



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 Agenda February 23, 2017 - 6:30 p.m. Charlton Fire H.Q.

Call to Order – 1854

Secretaries Report

M – Chief Belsito to accept as emailed
S – Chief Parsons
V – Unanimous

Treasurers Report

M – Chief Belsito to accept as emailed
S – Chief Parsons
V – Unanimous

MEMA Update

- EMPG Update some are starting to be approved. A meeting will occur to address our frustration with this program. Any issues/concerns please contact Kristen.
- EMD Meeting will be before D7 Chiefs meeting in March 5:30-6:30. Location is TBD

DFS/MFA – Fire Marshall Ostroskey was present at the meeting and provided the following:

- An additional Call Recruit Program has been added in Springfield
- State Budget looks good so far – As part of the budget the Governor has requested under article 87 to change some state agencies. In summary:

“An Act to Reorganize the Department of Public Safety.”

This Article 87 plan will transfer the functions currently within the Department of Public Safety to the Division of Professional Licensure and to the Department of Fire Services. This will enable the Commonwealth to consolidate licensing functions currently split across several secretariats, thereby increasing efficiencies, eliminating redundancies, and improving customer service by creating one-stop shopping for the vast majority of license approvals. It should also save the Commonwealth approximately \$800,000 in FY2018.

Specifically, this bill establishes an Office of Public Safety and Inspections to be housed within the Division of Professional Licensure, within the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development. It then transfers all of the non-fire-related functions of the Department of Public Safety to the Office of Public Safety and Inspections and the fire-related functions to the Department of Fire Services (i.e. Division of Boilers and Pressure Vessels).

This bill would also change the distribution of agencies under the undersecretaries within the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to more closely align with their areas of expertise.

In addition, the bill makes technical changes to reflect the transfer of functions, removes outdated references, and updates antiquated language.

- DFS / MFA will be supporting FCAM Professional Development Seminar
- There have been some discussions around the recent ruling in Brockton on the need for sprinklers in these “Sober House” type settings. There is a group setting these different programs up across the State and they are working around the issue of Ch 148 Sec 26H. Chief Roy from Fitchburg as well as others are experiencing a lot these homes and situations. DFS is looking for anyone that might have a case that could be brought before the Sprinkler Board. A community must have adopted 26H in order for enforcement. The law reads:

Section 26H. *In any city or town which accepts the provisions of this section, every lodging house or boarding house shall be protected throughout with an adequate system of automatic sprinklers in accordance with the provisions of the state building code. No such sprinkler system shall be required unless sufficient water and water pressure exists. In such buildings or in certain areas of such buildings, where the discharge of water would be an actual danger in the event of a fire, the head of the fire department shall permit the installation of such other fire suppressant systems as are prescribed by the state building code in lieu of automatic sprinklers. The head of the fire department shall enforce the provisions of this section.*

For the purposes of this section "lodging house" or "boarding house" shall mean a house where lodgings are let to six or more persons not within the second degree of kindred to the person conducting it, but shall not include fraternity houses or dormitories, rest homes or group residences licensed or regulated by agencies of the commonwealth.

Any lodging or boarding house subject to the provisions of this section shall be equipped with automatic sprinklers within five years after acceptance of this act by a city or town.

Whoever is aggrieved by the head of the fire department's interpretation, order, requirement or direction under the provisions of this section, may within forty-five days after the service of notice thereof, appeal from such interpretation, order or requirement to the board of appeals of the fire safety commission as provided in section two hundred and one of chapter six.

DCR Update

- Seasonal Employees to start Mar 19 for Labor 1 and Apr 2 for Labor 2
- This will hopefully translate into the West Brookfield Tower staffed more and also the Oxford to be staffed as well
- District Warden Liard is still not sworn. Looking for support – again –
- As always, during budget reviews, there are talks of layoffs. There are none expected in our area.
- With the retirement of staff, VFA Grant program is now being handled by D10 warden. No problems are foreseen with this change. Contact them for grant information.

