



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 Meeting Minutes September 28, 2017 - 6:30 p.m. Dudley-Gendron American Legion Post, Sutton

Call to Order – 19:15

Chief Coleman recognized guests present.

Chief Coleman spoke about his term in office and how he stated when he first was voted as Chairman that he intended to go no more than 4 years, and he is now stepping down. He spoke about the plans and goals when he started, and how they all were accomplished by the district. He thanked the district and the membership for all their hard work.

Chief Coleman recognized Chief Martell for the reorganization.

Chief Martell stated there was 6 nominations for the 4 positions, however 2 that were nominated declined. That left one Chief nominated for each position: Chief Belsito for Chairman, Chief Parsons for Vice-Chairman, Chief Hamilton for Secretary and Chief Kessler for Treasurer. Chief Martell then offered one slate of nominations for the four positions.

M – Chief Hickey: to accept as the nominations of the 4 positions

S – Chief DiFronzo

V – Unanimous

Chief Belsito was sworn in as the new Chairman by Chief Coleman.

Chiefs Parsons, Hamilton and Kessler were all sworn into their respective positions by Chief Belsito. Chief Belsito gave an introductory speech and praised the District and its members for their dedication and progress made to get us where we are today. He stated he would keep the district moving forward and work together with the officers and members to improve whatever we can.

Secretaries Report

M – Chief Coleman: to accept as emailed

S – Chief Wilson

V – Unanimous

Treasurers Report

M – Chief Coleman: to accept as emailed

S – Chief Hickey

V – Unanimous

MEMA Update

No update, no MEMA representative present.

DCR Update

District 7 Warden Liard gave updates: 51 fires to date burning 42.25 acres, staffing update, some sections of the district are becoming abnormally dry, Truck 7-2 is now in service, some excess property is available.

Chief Warden Celino discussed statewide updates: 2016 is wrapped up and presently 2017 is running lower for the state, however it has been a record year nationally with 2,000 acres burned from 2,600 wildfires. He explained the reporting process for brush fires and how it is different than NFIRS reporting. He stressed that the more accurately they are reported, the more funding that is received. He explained how the funding for staffing overall is still lower than it used to be, but was level funding this year, so there was no additional loss. Reclassification occurred which really helped, as there were times when someone without any fire experience could bid a position because of seniority. We should be able to maintain qualified help now. VFA grants should be available soon. He discussed the difference between the FFP program (equipment becomes property of the municipality) and the FEPP (property is loaned by the Department of Defense, through DCR, to be returned when no longer needed). He cautioned about drones flying near a brush fire and some incidents where they caused air tankers and other air equipment problems. They would like to be able to issue a TFR (temporary flight restriction), through the FAA. He suggested watching the new movie out *Granite Mountain Hotshots*. They are still working on wardens being able to issue tickets, it may happen. He suggested the district send a letter of support for the wardens being able to ticket. Chief DiFronzo believes we have already sent one.

Fire Marshal Update

Marshal Ostroskey thanked District 7, he also spoke of the new drone program (housed in Worcester). He discussed the successful Mobex. He stated they are adding additional staff support for mobilizations. A new director of the Fire Academy, Dave Evans. A new deputy director of Hazmat Division, Tim Gallagher. New fire code slated to go in effect 1/1/18 (hot works is a big change). Discussed the recent wood construction fires and safeguarding construction. Complimented Chief Vinson on his testimony on CO alarms in schools. Firefighter of the year awards will be 11/21/17.

