



# 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 February 22, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.

Auburn/Webster Elks, 754 Southbridge St, Auburn

**Call to Order – 19:05**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

### Secretaries Report

M – Chief Gauthier: to accept as emailed

S – Chief Hickey

V – Unanimous

### Treasurers Report

M – Chief Gauthier: to accept as emailed

S – Chief Hickey

V – Unanimous

### MEMA

Kristen Jerome briefly explained the partnership with Facebook's Next-door, MEMA and the State Police. She also reminded everyone the mobile EOC is available and can be scheduled for events.

### DCR

District 7 Warden Liard gave a short update on last years statistics, there were 1,242 fires in the state burning 721 acres. He has been sending out e-mails every morning with open burning information.

### DFS Special Operations

Tim Howe, Special Operations Coordinator gave a presentation with an overview of their organization. Formed in 1999, they have grown, now offering many additional services at no cost even for planned events (except some hazmat incidents). He suggested leaving a flyer with your dispatcher so they have contact information readily available and to call them early. He felt that if they are included on your run cards, the dispatcher may be able to prompt you to call them when you have a lot going on at the scene and aren't thinking that far ahead. They have 3 response teams, three Incident Support Units (ISU), 4 rehabs trucks (not canteens, you should still call Box 4 or similar for those services), off-road gators (with med beds), portable equipment, portable HVAC units that have many applications, lighting trailers, portable power plants and a drone program.

## **First Net**

Mark Zurcher and Kathryn Koutsis from AT&T gave a presentation that explained the new FirstNet nationwide interoperable broadband network. They showed a video overview along with explaining the history of its formation. The FirstNet Agency, a federal agency, provides oversight and authority of “Band 14”, which is the 700 MHz radio band set aside for this project. All states have opted in. They have a *Cell On Wheels* that will be available for added coverage. There will be an encrypted app for Chiefs to view the status of the network. There is also a Push-to-talk feature. They can make a connection through that to your land mobile radio. The rate plan through the state is being negotiated now, the individual plans are available now. Each Chief has authority over who is allowed on the system

## **Dive Team**

Brian Sheridan gave an overview of the District 7 Dive Team. He explained the services offered, the team makeup, and activation procedures. He advised to have a large enough staging location on flat ground for the team to begin getting ready. They get activated through the I Am Responding system at District 7 Control. They need a minimum of 3 divers and 2 tenders before they start, for the safety of their own team members. They will bring their own ALS crew for their team; the community still needs to provide EMS for the victims. The Communications Team will also respond with Field Communications Units for radio and logging support. Brian advised to keep any witnesses there so they can interview them, even if they were previously interviewed. Secure the scene and a safe access point needs to be established, local responders would know those better. He said to call early as it may take a little time to assemble, you can always back them off. They had 5 activations last year. Bi-monthly trainings are held plus an additional ice rescue drill. They team has received some grants for training and equipment and have some pending. They have some members still using personal gear and wants to replace it so its all district owned gear. Brian explained the sign-up process for new members.

## **Committee Reports:**

### - Training

Chief Vinson gave updates on the programs in process. FDSS is in the process of doing proposals. The Dr. Griffin program tickets are available for \$25 each (which is the meal cost, the district is covering the speaker). The working with the media class still has a few openings. He also explained a proposal from Cross Street Associates (Joe Nedder) for an officers training program called the *10 Foundation Stones of Knowledge*. They met with him before the meeting tonight and liked his program. The cost is \$3,400 and the training committee voted to bring to the group. Some discussion followed. Chief Parson mentioned the MFA program is good but it runs during the week.

M – Chief Hickey: To run the officers program

S – Chief Gauthier

V – Unanimous

### - Radio

Chief Hamilton stated there was no radio committee meeting since our last D7 meeting. There have been 4 towns that have changed to fire alarm, waiting on any others (5 others plus NB SP). Per Chief Lavoie, Worcester has tied a talk group into the D7 Orange which means any truck from Worcester can use D7 Orange for strike team activations or when needed.

- FCAM

Chief Coleman was not feeling well and unable to make it tonight but sent an update to Chairman Belsito that he read: Chief Coleman attended the FCAM meeting at Deven's Common's on Wednesday. The President reviewed the survey results from the members and received some good information on a direction moving forward with meeting locations, training opportunities, etc. More to come. They are discussing possibly having a 2-day conference on Nantucket that would be a Thursday, Friday and then extend into the weekend for social time. More to come. The FCAM BOD will be meeting with the new Colonel of the Mass State Police at our next meeting on March 6th. Goal of the meeting is to continue positive relations with the Fire Service and MSP. Congress has passed an incentive initiative for businesses to install sprinklers that would give them a 7 year pay back on the install. I will be following up with the Marshal's Office to get the exact details on how this applies in MA. Anyone interested in playing in the FCAM golf tournament the details are on the FCAM website. Cost is \$125.00 per player. The New England Chiefs will be holding their annual seminar in Portsmouth NH on April 4th & 5th. You can register through the New England Chiefs website. We discussed the recent conversations about evacuation procedures during an active shooter situation when the fire alarm sounds. The Fire Marshal has recommended no changes at this time and the NFPA will be taking up the topic at their next meeting. We will resend the DFS guidance document on active threat situations as a reminder. FCAM will be trying a new format at their meetings that will involve a training component at each meeting. They are going to conduct a 45-minute training session at each meeting either from 11:00 - 11:45 or 11:15 - 12:00. They are working with the Training Council on getting the trainings approved for re-credentialing credit. The training topics will be selected from member suggestions that will be submitted at each meeting. Yesterday there were dozens of topics submitted on note cards for consideration.

