



MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT 7

Chief Matthew Belsito, Sutton
Chairman
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Chief Robert Parsons, Spencer
Vice Chairman
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Chief William Kessler, Uxbridge
Treasurer
(508) 278-2787

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

District 7 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes October 6, 2020 10:00 Sutton Police Station

Present: Chairman: Chief M. Belsito, Treasurer: Chief W. Kessler, Secretary: Chief R. Hamilton; Chief R. Wilson, Chief D. Kochanowski, Chief K. Vinson, Chief P. Normandin, Chief S. Coleman

Plans Regarding COVID-19 Mutual Aid and Station Coverage: Survey results were discussed regarding station coverage. Nearly all towns were allowing cover companies in with some having guidelines.

Ambulance Coverage: The results of the ambulance coverage survey were discussed. Chief Normandin questioned if a town declares a state of emergency and an ambulance mobilization is activated, would the costs be reimbursable. MEMA stated we can provide coverage regionally before calling a task force. Chief Kochanowski questioned if the COVID emergency declaration would cover this. Chief Normandin felt doing a list of paramedics is difficult and felt an easier way is to form an agreement similar to the Agawam draft plan. Chief Hamilton commented that from the survey results, many towns only have one ambulance and several towns have contracted EMS, that reduces the available ambulances. Chief Kessler felt a town should be putting together their own plan and then fill in with district assets before going to a mobilization. Chief Vinson stated you need to look at the bigger picture, if several towns had an issue it will require more ambulances and personnel. Chief Coleman thought we should write a COOP Plan similar to District 14's. He can see problems with the simple Agawam plan, like who would coordinate it. He thought the District Assist Team could help coordinate the plan. He felt 85% of the plan is written and could be modified for District 7. He will complete the document and send it out before Thursday's District meeting. There was discussion if a strike team could be used and divided into shifts. Chief Dion had suggested shorter shifts and that was discussed. Chief Wilson thought we should cut out the personnel pool idea and sticking with the strike team concept, the group agreed.

Trench Trailer Lettering: Chairman Belsito had the quote to letter the trailer in Oxford, \$2,147. We should have \$800 coming from Homeland so the District would need to cover \$1,347.
Motion: Coleman seconded Normandin; to fund the balance: Unanimous

December Meeting: The proposed date was December 3, which is the anniversary of the Worcester Warehouse fire. Discussion on whether to change the date. Chief Lavoie had informed us he is working on one consolidate ceremony for four events on a Sunday at the beginning of December. It was decided if the meeting conflicts with a ceremony we would change it. Chairman Belsito stated we will see the state of guidelines at that time to determine if there will still be one representative from each town. Chief McDonald offered to host the meeting at the museum in Oxford.

Air / Light Truck: Chief Wilson inquired about getting some portable lighting for the truck. There have been several district activations and they were short on lights. The group felt several battery-operated LED lights would be good. Chief Wilson will get some prices to bring to Thursday's meeting.

Mobilization Coordinator: Chief Wilson stated he is done at the end of November and as such there needs to be a Coordinator appointed and approved by FCAM. Chairman Belsito will ask Chief DiFronzo, the current alternate, if he is interested in taking the position. If he does, we will be looking for an Alternate Coordinator.

Tech Team activations: There have been several activations recently, with the Sutton incident being the largest. Chief Coleman stated the team didn't need any other equipment than they responded with. He felt that said a lot for the equipment acquired for the team, they are well equipped. He felt we should send a letter to inform the Homeland Council how their funding has helped. Chief Kochanowski agreed and thought a letter would also justify future requests for funding. The letter will go to the full council and copied to whoever else has helped with approvals.

Out of Date SCBA bottles: Chief Wilson wanted to know what to do with the out of date bottles on the Air / Light Unit. After discussion, it was decided to see where we might be able to donate them.

Motion to adjourn by Chief Normandin and seconded by Chief Kochanowski: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned 11:03