



MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT 7

Chief Stephen M. Coleman Jr., Auburn
Chairman
(508) 832-7800

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

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

Chief Mark DiFronzo, Southbridge
Secretary
(508)-764-5430

District 7 Meeting Minutes March 27, 2014 Dudley Fire Department - 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order – 18:58

A moment of silence for the LODD of Lt. Ed Walsh and FF Mike Kennedy of Boston.

Secretaries Report – Minutes have been emailed and placed on line.

M Chief Belsito to accept as published
S Chief Gannon
V Unanimous

Treasurers Report – Emailed to all Chiefs, a brief synopsis was read.

M Chief Belsito to accept as presented and published
S Asst. Chief Hamilton
V Unanimous

Committee Reports:

- **Training Committee**
 - Recruit class is finishing up. Down to 32 recruits
 - Written exam held on March 20, 2014. 27 passed, 6 did not pass
 - Non-Fire Practical will be March 28, 2014
 - If a student fails a station, they will only need to retake that station
 - There are potentially 5 more opportunities for students to take the written exam if needed before the end of the year
 - April 7, 2014 letters of Pass/Fail will go out
 - Flammable Gas Training is April 8, 2014
 - Tanker shuttle operations is the last class

[Auburn-Blackstone-Brookfield-Charlton-Douglas-Dudley-East Brookfield-Grafton-Leicester-Mendon-Millbury-Millville-Northbridge-North Brookfield-Oxford-Southbridge-Spencer-Sturbridge-Sutton-Upton-Uxbridge- Warren-West Brookfield-Webster-Worcester](#)

- Graduation is scheduled for April 22, 2014 @ 7:00pm. Chiefs should arrive at 6:30pm at the David Prouty High School in Spencer
- This will be Sen. Brewer's last graduation attendance as he is not running for re-election.

M Chief Belsito to purchase a gift/award at the discretion of the E-Board
S Chief Parsons
V Unanimous

- **So. Worc. County Radio Committee**

- A meeting was held on March 13, 2014
- Reviewed the ability to “tone” communities if need be. A plan is being developed to get this ability into the Comm. Units
- There was an election of officers, Asst. Chief Hamilton said they still needed to be finalized
- A review of the high band was discussed
- Next meeting is April 10, 2014 at 4:00pm in Oxford
- East 2 Strike Team Coord. conducted a radio test of D-7 Orange with Southbridge and all equipment in East 2 that is on the different assignments. Overall test went well; there were some problems with some equipment that is being researched. Suggested each area Strike Team do a test as well. Dates for those TBD

- **Back Up Control Point Committee**

- A meeting was held on March 3, 2014.
- Northbridge will no longer be fully operational after Jan 2015. All of the equipment will still be in place at the fire station.
- Attempts to find alternate dispatch center has been unsuccessful.
- Worcester was discussed but they are not operational at this point. We would like to see how they will function before we reach out to them.
- Chief Hickey and Chief Kochanowski offered their new dispatch center as option. Again, the thought was a wait and see how it functions and operates before we reach out to them
- A suggestion to reach out to Chief Nestor in Northbridge to see if he would be willing to “man” their dispatch center if needed, e.g. tornado, large event overwhelming Southbridge, etc.

- **FCAM Update**

- Chief Cloutier was not present to provide information

- **Homeland Security**

- Grafton was approved for a trailer for sheltering needs

- The Fire Incident Safety Officer program has been denied by EOPPS. DFS and the NFA already offer these programs at no cost. They did not feel spending money on this program was feasible
- Attending a Train-the-Trainer COML and COMT was approved for 2 people from Region 2 to attend. These people will be able to bring this training back to our District and train our upcoming communications team. EOPPS has yet to approve
- D-8 will be submitting a request for Tech Rescue Equipment to match the dollars we received for tech training
- Evacuation Plans will be coming out shortly. These will be USB travel drives with all of the information for our area
- The portable heating units were denied mostly due to lack of funds available

- **Tech Rescue Committee**

- First training sessions have started. They seem to be going very well
- There have been two people that have dropped out
- There is a member of D-8 participating as there was space available
- For those towns sending staff to these trainings, you should have received all of the backfill and overtime forms. These must be filled out and returned to Chief Bemis for approval. All supporting documentation needs to be sent as well e.g. past pay records confirming pay rates.
- If you have Staff that needs to change dates, please handle those issues yourselves. Chief Bemis can provide assistance but that request should come from the Chief of that Department.
- Regarding the state tech rescue committee things are moving along as planned.
- The technical rescue people have started a Technical Rescue Association. They are modeling there make up to be similar to the State Haz Mat Association.

- **Call Chief's Committee**

- No Meeting

- **State Mobilization**

- No meeting

- **EMS Committee**

- No Meeting

Old Business:

- Officers Training Survey

Feedback to date indicates approximately 110 people have submitted the survey. Still missing quite a few. The site will be shut down on Monday. Please make every effort to try and get your staff to complete the survey.

New Business:

- Legislative Night with D8 – September 18, 2014 in W. Boylston. We have been asked to co-host the event with D-8. This event used to be sponsored by the Worcester Area Chiefs’
- Discussion regarding CMED automatic response during MCI. The question posed in the email about an automatic response of CMED with a Comm. Unit may have been misleading. The CMED unit can not only provide UHF communications needs, but also a better working knowledge of the logistics in moving patients. After much discussion it was decided to have the EMS Committee review the Districts capabilities and response and develop a plan on how to best manage MCI’s in our District, not only with communications but also patient movement and equipment / resource movement
- Use of County Band for Mutual Aid responses is getting better. There are still some communities not listening
- DCR is calling around to confirm Excess Equipment lists. Also with the recent issues with the D-7 Warden, they are still operational and are available to assist where needed. They are checking the tower sites and preparing for the season

Good of the Organization

- Dudley Fire Chaplain, Father Preble, also from the Mass Fire Chaplain Corps spoke to the group about CISM programs that are available. These types of sessions should be done annually. For small groups of people please use your local Chaplain. For large events Worcester is available. Please page (508) 387-0937 for assistance. There is also the on-site academy program for those needs in Gardner. Page (781) 553-0542. The services offered specialize in PTSD and substance abuse issues
- Fire Marshal and Senior Staff attending April meeting in Millville
- Bylaw update. The Committee met and has submitted a draft for review. These will be emailed to the Chiefs group for your review and a vote in April.
- Captain Furno of Millville will be promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief on April 9, 2014. Additional information to follow.

Next Meeting: April 24, 2014 – Millville Senior Center 40 Prospect Street.

Adjourn: 20:30

M Chief Parsons
S Chief Belsito
V Unanimous