- Homeland Security

Chief Kochanowski reported there is nothing new. The 2018 budget has been submitted. The tow vehicle for Southbridge has to be rebid.

- Tech Rescue

Chairman Belsito: Meeting in Westborough where they discussed the revised MOU. He explained the changes.

M – Chief Parsons: To enter into the agreement

S – Chief Gauthier

V – Unanimous

He discussed the Vigilant Guard MOBEX drill, it would be better time spent right now working on getting the Team Coordinators for D7, D8 and D14 together, so we won't participate in the drill. They will be taking the whole 3-district project slowly to make sure it goes together right. A meeting will be held March 6<sup>th</sup> to begin talks.

- State Mobilization  
Chief Wilson: The leader training is set for March 21<sup>st</sup> in Leicester. 10 are signed up right now (limiting 1 to each town to start) and 5 are on standby if there is room (second person from those towns). Cutoff to sign up is March 9<sup>th</sup>. Next State Mobilization meeting is the end of March.
- EMS  
Chief Martell: New protocols start April 1<sup>st</sup>, there is a need for classes on it.
- Communication Team  
Chief DiFronzo: No meetings.

### **Old Business**

Per Chairman Belsito: FC-1 target date is April 1<sup>st</sup> to put in service.

District credit card: Chief Kessler gave an update, still working on some details.

Audit: Per Chief Kessler, audit approved by E-Board. Theresa Connor hired, should be a couple hundred dollars a year

RIT Bands: Chief Coleman is working on the pricing, should be finalized at the March meeting.

PIO Classes: Chairman Belsito reported the classes are scheduled and there a few openings.

M – Chief Hickey: To spend \$1000 for the classes (\$250 per day)

S – Chief Vinson

V – Unanimous

Air/Light Truck: Per Chairman Belsito it is in service in Leicester, he thanked Chief Wilson and Assistant Chief Dupuis for all their work.

Captains proxy vote: Chairman Belsito stated the By-Law Committee will have to meet to discuss.

District Explorer Posts: Asst. Chief Silver gave an update. He is in process of organizing a meeting with all the advisors. Would like a tab put on the D7 website to assist someone looking for information. Leicester has a packet to start a group and Worcester has interest. Any Explorer Post can accept kids from any town due to the policy and insurance of the Boy Scouts. Current cost per explorer is \$35 (goes to Boy Scouts for a million-dollar insurance policy)

District Fire Investigation Group: Asst. Chief Silver explained they had a meeting. They set up minimum criteria of MFA Advanced class. If someone has taken the basic fire investigator class they can watch (to learn) but not participate in an investigation. You are still required to call the Fire Marshal's office for a large loss fire. They discussed with some troopers at the Fire Marshal's office and they are behind this. They will have an outline for the next meeting with procedures, etc. They have D14's plan they are using as a reference. He would like an e-mail sent out for any chiefs interested in joining the team. Trooper Fleming will be at the next meeting to give a short presentation.

## **New Business**

Chairman Belsito explained the new system to sign up for meeting attendance. Chief Coleman and Amanda Gage (the webmaster) put a system on the D7 website. When you click the link, it takes you to an FCAM sign up site which when completed sends a notice to the Chairman and Secretary to advise of the names and number of who signed up. You will need to sign up by the Monday before the meeting to give the venue a good number for meals.

## **Dates to Remember**

Dispatcher Mayday training: April 11<sup>th</sup> in Spencer, sign up through MFA  
Task Force / Strike Team Leader training: March 21<sup>st</sup> at 18:00 in Leicester, sign up through Chief Wilson or Chief DiFronzo  
PIO class: April 3<sup>rd</sup>/ 4<sup>th</sup>, and April 7<sup>th</sup>/ 8<sup>th</sup>, in Auburn, sign up through Chief Coleman

## **Good of the Organization**

Assistant Chief Dupuis: MFA Call/ Volunteer graduation next Tuesday, orientation of present class has been the last 2 weeks, started with 42 in the class and down to 40. Another class starts in July.

Deputy Chief Dupre asked if there is not a leader available on a strike team activation, who should go? Chief DiFronzo explained that is the reason for the class being held, to train more people and address that problem.

Chief DiFronzo explained the letter sent out from the District regarding the change to District 7 Control and how he has instructed his members that work the dispatch about the change and the proper way to correct someone still using the old name.

M – Chief Parsons: To adjourn  
S – Chief Gauthier  
V – Unanimous

**Adjourned 20:45**

**Next Meeting:** March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Auburn

**District 7 Chiefs  
Meeting Sign-In  
February 22, 2018**

Name	Affiliation
Adam Lavore	Chief Warren Fire
Shawn Hickey	Worcester
Mike Lavore	Worcester
Kelly Manning	Captain - Douglas Fire
Paul Konieczny	Dudley Fire
Kent Vinson	Douglas
Dean Kochanowski	Dudley
MICHAEL DUPUIS	LEICESTER
Markus Ober	Worcester
Brian Sheridan	Auburn
BOB LARSON	F.D.07
MARK DiFrenzo	SOUTHBRIDGE
Kristen Jerome	MEMA
Tim Howe	DFS
DEAN Kochanowski	DUDLEY FIRE
Jim Bain	East Brookfield Fire
David Messier	East Brookfield Fire
Joseph Holway	North Brookfield
Darin Anderson	North Brookfield
BOB PARSONS	Spencer
Peter Martell	Brookfield
RICK PHILLIPS	BROOKFIELD

