



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

April 26, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.

Auburn/Webster Elks, 754 Southbridge St, Auburn

Call to Order – 19:02 by Vice-Chairman Parsons

Pledge of Allegiance

31 in attendance from 17 towns/cities and 3 organizations

Secretaries Report

M – Chief Gauthier: to accept as emailed

S – Chief Anderson

V – Unanimous

Chief Hamilton explained the need for a meal count by 8:00 am the Monday before the meeting. He will send out a reminder earlier, probably Friday. You can sign in a week before (and e-mail the secretary before Monday morning if something changes and you need to cancel).

Treasurers Report

No report, Treasurer on vacation

MEMA

Kristen Jerome introduced Bonnie Roy, who is replacing Pat Carnevale (while he is on assignment for a year). There's a new EMPG grant coming this summer, June 30th is the deadline on the current one. CERT scoring will be April 30th. Next EMD meeting is May 15th at the Worcester EOC. If you want the mobile EOC at any planned event, ask early as its booking fast. Worcester County has hit the mark for reimbursement for the last storm, we will hear more soon, they will be going to the towns with the largest loss, not to every town.

DCR

District 7 Warden Liard: At full staff on April 2nd. There have been 16 "A" fires and 3 "B" fires so far for a total of 5 acres. He asked any town that has a brush fire after hours to e-mail the information to him, so they can do accurate reports. All the excess property they have received lately have been junk, so if anyone has a request in, be patient. Any requests for public education needs should be put in as soon as you know. Vice-Chairman Parsons asked about the Oxford Fire Tower, Warden Liard explained the visibility issues due to tree growth. It may be staffed at times, but not a priority. The tree issues are not on state property.

Presentations: There was no presentation this month. Chief DiFronzo asked for some clarification on the length and intent of the presentations. Chief Vinson thought 10 to 15 minutes with just an overview of the function of the team.

Committee Reports:

- Training

Chief Vinson gave updates on the programs in process. The Dr. Griffin program went very well, about 90 people attended. He also puts on a PTSD that seems good, he will get more info. The Company Officers class still has some openings.

- Radio

Chief Hamilton explained the upcoming issue with the County Radio System. Radio manufacturers are doing away with their line of low band radios. The system is functioning well, but there will be a point in the near future we will not be able to get equipment. The committee is looking at either a talkgroup on the state's 800 MHz system, or licensing another high band channel. They will do research on both. They are looking at having an LPS-7 radio put in Southbridge Fire. Every other dispatch in the district has one. It would not be monitored but will give the district the option in the event of a county band issue. He also informed the group that Rich Fisk has left as the Director of Communications in Worcester and Mike Shanley is Acting Director.

- FCAM

Chief Coleman was on vacation, Chief DiFronzo gave a brief update on the OSHA discussion at the FCAM meeting and the results of the election.

- Homeland Security

Chief Kochanowski was unable to attend the meeting but sent an update: Nothing new, approved projects are moving forward, next meeting May 1st, 14:30 at CMEMS.

- Tech Rescue

Chairman Belsito was on vacation, no update.

- State Mobilization

Chief Wilson stated the last meeting was cancelled.

- EMS

Chris Norris has been appointed as new EMS Chairman

- Communication Team

Chief DiFronzo gave a brief update on FC-1, working on graphics proposals for that and FC-2. Comm Team has a meeting next Thursday.

Old Business

District credit card: Chief Kessler was on vacation, no update.

RIT Bands: Chief Coleman working on, no update.

Captains proxy vote: Vice-chairman Parsons explained the proposal had been e-mail to everyone. He asked if there was any questions or concerns. None being heard he called for a vote:

M – Chief Gauthier: to accept as written

S – Chief Wilson

V – Unanimous

District Fire Investigation Group: Asst. Chief Silver explained they have 7 members and have responded on 2 different incidents so far. They would like to be added to the I Am Responding system, Chief DiFronzo will take care of that. Vice-Chairman Parsons explained the proposal of guidelines and SOGs that had been e-mailed to everyone. He asked if there was any questions or concerns. None being heard he called for a vote:

M – Chief Gauthier: to accept as written

S – Chief Messier

V – Unanimous

New Business

Andy White has been appointed Provisional Deputy Chief in Worcester.

