



# 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 September 27, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.

**Auburn/Webster Elks, 754 Southbridge St, Auburn**

**Call to Order – 19:10 by Chairman Belsito**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**35 in attendance from 21 towns/cities and 2 organizations**

Chairman Belsito began the meeting by thanking everyone for their support this last year. He felt the district continued the progress from previous chairmen Nault and Coleman. He felt we have really developed good relations with the City of Worcester. The Tech Team has grown and the consortium with districts 8 and 14 is in process. There have been some chief changes in the district but we are a good group. FC-1 is ready and here, he thanked Jeff Wilson, Paul Maynard and Jim Wilson for all their efforts, along with the Radio and Communications Committees. He is looking forward to another great year.

### **Secretary's Report**

M – Chief Kochanowski: to accept as emailed

S – Chief Harris

V – Unanimous

**MEMA:** Kristen Jerome: In the next month or so, they will be taking inventory of where sandbags are staged and will call for inventory to see if they need anymore. They will also be looking for distribution sites to stage equipment and will contact prospective places for state run emergency shelters. There should be an EMD meeting before the end of October. Grant applications are due tomorrow.

**DCR:** D7 Warden Roy Liard: October 6<sup>th</sup> is the end date for the seasonal staff, there will only be Roy & Bob left. He has been a very slow season due to the wet weather. There are new excess property agreement forms. Two hand crews were deployed to wildfires, one in Montana, one in Canada.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Training: Chief Vinson: No meeting yet, but they are working on some classes. He would like to know what the district wants to spend.

- Radio

Chief Hamilton: They are working on a backup control point and have been talking with the City of Worcester. Southbridge Fire is combining dispatch with their Police. Chief Normandin assured us the county dispatch will continue and the new set-up could create its own backup as the fire dispatch equipment will remain and someone could jump in there. There was some discussion regarding the use of terminology on the district channels, especially the use of "District 7 control". Jim Wilson explained the need for consistency and for using a standard call name instead of a station name because the county dispatch could happen in many places, even a Comm Unit. The need for a sheet of information from each town with phone numbers, etc., was discussed. Jeff Wilson explained more in detail. He will coordinate that and create a standard form for each town to fill out. Chief Martell asked about the Task Force and Strike Team instructions that was previously on the website. He felt it was good for anyone to be able to reference. Chief Coleman and Chief Hamilton will work on getting that back up.

- RIT Policy

Chief Coleman: He asked towns to start sending in names for the RIT weekend. MFA runs a good train-the-trainer, but admits it doesn't cover everything. He would like to come up with a standard set of procedures to have more consistency with 25 towns instead of 2 or 3. The first day's class is in Auburn and the second day is in Worcester. Members just need to bring their turnout gear and SCBA, bringing a RIT pack is optional. No Chief Officers will be there, there will be another group with them. The draft RIT policy will be discussed that weekend and later reviewed by the Chiefs group.

- Treasury and Budget

Chief Kessler explained the 3-year budget he sent out to the members. There was discussion at the E-Board meeting about hosting some training and they wanted to know what kind of funds would be available to do that. The audit is almost ready, the books are at the accountant. The chairman should have a letter soon from the accountant. Chief Coleman had a few questions that Chief Kessler explained.

**Treasurer's Report**

M – Chief Kochanowski: to accept as emailed

S – Chief Coleman

V – Unanimous

- FCAM

Chief Coleman: Update on a few issues. There has been much discussion on the OSHA topic. MA DLS gave a presentation, they are not a fining agency, you will only hear from them if there's an accident or a complaint. After February you can request a voluntary inspection. There will be no fines or penalties as a result of the inspection. You will not have to re-do HRD pre-employment physicals. You will need to do fit testing and respiratory tests. If they don't pass, they will recommend they not be allowed to work. The town's medical director or town nurse can read the form and determine the next steps. Chief Normandin inquired about the status of the PATs testing. Chief Hamilton stated that Millbury received a response back today and it said Hudson is condemned, and it will take some time to correct. We are not allowed to go to any other location. Chief Coleman wasn't sure what MFA was doing in regards to that. As far as the FCAM Treasurer, he is on paid administrative leave. He gave a brief summary of the situation, it is a much bigger story. They are looking at combining the Treasurer and Secretary positions at the December meeting.

