



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

June 28, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.

Auburn/Webster Elks, 754 Southbridge St, Auburn

Call to Order – 19:05 by Chairman Belsito

Pledge of Allegiance

28 in attendance from 15 towns/cities and 1 organization

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

M – Chief Lavoie: to accept as emailed

S – Chief Gauthier

V – Unanimous

MEMA: No report

DCR: D7 Warden Roy Liard: Total of 51 fires this year so far, drought index is up, KBDI down right now, the state is considered abnormally dry (calculated Tuesday so the recent rain wasn't included yet), excess property doesn't have much good equipment right now, new agreements should be out next week, the statewide audit went well, he will be going on vacation, the D14 Warden will be covering for him.

Committee Reports:

- Training: Chief Vinson: 25 people were in the officer's class, they are looking for feedback from Chiefs that had people in the program. Chief Coleman: Discussed the idea of running our own officers class, he spoke with many and most do not want to run a full program but would like to continue with professional development with officers, He asked for Chiefs to reach out to members in District 8, 14, etc., to see what types of classes they host and let the training committee know. Motion by Chief Coleman and seconded by Chief Vinson to look for officers' programs to host in the district: unanimous.
- Radio
Chief Hamilton: No meeting this month, next meeting July 10th in Oxford.

- FCAM

Chief Coleman: Last meeting at the Columbia Gas facility in Shrewsbury, Deputy Chief from Charlton was accepted in, OSHA discussions continue, several meetings have been held, they asked OSHA to space out implementations so we can plan from a financial standpoint, OSHA wants to educate and not use it as a tool to fine, February 1st implementation date, PAT testing was not funded due to an accounting error, they have now funded enough until October 1st and should have a plan by then to completely fund it, there have been meetings with other agencies regarding active shooter, website has had some challenges, the old theory was to password protect most areas but that created hassles for users, they have now changed security provisions, contact Chief Coleman if you are having problems, Chief Parsons inquired about the extractor grant funding, the Fire Marshal has put together a working group with FCAM. Chief DiFronzo questioned using the unfunded mandate argument with the OSHA regulations, Chief Coleman stated they are holding that strategy for now as it doesn't seem to be in our best interest to use that now.

- Homeland Security

Chairman Belsito received an email from Chief Kochanowski: No update, on summer break.

- Tech Rescue

Chairman Belsito: 2 new dive members, some of the phase 1 equipment is in, trailer needs lettering and shelves, wide area search still up in the air, Tech & Dive are training. Meeting yesterday with the D7/D8/D14 Consortium, working on standardized training standards, Chief Fleischer added they are sharing drill schedules, standardizing training schedules, whole thing may still be years off before its completed. Chairman Belsito: They are also looking at ID standardization, looking into adding medical info on the cards, they have reached out to DFS for assistance, possibly may be able to have them make the cards, we could purchase card readers for the comm trucks and command vehicles, Deputy Chief Jolda suggested the trailers be brought up to DOT standards (rear chevron, etc.), in an email Deputy Chief Jolda was questioning if it's an NFPA regulation for trailers, it was decided to do the new trailer and get prices to do the others.

- State Mobilization

Chief Wilson: They had a meeting, the disaster cards are not standard, you can pretty much put whatever you want on it, other districts were updating their cards, next meeting in September.

- EMS

. Deputy Chief Normandin: Region 2 CMEMS starts in September.

- Communication Team

Chief DiFronzo: No meetings scheduled, new FC-1 almost complete, truck measured for graphics, maybe they can bring it to the September meeting.

Old Business

RIT Bands: Chief Coleman: Cost to outfit the district: 6 each @ \$34 (150 bands), \$5,100 for the bottle bands. RIT nozzle covers \$25 each @ 1 per community, \$625. After much discussion, some thought each town could purchase their own. Discussion on a best practice RIT policy and to include standardized equipment. Chief Coleman felt the district could buy the nozzle covers. It was decided to take it up at the September meeting to accept the whole package (policy, standards, etc.). Chief Vinson felt we should get ahead of the curve, before an incident occurs. Chief Gauthier inquired about having a group purchase, the district can buy them and bill each town.

New Business

Challenge Coin: Chief Vinson brought up an idea for the district to have a challenge coin made for District 7. He stated after Dr. Griffin's program, it would have been something to present him with, they didn't have anything. Chief Coleman is part of another group working on having one made, he felt it would have a similar cost just a different design. He will bring that information back to the district at the next meeting.

District 7 Fire Investigation Team: Asst. Chief Silver gave an update, 14 members, 3 deployments, they can come out to assist the Fire Marshal's office, request them through Southbridge Fire (they are now on the JamResponding system).

Labor ruling: Chief Coleman discussed the recent court ruling regarding unions. He feels it will impact many, no one can be forced to pay union dues, and there can't be any ramifications for not paying. The onus is put on the unions on who pays.

Trade Schools: Acting Chief Marchand brought up some issues he felt are happening: Recruits, retention and professional development. He was looking for support from the district with approaching the trade schools with public safety type training. He thought a group from the district could go to the trade schools. He has seen a lack of qualified people available for positions available in the fire and EMS. He felt MFA does a good job training firefighters but there was no base EMS program out there. Chairman Belsito thought we should have a committee to approach the schools. Chief Coleman thought we should narrow our request down and also felt MFA does the firefighting training well, we should concentrate on the EMS portion, public safety track, health and safety, cancer prevention and pharmacology. Chief Vinson mentioned bringing in the safety portion. Motion by Chief Coleman seconded by Gauthier to approach Blackstone Valley Tech and Bay Path to pitch the idea: unanimous. Chiefs Marchand and Vinson will go to Valley Tech and Chiefs Coleman and DiFronzo will go to Bay Path.

Education incentive: Acting Chief Marchand asked if anyone knew of any education incentives available for EMTs to use for Paramedic training. Discussion followed.

Warren Dispatch: Chief Lavoie gave an update on the Warren dispatch. They have signed with joining the Rutland Regional Dispatch. They will stay on VHF (same frequency), January 1st is the target date, although circumstances could change that.

Upton update: Chairman Belsito explained Mike Marchand is presently in charge of the day-to-day operation is Upton, their police chief is assisting with administrative duties.

Good of the Organization

Nothing at this time

M – Chief Gauthier: To adjourn

S – Chief Parsons

V – Unanimous

Adjourned 20:10

Next Meeting: September 27th, Auburn

Dates to Remember

None at this time

**District 7 Chiefs
Meeting Sign-In
June 28, 2018**

Name	Affiliation
JIM BARKER	GRAFTON FD
Mike Gabois	Spencer
Corey Lacaire	SPENCER
Bob Wilson	LEICESTER
MATT BELITO	SUTTON
GARY FLEISCHER	WORCESTER FD
MICKY GAUTHIER	GRAFTON
STEVEN R. DUPRE	NORTHBRIDGE
RICH HAMILTON	MILLBURY