Deputy Chief Dupuis discussed the air bottle testing on the District Air/Light Truck. There is a total of 98 bottles. 3 have not been tested and 16 are due this August. 76 bottles will be due April 2019. After some discussion, Chief DiFronzo suggested getting quotes to have half done now to ease the financial burden all at once.

M – Chief DiFronzo: to get quotes to have approximately 40 bottles tested

S – Chief Gauthier

V – Unanimous

Chief Wilson and Deputy Chief Dupuis offered to get quotes.

State Fire Marshal Ostroskey gave an update on the OSHA situation. He told the history on how it came together and explained how DFS is working with the Division of Labor on training sessions. He said the State fell under the provisions two years ago and it has been a smooth transition. OSHA is still trying to wrap themselves around the new requirements and is not ready to meet with any departments yet on how to roll it out. He said to hold tight for now, February of 2019 is the actual start date. Some of the NFPA guidelines we are working with are actually stricter than the OSHA regulations. He advised checking some of your procedures to prepare for it. He honestly doesn't believe it will be dramatic. A new FCAM Task Force is being formed to check further into it.

Good of the Organization

Mendon Fire Chief Richard Harris thanked the district for their help, especially when they recently lost their radio system. He stated he wasn't sure where to turn so he called Southbridge Fire. He stated Southbridge Fire and Chief DiFronzo arranged for use of another channel until they could solve their problem. He also gave an update on the status of the Mendon Fire Dept., still a work in progress but moving along.

Vice-Chairman Parsons mentioned Upton Fire Chief Aaron Goodale is no longer there and they have advertised the position.

Chief Hickey reminded everyone about the Tri-State Fire Meet on May 20th in Webster.

Marshal Ostroskey explained to the group about the recent information guide sent out regarding the LODD. He couldn't stress enough how important it is to check now, before anything bad happens, to make sure your town or city has accepted the necessary statues to be covered. He suggested going to your Town Clerk to see which ones are actually accepted for your municipality. Some of the call/volunteer sections need local approval before becoming active and one has 3 options that can be used. He also discussed the recent changes in the hotworks permits, in response to the firefighter deaths in Boston. He encouraged everyone to take one of the offered classes with the updates. He also briefly discussed recent fentanyl incidents and the hazmat responses to that, he recommended caution when dealing with it.

M – Chief Hickey: To adjourn

S – Chief White

V – Unanimous

Dates to Remember

Task Force / Strike Team Leader training: May 2nd, 18:00, Leicester Fire HQ
Retirement Party for Chief Cloutier: April 29th, Treehouse Brewery in Charlton
Retirement Party for Asst. Chief Mark Bucchino: May 20th, Mendon Fire HQ
Retirement Party for Don Contois, Auburn Fire: June 8th, Auburn Elks

Adjourned 19:50

Next Meeting: May 24th, Auburn

**District 7 Chiefs
Meeting Sign-In
April 26, 2018**

Name	Affiliation
DAVID WHITE	NORTHBRIDGE FIRE
ROBERT LACHAPPELLE	NORTHBRIDGE FD
STEVEN R. DUPRE	NORTHBRIDGE FD
MICKY GAUTHIER	GRAFTON FD
RICHARD CHARRIS	MENDON FD
KENT VINSON	DOUGLAS
PETER OSTROSKY	DFS
STEVE TANCREDI	UXBRIDGE FD

**District 7 Chiefs
Meeting Sign-In
April 26, 2018**

Name	Affiliation
Brian Hickey	Webster
Bonnie Roy	MEMA
Kristen Jerome	MEMA
David Messier	East Brookfield
Darin Anderson	North Brookfield
MARK DiFranzo	SOUTHBRIDGE
Jim Bain	EAST Brookfield