- Homeland Security  
Chief Kochanowski: John Morrow is leaving as chairman of the Central Region Homeland Security, Adam Menard may replace him. They were using 2 part time people, but are allowed one full time and one part time. They would like Adam to be the full-timer. The position was posted last Monday internally. 2018 funds may be released in November. He advised to make sure any PJs that you do are on the new form. Dean has the new form if you need one.
- Tech Rescue  
Chairman Belsito: Consortium going good. Tech Rescue bill has passed, mirrored after hazmat. Some of the structural equipment has arrived. Chief Martell brought up that some of the communities are not on the statewide list, Chairman Belsito will look into that.
- State Mobilization  
Chief Wilson: Meeting yesterday, they discussed the Lawrence incident. The activations went well. A second round with the same districts were done because District 15 never built out the run cards to a 15 Task Force card. They also found the teams that brought Communications Teams did better. The deployments were discussed further. They want to put together a Tech Team Task Force card for Mobilization.
- EMS  
Chief Martell: Recommended Chief Normandin take over EMS. Chief Normandin: FCAM EMS, MATRIS system upgrade February 1<sup>st</sup> your vendor should be updating your system. The IV pumps will probably be a local option, if you already bought them you can use them.
- Communication Team: No update

## OLD BUSINESS

**CHALLENGE COIN:** Chief Coleman had a copy of the proposed artwork for the coin. He felt we should go with the popular 1-3/4” size, as opposed to the full 2”, it’s cheaper. Prices: 200 to 299, \$7.75 each plus a \$240 mold charge. 300 to 499, \$7.50 each and no mold charge.

- M – Chief Parsons: to purchase 300 coins for \$2,250
- S – Chief Wilson
- V – Unanimous

**TRADE SCHOOLS:** Chief Coleman met with Baypath, they can’t have a curriculum-based course, but can have a Public Safety Club. He thought they could meet every other week, maybe one weekday after school and the next a Saturday. Chief Messier offered to be an advisor for the club. Chief Coleman would like to get some banners with the District 7 logo and “Baypath Fire and Emergency Club” coming to the school. He would like that on the agenda for the next meeting and he will get costs. There are 10 towns in Baypath, not all in D7. Someone would have to be a school member to join. He asked about a sub-committee. Chief Vinson will follow up with Chief DiFronzo and see if he wants to be involved for the BVT School, or leave it with Assistant Chief Marchand, who brought up the idea.

**REGIONAL TIC GRANT:** Chief Fleischer stated the TIC AFG grant, for 7 towns, was denied. The new AFG grant period is open and the haven't decided what they will go for yet.

## NEW BUSINESS

**LETTERING ON NEW TRAILER:** Chairman Belsito explained the lettering for the district trailer. He had two additional quotes, through Chief Hickey, one to do the basic lettering for \$1,950, and a second quote to put chevron striping on the rear for \$1,027. Chief Kochanowski stated Homeland could pay up to \$800 for the lettering. After discussion, it was decided to hold off on the rear lettering as the gate would be down if it's left parked somewhere and a piece of apparatus could be left behind it.

