



# 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 September 26, 2019 - 6:30 p.m. Auburn/Webster Elks, 754 Southbridge St, Auburn**

**Call to Order – 19:08 by Chairman Belsito**  
**Pledge of Allegiance**  
**29 in attendance from 20 Towns/Cities and 1 Organization**

**Elections:** Chief Martell, the chairman of the nominations committee, explained the process for the biennial elections of officers for the district. Nominations have been taken since the June meeting, all present officers have been nominated and all have accepted. There were no other nominations and none are allowed from the floor at this meeting. Chief Martell made a motion to cast one slate for all the current officers, that was seconded by Chief Johnson. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Belsito addressed the group. He stated it has been a rewarding two years for him, he truly loves to represent the district, he appreciates the support of everyone, he tries to keep responses on time, building on a good foundation by the previous Chairmen, there have been some new ventures like the tech team, training, comm team, radio comm, homeland, state mob, EMS; all have been very active, proud to be chairman.

**GUEST PRESENTATION: DEREK HIRONS, ELECTRICLEAN:** Derek is a full-time Charlton firefighter, they sanitize and disinfect, good for the fire service, dries quick, can spray to prevent spreading germs (many items), can do ambulances, gyms, bunk rooms, kitchens, etc. some are simpler and can be done every four weeks and others depend on what it is, they recommend once per month on ambulances, expanding in the future to other places.

### **Treasurer and Secretary Report**

M – Chief Gauthier: to accept both as emailed

S – Chief Wilson

V – Unanimous

**MEMA:** Kristen Jerome not feeling and was unable to attend, she passed on a message that the course schedule in November and December have space.

**DCR:** Roy Liard: Season is done October 5, they will try their best for prevention programs (Roy & Bob), Jim Montgomery will be interim commissioner, it was a quiet summer with mostly class 1 days, KBDI is 321 and is starting to climb, e-mail him with any excess property requests, National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy Workshop coming up.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Training: Chief Vinson: Met two weeks ago, looking at another program maybe with Dr. Griffin again, they spoke with Dave Evans and discussed classes, methodology class possible.
- Radio: Chief Hamilton: Committee met with Melissa Nazzaro, the Statewide interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) to discuss the future of the county radio system, great turnout from committee (nearly every member), the focus was the availability of 33 MHz equipment is getting very limited and before the system is unable to function what direction should we be headed, the State 800 MHz system could support what we need and if it gets coordinated with their upgrades it shouldn't cost the district anything, if something happens in the meantime the LPS7 talkgroup will fill our needs, we will discuss further the pros and cons of needing a separate fire talkgroup.
- FCAM: Chief Coleman: Off summer break, working on credential and re-credentialing for Chiefs, working on points for both of those, packet of legislation sent out (some thought there was some missing but Chief Coleman explained those were only bills getting their first reading), other bills already in process, committee to review firehouses which allow for construction or rehab, a Governor appointed committee to review current conditions, moving OEMS under Public Safety was discussed and looks like a good possibility, Chief Martell stated per the State Fire Marshal it will never fall under DFS, it will be as separate as possible (third branch under EOPS).
- Homeland Security: Chief Kochanowski: No new homeland news, He is running for Worcester County Retirement Board and would like votes. Chief Fleischer added they are studying the foam trailers and would be looking for homeland to cover the cost of foam replacement due to PFAS.
- Tech Rescue: Chairman Belsito: Been busy, Districts 7/8/14 met with swift water, narrowed dates for training, meeting next week, covered a lot in their meeting, himself and Chief Jolda submitted a PJ for trench trailer and it's out to bid, need a PJ for trench rescue equipment (hoping to present it in November), Governor's Tech Rescue Council (Chief Nord is Chairman), need to put policies and procedures in place for teams, lengthy process, will fall under DFS at some point, monthly meeting at DFS, Tech Rescue Consortium meeting at Worcester Airport, comm team and Worcester Fire there, very impressive amount of equipment when it's all together, very good comradery, heavy vehicle class started today with 18 to 20 D7 members in the program.
- State Mobilization: Chief DiFronzo & Chief Wilson: Meeting today at MEMA, grant update for revamp of mobilization plan, new plan mostly a flow chart, trying to streamline and make simpler, reviewed questions today, forestry task force should not be more than a third of your district assets on cards, second phase is training through DFS, to finalize by December, be sure to fill out asset list by e-mail, more equipment on that list than will end up on cards, Chief DiFronzo will send PowerPoint to the Chairman to forward to the district.



