



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 January 25, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.

Auburn/Webster Elks, 754 Southbridge St, Auburn

Call to Order – 19:15
Pledge of Allegiance

Secretaries Report

M – Chief White: to accept as emailed
S – Chief Vinson
V – Unanimous

Treasurers Report

M – Chief Gauthier: to accept as read
S – Chief White
V – Unanimous

Treasurer noted we were in good shape as an organizational standpoint. We have filed for 501 (c) (3), we should not have to file reports with the IRS just return an E-Card. He felt we should have a D7 audit committee or an outside company do an audit. Some discussion followed.

M – Chief Coleman: To have an outside company do an audit.
S – Chief Wilson
V – Unanimous

MEMA Update

Pat Carnevale gave a presentation on his deployment to Puerto Rico with MEMA for disaster relief due to Hurricane Irma and Maria. He, and the others, were sent through the EMAC agreement. (note: entire presentation sent out later by e-mail from Krysten Jerome. Krysten spoke about the next EMD meeting, next Tuesday.

DCR Update

District 7 Warden Liard: Three seasonal staff will be coming back, he should know after next Thursday if a vacancy will be filled. The position types have been changed. All the Fire Control staff will be a firefighter position. This helps avoid someone with no fire experience outbidding a fire position over a trained member. He reported the fire weather will start up soon, as the open burning season has started, as soon as the snow cover is gone. Alex Belote has been hired as fire program coordinator to replace Roxann Savoie. He stated Alex is a great guy and will do an excellent job for all of us.

Committee Reports:

- Training

Chief Vinson: the training committee met before tonight's meeting. They discussed the FDSS pump training program. The committee felt it should be divided into 3 regions, that should bring the price down. They were looking for direction from the district. FDSS will be at the FCAM Conference both days, they will have a new, second, simulator.

M – Chief Coleman: For the training committee to put together a couple of different proposals for the district to look at.

S – Chief Gauthier

V – Unanimous

The committee also discussed Dr. Griffin's program scheduled for April 12th. It will probably be a dinner event (\$25 to \$30 per person). The D7 E-board voted to hold a small training session before each monthly meeting. After discussing it tonight, they will have a presentation from the Dive Team, the Tech Team and the Comm Team, where they would each give an overview of their current operations. There would be one of them each for the next three months.

- Radio

Chief Hamilton: update from the last meeting; The use of a standard dispatch name was discussed. The recommendation that was made was brought forward to the D7 Board of Directors. They agreed with the radio committee. The various names can be confusing that are used such as fire alarm, the use of part of the license number or the station county number, along with a few others, when calling a town's dispatch. Eleven of the 25 towns now use "Fire Alarm". Both committees felt a letter should be sent to all towns recommending this. Realizing we can't mandate any town, it would include the statement that even if your town doesn't change, expect someone to call your town as fire alarm, and answer them. This letter would include some information on the use on the county band as opposed to LPS-7 for fire related transmissions. There was also discussion on what should be used to call the primary control point on the orange channel. The recommendation of the radio committee and agreed to by the D7 BOD, was "District 7 Control".

M – Chief Coleman: To use "District 7 Control" on the orange channel for the control point.

S – Chief Gauthier

V – Unanimous

- FCAM

Chief Coleman gave an update. The IV pump issue was brought up again, it should not be as strict this time, mainly for a longer transport. They are looking for a chairman of the EMS committee, if anyone is interested. A survey was done which included a meeting location question. An RFP was sent out for ambulances in November. There will be an Admin class March 1st, the fee is \$75 for the 1-day class. He brought up Firstnet, he would like to have someone come to a meeting to explain it. Chief Hamilton reported he met with them and will arrange someone to come to one of our meetings. Chief Coleman suggested we go for money through Homeland Security for an active shooter drill through EOPS.

- Homeland Security

Captain Paul Konieczny gave an update from Chief Kochanowski; FY17 budget approved, advised getting projects in. FY18 budget approval at Council level, two projects were B-listed and not currently approved. The next meeting is February 6th at CMED.

- Tech Rescue

Chairman Belsito: New format for grants, 8 PJs have been written, some have been funded and others have not. \$80,000 for structural collapse equipment is A-Listed, \$6,269.99 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. Special Ops Chief Fleischer explained the heavy rescue training proposed. Instead of waiting on a heavy-duty wrecker, as is done now, specialized equipment would be put on Worcester's Rescue and would respond to D7 or D8. They are working with the CT Fire Academy for training. Chairman Belsito reported the *Vigilant Guard Drill* would cost about \$20,000, that will be revisited. He also brought up the tech equipment located in Warren. He stated there were concerns that the equipment may not make it to an incident if needed and if there are sufficient tech members from that area. Chief Adam Lavoie stated that he can always get the equipment delivered to an incident. The trailer belongs to the Warren Fire Dept. but all the equipment in it belongs to the district. Chief DiFronzo suggested getting more members from that area. Chief Coleman said the other trailers are tested and inspected regularly and was wondering if the equipment in Warren was. Chief Lavoie stated the equipment does get a limited amount of maintenance. He is OK with whatever the outcome of the equipment is, whatever is in the best interest of the district. They will do a full inventory on it. Chairman Belsito stated a notice was sent out for Tech and Dive Team vacancies and some people have responded, make sure the Chief signs off on it to acknowledge their support. There are also two openings on the Tech Committee, the Chairman will get in touch with those that apply. Chief Coleman questioned the cost per member of the USAR project, he wondered if the district would be able to train some members, if it doesn't get funded. The Chairman had a cost of \$3,000 per person for the 54-hour class.

