford)
- *State Mobilization*: Chief DiFronzo: The tabletop exercise was held via Zoom, it was a disappointing drill, hotwash after to discuss, he has the PowerPoint from it if anyone wants it, he will meet with Chief Flanigan (our rep) to discuss it, may need to have manifests printed, all district points of contact seats filled, some state information different than what's on the D7 site, D14 has a response policy that may work for us, he will present it to D7 for review.
- *EMS*: Not much activity, EMS Committee of FCAM hasn't been meeting, will reorganize after summer break, discussion took place of varies private ambulance services and their practices, suggested we ask for members to join the D7 EMS Committee?
- *Comm Team*: Chief DiFronzo: No meeting, need a Team Leader for FC1, Chief McDonald offered his services

OLD BUSINESS

Mutual Aid Committee: Chief Knopf: Looking for a simpler way to hail mutual aid, surveys were sent out to dispatchers and dispatch centers. Lt. Cady: They were tasked with getting mutual aid faster, he explained the survey results, their first solution is to add two-tone on the county radio which can also be sent as a text on IamResponding, quickest solution and not much money to do it. Greg Lynskey: A better organized run cards of towns would help, the dispatcher would only need to announce which alarm and the location, standardized run cards would help. Chief Coleman: You should be able to include police

chiefs (in police run dispatch centers) to help find a solution, much discussion followed. Chief Normandin: All dispatch centers should be able to add two-tone to their consoles and begin using it. Greg explained the Metro Boston 10-alarm run cards, however a little overkill, but he felt something simpler like the District 14 10-alarm run cards should be used here. Chief Coleman thought we could abandon the 33.62 county in a short time and switch to LPS-7 or similar. Lt. Cady explained the state upgrade plans in the works for the 800 MHz system and will include a new talk group for us to replace the county.

- M – Deputy Chief Belanger: to go to a standardized run card in the district, let the mutual aid committee recommend one.
- S – Chief Coleman
- V – Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

MEETINGS: Chairman Belsito brought up for discussion the April and May meetings with the conflicts that happen often with school vacation week and Memorial Day weekend. (Note: per our by-laws the change will be written up by Chief Kessler and sent out to be voted at the next meeting)

- M – Chief Knopf: to combine both months and have one meeting the first Thursday in May.
- S – Chief Coleman
- V – Unanimous

DISTRICT RIT INITIATIVE: Chief Coleman: Captain Brigham did a presentation on RIT and held a training meeting, the report was published, Chief Coleman feels the MFA RIT program is antiquated and needs updating, the MFA program may be a good basic program but much more advanced procedures are needed, he proposed a 6-day RIT program at 3 levels and a 4th level of managing a mayday, should be standardized across the district, some portions can be train-the trainer, he offered Auburn to run the program, if you want to send members you can, trying to model it to allow trainers to prepare. Assistant Chief Manning asked if radio communications and dispatching a mayday will be included, Chief Coleman stated it would be. Captain Brigham and Lt. Lemieux will work with the training committee

- M – Chief Coleman: For Auburn to work with the training committee
- S – Chief Vinson
- V – Unanimous

FIRE INVESTIGATIVE UNIT PATCHES: Chairman Belsito brought up for discussion the two patch designs proposed by the FIU.

- M – Chief Coleman: To accept the FIU patch for the district (the version without the muppet)
- S – Chief DiFronzo
- V – Unanimous

DATES TO REMEMBER

Legislative breakfast for Districts 7, 8 and 14 – September or October this year in Shrewsbury

GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION

Chief DiFronzo felt the district should give retired Chief Bob Wilson an award for all his work in the district.

M – Chief DiFronzo: To invite Chief Wilson to a meeting and give him an award

S – Chief Normandin

V – Unanimous

Chairman Belsito discussed the passing of Warren Chief Lavoie's step-son and passed on a thank you to the district for the support during this tough time.

M – Chief Coleman: To donate \$500 from the district to the fund set up in Warren

S – Chief Normandin

V – Unanimous

M – Chief Gauthier: To adjourn

S – Chief Parsons

V – Unanimous

Adjourned 21:45 hrs.

Next Meeting: June 24th