- EMS: Chairman Belsito read information from Chief Normandin; Tina Dixon new CMED Director, Ed McNamara retiring.
- Communication Team: Chief DiFronzo: Very busy, working drills, worked with other teams at D7/D8/D14 drill, should we offer to be on D8 run card? Chairman Belsito suggested possibly at least on with specialized teams, discussion followed, the Chairman will reach out to Chief Hurlbut.

## OLD BUSINESS

**TRADE SCHOOLS:** Chief Messsier: First meeting today went very well, 18 showed up and 6 more interested but couldn't make it, good show and tell, important to include an EMT portion.

**RESCUE UNIVERSITY 2019:** Chairman Belsito: 41 departments signed up, 178 spots filled so far, Friday is sold out, beginning tomorrow confirmations will go out to towns, should be a good showing, 22 spots left in stabilization on Saturday.

**PIO CLASS:** Chief Coleman wants to hold on until January.

## NEW BUSINESS

**ACTIVE SHOOTER CLASS:** Chief Knopf: Tentatively has 24-hour class scheduled with PD & FD, 30 of D7 can go in but also other outside, spring sometime in Charlton, 50 to 60 in class, should jumpstart a good relation between police and fire.

**DISTRICT 7 COMPUTERS:** One of Southbridge's computers for the district went down, \$150 to repair existing machine, they would like to replace both (\$509 each), both are on Windows 7, when dispatch is moved to police one will go there, \$1,018 for both which are 8 to 9 years old.

M – Chief Parsons: To purchase both

S – Chief Barker

V – Unanimous

## GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION

Chief Kessler introduced Jason Bangma, the new delegate for Mendon, and explained his background. Chairman Belsito introduce Jake Nunnemaker, the new delegate for Sutton, no explanation needed on his background.

Chief Knopf announced a charity softball game Saturday with 6 teams from the district

## **. BUSINESS NOT KNOWN AT TIME OF AGENDA**

Chief Hamilton explained some run card information, at a meeting of Strike Team Leaders the issue of water tankers was discussed, one of the concerns the group had was if multiple strike teams were dispatched to the City of Worcester or to the Worcester Airport what tankers would be left available in the district. Chief Hamilton created 3 run cards for out of district tankers in case the district gets stripped. He will send them out to the group before the next meeting for review and possibly accepting.

Chief Coleman gave an update on Matt Ethier's cadaver dog, Rigger, currently in training, connecting with other groups, very impressive at 16 weeks, it comes to the station on his 24-hour shifts and you can see him there.

M – Chief Tancara: To adjourn

S – Chief Wilson

V – Unanimous

**Adjourned 20:16**

**Next Meeting:** October 24th, Auburn

### **Dates to Remember**

October 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> – Rescue University in Grafton



**District 7 Chiefs  
Meeting Sign-In**

**Date:** 9-26-19

Name	Affiliation
Jim Wilson	Road Committee
Darin Anderson	North Brookfield
Bill Locke	Spencer
Roy Liard	DCR -7
GARY FLEISCHER	WORCESTER FD
MARC DiFranzo	UPTON
JASON CARTARA	CHARLTON FD
Gloria Johnson	Auburn FD
Stephen Coleman	Auburn
Peter Mastell	Brookfield



**District 7 Chiefs  
Meeting Sign-In**

Date: 9-26-19

Name	Affiliation
DAVID WHITE	NORTHBRIDGE
MICKY GAUTHIER	GRAFTON
JIM BARKER	GRAFTON
STEVEN R. DUPRE	NORTHBRIDGE
RICH HAMILTON	MILLBURY
Bob Wilson	LEICESTER
Kent Vinsler	Douglas
Jacob Nunnemacher	Sutton
Maur Belato	SUTTON