Tech Rescue

Chief Belsito gave a report on Tech Rescue. The Mobex went extremely well, our group (D7, D8 and Worcester Fire) did flawlessly. The team completed sections that no one else had. Last round of structural collapse training coming up (will have 35 to 40 certified). The team assembled to go to Texas but was canceled at the last minute. There is possibly a multi-state Mobex in the works. Chief Coleman brought up the issues that came up with the activation for Texas. Medical records for each member had to be obtained quickly, he suggested team members get them beforehand to be ready, have a medical folder in a sealed file. This would have been the first out of state activation, and probably not the last. Chief Belsito brought up the need for a credit card. They didn't have one to give them, so they were going to find a way to give them cash (expenses would be reimbursable). He asked if the district should have a card. We need to have a plan, no matter what. Chief Kessler feels every town should have one. Even if a strike team is sent out somewhere, they need to fend for themselves. Chief Celino felt you

don't have to reinvent the wheel, DCR has done it for 32 years, they can provide details. Marshal Ostroskey cautioned that teams must be prepared for anything. They could be going into unhealthy environments. Teams must be self-sufficient with medicine. They should check their immunizations and health records.

Committee Reports:

- Training

Chief Vinson stated the committee didn't have a meeting. They are looking for ideas, wondered the district's feeling on the mayday program. Chief Coleman felt the mayday program, presented by Auburn Capt. Brigham, should be run and open to all members. He suggested the district donate \$300 to the NFFF (as suggested by Capt. Brigham).

M – Chief Coleman: to run the mayday program and donate \$300 to the NFFF

S – Chief Parsons

Y – Unanimous

To be run at the end of October or beginning of November.

Chief Dupre asked if the mayday policy for the district was ever finished. Chief Coleman will follow up on it. It was felt the only missing piece was the standard acronym ("LIP" is what the MFA uses, we should be the same).

- Radio

Chief Hamilton gave an update: Strike Team drill being planned for Saturday October 7th. Working on a Worcester Tanker Strike Team, details will be sent out this week. FC-1 is in construction, old equipment has been removed and they are working on interior structure plus removing lettering. A lot of volunteer work as promised. FC-2 update from Chief DiFronzo, all the new radios are in and programmed except the 800 Mhz., Paul Shea has contributed a lot.

- FCAM Update

No update

- Homeland Security

Chief Kochanowski gave an update: Last fiscal year finished, FY17 should be approved soon. \$11,680 for 7 dive equipment. Possibly a multi-state Mobex. D7 and D8 should merge tech teams, it will help get more money. Chief DiFronzo questioned why the same amount of money was allocated to 6 towns as was to 25 towns. He questioned the vote and asked that issue be watched. Chief Kochanowski will check into that.

- State Mobilization

Chief Wilson reported not much on the agenda at the last meeting. They will work on Leader training.

- EMS

Chief Martell reported the IV pump requirement is on hold.

- Communication Team

Chief DiFronzo reported the radio project, about \$25,000, is essentially complete. They were tested live at the Mobex and worked good. They are working on computer specs for FC-2 to present to Radio Committee, original quote was too expensive. The Comm Team did excellent at the Mobex, they overcame some issues at the drill to make it work seamless. They logged everything, and that was used as a resource often. They are looking for another V-Tac repeater, the request is in with the Radio Committee. Chief Belsito stated they did a great job, Lt. Lavoie really stepped up and that the log was helpful.

Old Business:

Adding Team Leaders to Strike Team cards / Training – Chief Coleman will finish up.

Safe Trailers: old Safe Trailer is in N. Brookfield, needs a little work. The building it was stored at in Leicester has been sold. New Safe Trailer in good condition, per Chief Wilson.

New Business:

Chief Martell asked about the PIO class that had been discussed. Chief Coleman reported there were 16 or 17 people interested. He will send out an e-mail to schedule it.

Good of the Organization

Chief Kessler announced that Deputy Chief Tancrell, Uxbridge, will receive Firefighter of the Year Award for his discovery of faulty smoke & CO detectors that resulted in the Consumer Product Safety Commission recalling 5.1 million units.

Chief Belsito acknowledged new Northbridge Chief Dave White and new Worcester Special Operations Chief Gary Fleischer, both present tonight.

Next Meeting: October 26th, Spencer Fire HQ

M – Chief Wilson: to Adjourn

S – Chief Coleman

V – Unanimous

Adjourned 20:50