



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

May 24, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.

Auburn/Webster Elks, 754 Southbridge St, Auburn

Call to Order – 19:06 by Chairman Belsito

Pledge of Allegiance

32 in attendance from 16 towns/cities and 1 organization

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports

M – Chief Gauthier: to accept as emailed

S – Chief Lavoie

V – Unanimous

MEMA

Kristen Jerome gave an update of grants, the EMPG will be coming in the summer, the competitive grant should still be happening. ICS-300 and ICS-400 classes are being scheduled. Notify Kristen with any requests you have.

DCR: No report

Committee Reports:

- Training: No report

- Radio

Chief Hamilton: Update on the county band replacement, the Radio Committee is leaning towards using a talkgroup on the State's 800 MHz system, this would be cheaper in the long run as the state maintains the system, but we would need to update radios in the dispatch centers. Much more work needs to be done. The committee had a request from a couple of chiefs in the district to find a way to record District 7 Fireground Red. We are looking into a possibility of installing records at various high points in the district, such as a fire tower, that would be always live. We will pursue this idea further.

- FCAM

Chief Coleman: New slate of officers sworn in. The last board meeting they discussed the IV pumps, it looks like they are back on the radar again. It shouldn't happen without funding, but if you have a long distance to a hospital, it may be required sooner. They also spoke of the new OSHA requirements. He advises to take it slow and steady.

Last Thursday they met with the Undersecretary of Public Safety, they are trying to find a balance. They will ask the Governor that there be no unfunded mandates. The DPW will most likely be their first priority. A task force is in the process of coming together. On a question from Chief Parsons regarding a bill for gear extractors, Chief Coleman stated it has House and Senate support and is now up to the Governor, it will go through the Fire Marshal's office. Chief Coleman requested if there are any members that can join FCAM to reach out to him.

- Homeland Security

Chief Kochanowski: There will be an EOPSS meeting per the Governor, they are expanding the council to add a school safety representative and a sub-committee of school representatives, in light of all the school activities and active shooter drill requests. Next meeting June 5th at 3:00.

- Tech Rescue

Chairman Belsito: Not much going on, they are starting to receive some structural collapse equipment. They should be meeting in June. He receiving calls inquiring about the tech rescue in Upton, he was asking if anyone there knew any details about it. Later Chief Coleman found some information online that stated the victim self-rescued with the help of some co-workers.

- State Mobilization

Chief Wilson: There is a meeting Wednesday, they are reviewing task force assignments. He suggested everyone check the inventory to be sure your equipment listed is accurate. Chairman Belsito stated the recent class held was good. Chief DiFronzo felt maybe we should be consolidating some areas. He thought we should meet to discuss it. Chairman Belsito agreed, and knew East 2 is struggling and we will need to face reality.

- EMS

Chief Martell: Just the IV Pump issue, which we already discussed. Deputy Chief Normandin: Discussion points for the June 21st meeting (first reorganization); identify mission/ role/ charge of the committee, fentanyl, heroin responses/ overdoses, 2018 protocol implementation, any issues concern or actions needed to be discussed for future suggestions or troubleshooting.

- Communication Team

Chief DiFronzo: Comm Team activated to Charlton for a search, which went well. FC-1 nearing completion, looking at graphics right now and will recommend to the D7 Chiefs when ready, as the group have paid the graphics of other district vehicles in the past. Chief Coleman asked if we would use the same company as previous jobs to keep them consistent looking, Chief DiFronzo stated probably, although they are getting a couple of quotes.

Old Business

District credit card: Chief Kessler: The bank needs 2 years of banking and with the reorganization we do not have that. If we don't do it that way the Chairman and Treasurer would become personally liable for any card issued.

M – Chief Coleman: to postpone the credit card idea until we get 2 years of banking in.

S – Chief Gauthier

V – Unanimous

RIT Bands: Chief Coleman still working on.

Air/Light Truck Bottles: Deputy Chief Dupuis presented pricing quotes from 5 vendors to have 40 bottles tested. Some discussion took place.