**M** – Chief Coleman: To have lettering done through Industrial Designworks for \$1,950 (minus the \$800 Homeland funds)

**S** – Chief Wilson

**V** – Unanimous

**PARATECH TRAINING:** Chairman Belsito explained the discussion that took place at the E-Board meeting regarding paying for the 15 Team Leaders of the Tech Team to attend the Paratech training at \$150 each, for a total of \$2,250

**M** – Chief Parsons: For the District to cover that cost

**S** – Chief Normandin

**V** – Unanimous

**SAFE TRAILER:** Chief Parsons explained the situation with the SAFE trailer. The repairs necessary recently was \$2,400. The District receives about \$1,500 annual from the state to maintain the trailer. It was also discussed that the trailer should always return back to Leicester before going out to another town so it can be checked. Captain Wilson in Leicester, who oversees the trailers, should be firm with that policy.

**M** – Chief Vinson: To send the SAFE trailer to Bullex each winter, to go through the whole trailer and perform any needed repairs and maintenance, as long as funding allows.

**S** – Chief Normandin

**V** – Unanimous

**RESCUE UNIVERSITY 2019:** Chairman Belsito announced an event he is working on. The last one was in 2010 or 2011 in Walpole. He is still putting it all together, it will be hosted at the Wyman-Gordon Plant in Grafton. They have some big vehicles to use such as cement mixers and buses. Direnzo Towing is getting all the vehicles there and then removing them after. They've looked at everything such as tents, porta-potties, etc. Med-Star Ambulance will provide EMS and Grafton's canteen truck will be there. This is still in the early stages, it's a Friday and Saturday, a one-day class. There will be 8 to 10 workstations, 100 people each day, IBA will be picking up the hydraulic equipment and returning it all. They will be looking for food and water donations. Probably will cost \$50 per person, Firematic is handling the registration, which will be online. After completion everyone will receive a certificate of completion. District 7 towns will get first priority, then it will open to Districts 8 and 14 until full. The suggestion is to send 3 or 4 of your best, as this is an advanced course, then they can bring it back to the rest of the department.

**WORCESTER TANKER RUN CARDS:** Chief Hamilton: Worcester requested pre-staged locations for the tanker assignment to the city. Chief Hamilton and District Chief Fleischer, who worked with other Chiefs in Worcester, added the staging locations and created a third card of tankers. The Chiefs of the towns on the third card were good with the equipment and assignments. The group was good with the changes.

**CHIEF LAVOIE:** Chairman Belsito let the group know he received an e-mail from Chief Adam Lavoie, his mother suffered an unexpected and massive heart attack. She went into cardiac arrest and was brought back with a defibrillator. She is in a hospital in New Hampshire. He will keep in touch with him. He asked the chiefs to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

**SAFE TRAILER TV:** Chief Parsons asked if anyone wanted the old TV from the SAFE trailer. The DVD portion doesn't work anymore, but the TV is usable.

**FC-1 CHAIRS:** Chief Hamilton: The District previously offered to reimburse Jeff Wilson and Paul Maynard for items bought to build the new Field Communications Truck and they wouldn't take anything. They recently purchased 2 chairs for the truck, and he felt the District should pay for them.

M – Chief Coleman: To pay for the 2 chairs for \$273.00

S – Chief Gauthier

V – Unanimous

**FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTORS GROUP:** Chief Martell: In discussion with Ken Sellers they thought a group, similar to the successful Fire Investigators Group, could be formed. This could provide support and help from other inspectors in the district. They have a similar group in Western Mass. Chief Belanger will discuss that with Captain Sellers before the next meeting.

### **Good of the Organization**

Nothing at this time

M – Chief Parsons: To adjourn

S – Chief Wilson

V – Unanimous

**Adjourned 21:19**

**Next Meeting:** October 25th, Auburn

### **Dates to Remember**

None at this time





**District 7 Chiefs  
Meeting Sign-In  
September 27, 2018**

Name	Affiliation
Rick Phillips	Brookfield
Peter Martelli	Brookfield
Jason Cantara	Charlton
Ed Knopf	Charlton
Corey Lacaire	Spencer
Bob Wilson	Leicester
Paul Normandin	Southbridge
Richard Harris	Mendon
Ben Sanchez	Millville
Roy Liard, Jr	DCR
Mark Peluso	Guthrie