Committee Reports:

- Training
No meeting
- Radio
No meeting
- FCAM Update
 - Reminder – FCAM Professional Development is Feb 28/29 Mar 1. They have already reserved the same dates Feb 27/28 Mar 1 2018 for next year.
 - New website is up and running any issues contact Chief Coleman
- Homeland Security
Chief Kochanowski spoke and provided updates to funding from Homeland. The following breaks down the monies allocated/spent/pending
 - FY16 Funding- competitive portion
 - \$315,000.00 between western and central for collapse training- will probably cover two programs
 - \$86,716 between western and central for collapse equipment- this would give D7 \$21,679 towards collapse equipment
 - FY16- Central money put aside for collapse equipment D7 & D8- \$300,000.00- \$150,000.00 for D7- total Equipment FY16- D7 is- \$171,679.00
 - FY16 Dive- \$100,000.00 D7 and D8- \$50,000.00 dive for D7

- FY17 Proposed budget for Tech and Dive- No competitive funds this year, all money is approved by regions- Pending approval
 - 200,000.00- Tech equipment and/or training- D7 and D8- \$100,000.00 for D7
 - 35,666.15- Dive equipment and/or training for D7 D8 and D14- \$11,889.00 for D7
 - Other submitted requests for D7 for FY17
 - \$40,000 for Southbridge pickup
 - \$75,000.00 – Inter op projects for D7 D8 and D14- \$25,000 for FC30 Radio Upgrades

- Tech Rescue
 - Committee Meeting scheduled for March 8
 - Dive Team is developing an equipment list for review to purchase with granting funding
 - Structural Collapse Training bids are out.

- State Mobilization

Our Regional Coordinator Chief Hurlbut is requesting the Districts inventory and run cards for Task Force Mobilization as the MEMA web site is still not correct. He will personally deliver the information to MEMA for them to update. Excuse has been no one has received any emails with the data. Chief Wilson / Chief DiFronzo will forward the data.

- EMS
 - OEMS Dir to start soon Mark Miller
 - OEMS backed up on recert cards. Some have heard 6 to 8 weeks
 - FCAM EMS Meeting
 - IV Pumps will be required despite objection. FCAM will still try and pursue under the governors pledge of “no unfunded mandates”
 - Active Shooter Training Statewide – Combined with Law/Fire/EMS to create one standard. Document to be released at Professional Development. There will be Train the Trainer Programs delivered jointly between the MPTC and MFA dates TBD. There will also be classes offered at MFA dates TBD. This initiative is only a framework for communities. The information was developed using national standards. It is not a “how to” document. Each community will have to determine how best to respond to these type incidents.

- Communication Team

No meeting

Old Business:

Regional Hearing Officer

No new info

Chief Hamilton stated that Millbury's town Clerk is offering a hearings officer to assist District. More information to follow.

Discussion on the replacement of Field Comm. 1.

Update – 20k was appropriated to Radio Committee – been looking at many different vehicles
An opportunity to purchase the Concord Amb came up. The E-Board conference called and voted to offer 15k. It was rejected.

Additional vehicles will be researched.

After much discussion – A motion to approach Homeland Security for either a vehicle or the installation of the equipment. The District would fund the other.

M – Chief Belsito approach Homeland to decide funding

S – Chief Cloutier

V – Unanimous

Homeland request for upgrade to Field Comm. 2 radios. (Inter-op committee)

An initial review of this request has been approved. A presentation will be done before the Interop Committee for a formal recommendation for funding.

Request to ask CMEMS Board of Directors to lower our CMED Dues

A Joint letter with D8 / D14 to be drafted. Reminder, this is to start a dialogue with CMEMSC on how to better deliver the service and perhaps reduce the call volume/costs.

New Business:

- Consider invoice for D7 Air/Light truck

Chief Goodale is requesting the District consider splitting the costs for an electrical power repair. There was some type of grounding issue that occurred with the vehicle's lighting system. The total cost of the repair is \$2320. He is requesting D7 consider paying for half for a total \$1160 proposed.

There was much discussion on towns taking on these Homeland assets and what the responsibility is. There was a motion to table

M – Chief Cloutier to table until next meeting

S – Chief Hamilton

V – 7 Yes / 7 No

No movement

The E Board was directed to look into the MOU's and Vehicle Maintenance Records for Homeland assets

Good of the Organization

A Joint Legislative Breakfast with D7, 8 & 14 is being scheduled. Dates / Location TBD

June 30 – Heritage Country Club – 1st Annual Roger Belhumer Memorial Golf Tournament
Benefits are to go towards a scholarship for students entering the Fire Protection Engineering Program

New Sturbridge Fire Chief John Grasso Hamden CT. He starts Monday Feb 27. A meeting of the E-Board and the local chiefs to take place.

New Worcester Fire Chief Mike Lavoie / Dep Chief Martin Dyer have been sworn in. A future meeting is planned to review Worcester's involvement in the District.

East Brookfield Chief Peter Livermore is retiring Apr 30. No information is known as to a retirement party.

The Anniversary of the R.I. Station Night Club – remembered Thank you Chief Martel

Next Meeting: March 23, 2017 – Mendon (Location TBA)

Adjourn 2041

M – Chief Kochanowski

S – Chief Parsons

V – Unanimous