M – Chief Coleman: to have IPS Industrial Protection hydrostatic test 40 bottles for \$1,400

S – Chief Gauthier

V – Unanimous

New Business

Chief Coleman discussed the Firefighter LODD laws, referencing the recent memo from the State Fire Marshal. There are particular laws that should be accepted beforehand to make things easier if something tragic happened. He felt we should have a listing of communities that have accepted them to assist any town that is trying to have them accepted. After a quick poll of the group, most have not yet but some are working on it.

Chief Coleman attended a Plymouth County meeting, they want to upstart an officers training program in place of the State Fire Academy program. Chief Coleman had members attend the Academy program recently and the feedback he received was that they weren't very impressed with the program. He does know the Academy is struggling to get instructors and the expected commitment of hours may be driving some instructors away. He also spoke to the Fire Marshal regarding the issue. We have a lot of talent in the district and we should support them. He believes we could do a short-term program until the academy program can get back on track. They used to do 1 or 2 programs a year, no they are offering it more than a dozen times. Much discussion followed. Chief Dyer thought there was a minimum number of hours required before you could take the exam. District Chief Lachapelle felt it was hit or miss, the program he is in now is very good, but not all have been. Chief Messier stated we need more night and weekend classes for the call departments, the academy classes are geared toward the full-time departments. Chief Coleman suggested maybe modeling after Worcester's program which seems very successful. Chief DiFronzo stated that we have talked about this for 5-years now.

M – Chief DiFronzo: To start a fire officers class in the district and to have the training committee research it first and come back at the June meeting with a proposal (as amended by Chief Coleman, who also agreed to assist the training committee)

S – Chief Kochanowski

V – Unanimous

Chairman Belsito recognized Chief Nester and Chief Gannon for their contributions to the district. He explained Chief Coleman's idea that the district should recognize chiefs that retire from the district and the group agreed. Chiefs Nester and Gannon each had more than 40 years with their departments and assisted the district in different ways.

Chairman Belsito mentioned the Tri-State Committee is looking for new members, see Chief Hickey.

Good of the Organization

Chief Parsons explained the D7 Fire Investigation Team met last Friday in Millbury with Chief DiFronzo and are set-up now for activations.

Chief Coleman announced District 7 now has a Twitter account, @MA Fire District 7, himself and Chief Vinson are running it. They are centralizing all the Tweets for the district. He asked all towns in the district to check if your account is listed on there.

Chief Lavoie explained the issues with dispatch in Warren. They are talking with Rutland Regional Dispatch, to join them. They approached New Braintree SP Dispatch but they were unable to take them in. They need to move quickly with this, and he wanted the district to know what's going on.

Chief Messier explained New Braintree Dispatch will become New Braintree Fire Alarm starting June 3rd.

M – Chief Parsons: To adjourn

S – Chief Gauthier

V – Unanimous

Adjourned 20:10

Next Meeting: June 28th , Auburn

Dates to Remember

Retirement Party for Don Contois, Auburn Fire: June 8th, Auburn Elks

EMPG grant deadline is June 30th

**District 7 Chiefs
Meeting Sign-In
May 24, 2018**

| Name | Affiliation |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| DAVID WHITE | NORTHBRIDGE FIRE |
| BRIAN CASTELL | NORTHBRIDGE FIRE |
| ROBERT LACHAPPELLE | NORTHBRIDGE FIRE |
| GARY WELSH | NORTHBRIDGE FIRE |
| MATT BELSITO | SUTTON FIRE |
| MICKY GAUTHIER | GRAFTON FIRE |
| JIM BARKER | GRAFTON FIRE |
| RICH HAMILTON | MILLBURY FIRE |
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**District 7 Chiefs
Meeting Sign-In
May 24, 2018**

| Name | Affiliation |
|----------------|-------------|
| MIKE DUPUIS | LEICESTER |
| MILTP RADBOIS | Spencer |
| Corey Lacaine | SPENCER |
| Paul Normandin | Southbridge |
| Mark DiFranzo | SOUTHBRIDGE |
| Kristen Jerome | MEMA |
| Adam Lapore | Warren |
| Brad Gannon | Southbridge |
| BOB PASSAS | Spencer |
| B.N. Kessler | Uxbridge |
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