



## MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT 7

Chief Matthew Belsito, Sutton  
Chairman  
(508) 865-8737

Chief Robert Parsons, Spencer  
Vice Chairman  
(508) 867-8825

Chief William Kessler, Uxbridge  
Treasurer  
(508) 278-2787

Chief Richard Hamilton, Millbury  
Secretary  
(508) 865-5328

### District 7 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes January 18, 2018 15:00 Auburn Fire Headquarters

**Present:** Chairman: Chief M. Belsito, Vice-Chairman: Chief R. Parsons, Treasurer: Chief W. Kessler, Secretary: Chief R. Hamilton; Chief M. DiFronzo, Chief D. Kochanowski, Chief S. Coleman, Chief K. Vinson

**Tech/ Dive Rescue Teams Merge:** Combined meeting with D7, D8 and D14 was attended by Chairman Belsito, Vice-Chairman Parsons, Chief Coleman and Chief DiFronzo. They reported it went very well. There will be a meeting with all the Tech Team Coordinators and one or two joint trainings each year. If a State Task Force is activated, it will include all three districts. Each Tech Team will still remain separate and respond together as needed. Slow steps will be taken between the districts. It was agreed that towns should call their adjoining mutual aid for resources, such as dive personnel, but also call the District 7 Team to supplement that. Everyone there felt it was a good fit. There will be future combined meetings.

**Homeland Security Funds FY18:** Chairman Belsito update the Board on requests. \$80,000 for structural collapse equipment is A-Listed, \$32,469 for dive team equipment has been A-Listed, \$49,260 for heavy rescue training has been A-Listed, \$63,000 for wide area search has been A-Listed and \$26,200 for dive team training has been A-Listed. USAR medical training and structural collapse shoring training have been B-Listed. There are more requests than money, but overall, we did very well. Chief Kochanowski mentioned that 25% of Homeland funds must go to law enforcement. He also stated more money will be allocated to drills, especially combined drills, if we plan those we may make out better. Chairman Belsito stated a notice was sent out for Tech and Dive Team vacancies and some people have responded.

**District Meetings:** Chief Coleman sent out an e-mail to try and bolster attendance. He suggested moving to breakfast meetings instead of night meetings as the makeup of the district has shifted. If a Chief can't make a meeting then the delegate should make an effort to be there. He thought it should be open to Captains (only the Chief or delegate could vote). There were questions about responses in order to get a head count for meals. Chief Coleman suggested keeping the \$250 meal cap and charging \$5 or so per member attending or passing the hat for donations. There was much discussion on ways to help increase attendance. Chief Hamilton suggested the district pay the meal for the Chief and delegate and then whoever else is there, they would pay \$5 or \$10 or something. Discussion on whether to invite the specialty team coordinators. Motion by Chief Coleman and seconded by Chief Kochanowski: To bring up to the body at a D7 Chiefs meeting to allow Chiefs to invite down to the rank of Captain: Unanimous

[Auburn-Blackstone-Brookfield-Charlton-Douglas-Dudley-East Brookfield-Grafton-Leicester-Mendon-Millbury-Millville-Northbridge-North Brookfield-Oxford-Southbridge-Spencer-Sturbridge-Sutton-Upton-Uxbridge- Warren-West Brookfield-Webster-Worcester](#)

Chief Coleman would also like it announced that the attendance of a representative from each town would be monitored, the group agreed. Chairman Belsito announced the appointments of Chief Coleman and Chief Vinson as joint District 7 PIO. It was also discussed that Deputy Chief Furno from Millville stepped down from his position. Chief Landry stated he will try to be more active in the district.

**Air/ Light Truck:** The truck is at Leicester now and they are going to start training. The target date to have it in-service is February 1<sup>st</sup>. The MOU between the district and the Town of Leicester has been completed and signed by both parties.

**D7 future training opportunities:** Chief Vinson said there is a planned meeting before the D7 meeting next week. Strike Team Leader training is still being planned. Chief Kochanowski stated Homeland Security funds would probably cover an active shooter drill, if they plan one. Chief DiFronzo stated he has someone that could put together a tabletop drill then coordinate a good practical drill. Chairman Belsito announced Pat Carnevale from MEMA would be giving a presentation about his deployment to Puerto Rico at the next meeting. Chairman Belsito asked the board's thoughts on allowing a vendor to give a presentation at a D7 meeting. The general consensus was that no vendors should be allowed but a short training on a current event, maybe 15 to 20 minutes long, would be OK. Motion by Chief Coleman and seconded by Chief Kochanowski: To have the training committee look into some pre-meeting trainings and bring a proposal back to the board (maybe each town could have a turn arranging one): unanimous

**District Credit Card:** Chief Kessler still working on it

**Mayday Policy:** Chief Coleman has the Auburn policy based on the national standard, which he will bring to the body at next Thursday's meeting. Captain Brigham is working on a program to go along with that. There will be a Dispatching the Mayday program in Spencer April 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00 am (an all-day program). The dispatcher must register through the LMS system at the MFA website.

**Task Force Leadership:** Some task force positions need updating, we should wait until the training program is done before they are filled. Chief DiFronzo working on that training.

**Station Names / Radio Identification:** Chief Hamilton explained the discussion of the Radio Committee regarding standardizing dispatcher names in each town. He stated that 11 of the 25 towns now use "Fire Alarm". The thought is for consistency when going to a town in the district they don't always go to. Although every town or dispatch center may not agree to change, it was felt a letter should go out to every town explaining the benefits of doing so, and how they should be prepared anyway because that may be how they are called anyway. The use of LPS-7 instead of the county radio was also discussed and that topic will be added in the same letter. Chief DiFronzo suggested the station number followed by the town name was still a good choice for the county radio due to some similar sounding names. The group agreed.

**Retirements – Bugle Award:** Chief Coleman waiting on the information to have one done.

**Tech Trailer:** Chief DiFronzo brought up the tech trailer in Warren. He stated the Tech Team was inquiring as to whether the equipment in it could be moved for better use or if more members could be recruited for that area. To be discussed further.

**District 7 Explorer Groups:** Chief DiFronzo questioned if anything had been done with the Explorer groups in the district. Chief Hamilton stated that Millbury Assistant Chief Silver has done some research on towns that have a post and was planning on giving an update at next Thursday's meeting.

**Mendon Fire and Ambulance:** Chief Kessler gave an update on the situation in Mendon. They had posted the fire chief's job with no takers. They approached Uxbridge, Blackstone and Hopedale for proposals to cover Mendon Fire and Ambulance services, as a contract service. Each of the three towns submitted proposals and are waiting response from Mendon. Discussion followed.

**Thank You Letter:** Chief Hamilton reported a thank you letter was received from the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation, for the donation we made of \$300 for their *Everyone Goes Home Program*, in lieu of paying Captain Brigham for his mayday presentation.

Motion to adjourn by Chief Kessler and seconded by Chief DiFronzo: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned 17:20