



# 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 March 25, 2021 - 6:30 p.m. Zoom Meeting

**Call to Order – 18:30 by Chairman Belsito**  
**Pledge of Allegiance**  
**22 in attendance from 15 Towns/Cities**

### Treasurer and Secretary Report

M – Chief Gauthier: to accept both as emailed

S – Chief Parsons

V – Unanimous

**MEMA:** Kevin Filchak: He is filling in for Kristen who will be out for some time, he covers northern Worcester County and will also cover the south for now, they have pushed out the PPE, its being delivered, one-day workshops on the CEMP Plan, he can help you write it, contact them for assistance, week of EOC workshops, [kevin.filchak@mass.gov](mailto:kevin.filchak@mass.gov), 508-988-0995

**DCR:** No report.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- *Training:* Chief Kessler: Instructor class set up by DFS for a certification exam on April 24<sup>th</sup> at a Sutton school, 70 or so to take it, e-mail went out, signup by April 3<sup>rd</sup> and if you pass you will automatically go into the practical schedule, Chief Coleman commended them on the good job, and for Chief Kessler in taking that on, he is willing to work with the training committee to bring FIU classes to the district, does not look like DFS will have one anytime soon, he wants to start with the basic class and work towards an advanced class, Chief Kessler agreed to take it on, Chief Coleman also brought up RIT training, Captain Brigham did a class on RIT but we never continued the training, DFS does a basic class and we can do more, MA is behind the rest of the country, we should

make it more standard across the district, RIT and also firefighter survival, Chief Kessler stated they talked about possibly using an outside agency for the training, he will speak with Chief Vinson about it, Chief Dupre asked if someone that already took the instructor course could just take the exam, Chief Kessler stated they would have to go through DFS, there may be openings.

- *Radio*: Chief Fleischer: Last meeting was postponed, working on grant items and working with district 8, setting up a plan, some equipment came in, checking if compliant, if any towns buy radios for the CoMIRS system (Worcester / State system) make sure to get the OK from Worcester Chief Lavoie, you can contact Chief Fleischer or Chief Richard to do that.
- *FCAM*: Chief Coleman: No report
- *Homeland Security*: Chief Kochanowski: Not many projects pending however \$300,000 over budget, trainings all approved (some had been delayed due to covid), more strict guidelines on the use of funds, Chief Knopf asked about the active shooter class they applied for, Chief Kochanowski stated it moved from the last round due to covid but should be OK, Chief Coleman presented a large area search & rescue boat, proposed at \$122,000, Chief Kochanowski stated it was put through but expect kickback from EEOPS, they are hesitant on boats, they concentrate on the core capabilities, Chief Dupuis inquired about the bottles, Chief Kochanowski stated most likely will be allowed to dispose of them, he will verify.
- *Tech Rescue*: Chairman Belsito: Lt. Lambert stepped down, it was advertised, John Martin is now the Team Coordinator, John's job was advertised and Robin Dresser is now the training coordinator, from Chief Nord the joint drill has been approved, need to pick a week, he will update the group when the week is decided, all participants have to be vaccinated and covid guidelines followed.
- *State Mobilization*: Chief DiFronzo: Quick meeting today, link went out to the new website, slight movement for mobilization to go to DFS, a drill still in the works, inventory cards are looking good, activation run cards need review, MedStar pulled out of state mobilization, he spoke with Mark Olson from MedStar, they will support District 7 and send an ambulance or maybe two of three on a strike team.
- *EMS*: Chief Coleman gave the history of the "holding the wall" issue at UMass, a letter was sent out to everyone that was jointly written, zero movement in the last 5 months, no response yet on the letter, will discuss it at the end of next week, asked each town for their members who experienced any hold the wall issues to send their chief details of date, time, nature of call and any treatment and for each chief to send a list to Chief Coleman (preferably the last 30 days and from now on), don't want to run into an issue with a crew holding the wall and something happens, the state was notified and will be investigating.
- *Comm Team*: Chief DiFronzo: With the passing of Jeff Wilson, a team leader position is open, they will look at the structure of the team, will get a meeting of the Comm Committee together.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Mutual Aid Committee**: Chief Knopf: They have had two meetings, sent out two surveys, one to all dispatchers and one to each dispatch center, still waiting on some responses, possibly use a two-tone on county or using the Zello app.

## NEW BUSINESS

**IN PERSON MEETINGS:** Chairman Belsito inquired about when to return to in person meetings, Chief Coleman felt we should start next month, we are all vaccinated or have been able to, use safety measures, possibly the Auburn Elks if they are reopened and if not, Chief McDonald offered to host it in Oxford.

**CANCER SCREENINGS:** Chief Dupre brought up for discussion the cancer screening offered through the DFS website, if you are over 40 years old and on at least 10 years you can get it for free, Chief Kessler added you had to have taken the course at the academy to get the free scan. Chief Dupuis stated the classes are filling fast and they are trying to add more, Chief Coleman explained how Auburn used Lifescan Wellness, it's a good program, they did the whole department at \$550 each for \$22,000 total, should ask you're town, its well worth it, saves the town money on medical if something is found, they will do it every three years, Chief Kochanowski stated Dudley is doing something similar through Harrington Hospital, Chief Kessler felt even if you can't get funding to get someone to talk about it and have them be an advocate for themselves.

## GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION

Chairman Belsito brought up the passing of retired Chief Jeff Wilson, he was not surprised by the amazing showing of District 7, he is proud of the district, an impressive turnout, he thanked Chief McDonald and Oxford Fire, Jeff never gave up, he appreciates what all departments did, Chief McDonald thanked the district also, he was stopped by citizens to acknowledge how well it looked, he thanked Sutton Fire and is proud of the district.

Chief Coleman brought up the Zello app and wondered if we could get a core group to write a document explaining it, Chief Fleischer explained the Radio Committee and Southbridge Lt. Lavoie are already working on it.

Chief DiFronzo brought up an email that went to the chiefs regarding a retirement group with Worcester Regional Retirement.

**M** – Chief Gauthier: To adjourn

**S** – Chief Parsons

**V** – Unanimous

**Adjourned 19:40 hrs.**

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