- State Mobilization

Chief Difronzo: They are reviewing Task Force cards, they are also looking at typing equipment to federal standards. It has been tough getting people to the state meetings, partly due to travel distances across the state. They are considering a conference type call meeting. They are looking at a training by Chief Jones for strike team and task force leaders. All the current information MEMA has now is posted on their website. Chief Wilson also mentioned the are issues with some districts, so there are reducing the number of teams from some areas.

- EMS

Chief Martell: Nothing new at this time

- Communication Team

Chief DiFronzo: No meetings. He gave an update on the progress of FC-1. A tremendous amount of work has been done. A great many hours by Paul Maynard, Jim Wilson and Jeff Wilson. It is coming along well, but still has more to go. Chief Hamilton stated he had stopped to see it and agreed with Chief DiFronzo. He said a lot of behind the scenes infrastructure work is done (power wiring, antenna wiring, etc.). He believed the thought was once the major components are in they would have the Comm Team give some input of the working arrangement. When finished, it will have three full working positions; two for radio operators and one for a computer terminal.

Old Business:

Old SAFE trailer: Chief Wilson reported it does need some work. N. Brookfield has it and has been doing what they can and covering the costs. Chief Holway explained that they have done a lot of the minor work on it and covered the expenses. Chief Kessler mentioned we have a \$1,500 SAFE grant to maintain both SAFE trailers that can be used for some of the repairs.

District credit card: Chief Kessler stated we cannot get a general card, so the E-Board decided to get two cards; One in the Chairman's name and one in the Treasurer's name.

Mayday Policy: Chief Coleman explained the proposed standardized policy. The policy spells out the expectations of the RIT Team, with softening the target being the most important. Each town could adopt the policy and change it as they see fit. He feels the only portion that would probably have to change is section F, which stipulates which towns would be called in as additional resources. He recommends the district purchase RIT ID bands for the SCBA bottles. He thought we should buy 5 or 6 for each town, for a standard identification. Captain Konieczny asked about an EMS component for a RIT activation. He felt if a RIT Team is activated, the EMS on scene would be dedicated to the RIT and additional units would need to be called. Chief Coleman stated on Auburn's run cards, the EMS would be included with additional alarms, but thought it was a good idea to add it on the policy. Chief Vinson asked if a charged hose line should be written on the policy, as that what is taught. Chief Coleman will make the changes to the policy and get prices on the equipment.

District PIO: Chairman Belsito announced Chief Coleman and Chief Vinson will be the District's PIOs.

Air/Light Truck: Asst. Chief Dupuis reported training has started, about 15 people will be going through. In service date will be February 1st.

PIO Class: Chief Coleman discussed the Working with the Media Class. He has no student count currently. It will run in two programs, April 3rd and April 4th will be one session, April 7th and April 8th will be the second session. He will send out the flyer and student application tomorrow.

New Business:

Meeting with Districts 8 and 14: Chairman Belsito reported on the meeting. It 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. 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. The State is trying to model the Homeland Regions, and if they activate a tech team they would activate all three district teams. District 14 was putting together a Central Mass Tech Team Consortium. Chief Fleischer asked if Worcester could be added in. Chief DiFronzo felt we should look closer at it before signing. Chief Coleman thought the meeting was good, but we should look closer at some things such as how the D14 leaders are comprised. There were also questions about what Worcester team members and equipment would be included. They have a unique situation whereas there are Tech Team members on duty for every shift, however the team as a whole is too large to be included in every training and the whole group would not be notified for a district activation. Chairman Belsito will do more exploration into it.

District meeting attendance: Chairman Belsito explained how the attendance of a representative from each town will be monitored. We are looking at getting better attendance, although tonight's is great and he appreciates it. The E-Board discussed allowing captains to attend. Chief Coleman explained how he approached the Elk's for the district. They are willing to waive the \$100 meeting fee and donate the room for our meetings. They also have a rule of a 30-person minimum for the meal. They are willing to work with us on that but we should try to keep close to the minimum. He explained, as there are 25 towns and each town has one delegate, we should be looking at 25 to 50 people each meeting. If the attendance drops, we could consider a daytime meeting. He was in favor of allowing Captains to attend, we could leave it up to the Chief of each department on who they invite. There was further discussion regarding towns that had no deputies or captains, maybe some exceptions could be made. Chief Hickey didn't want to see too many people, in the past a town could have many votes by bringing others with them. The consensus was that by by-laws, each town gets one vote, either the chief or the delegate. Chief Wilson suggested that if neither the Chief or delegate could attend maybe they could notify the district before the meeting that a captain would be the proxy vote for the meeting. Chief Coleman also mentioned the meal cost, and the discussion at the E-Board meeting was the Chief and delegate could be paid for and anyone else that is brought could pay something towards the meal to offset it. Chief Martell questioned if we could make rules, or possibly bylaw changes, regarding the financial votes, if it exceeds a certain amount only the Chief would be allowed to vote on it. Much discussion took place regarding these items.

M – Chief Coleman: To authorize each Chief to allow one captain to attend the meeting and be able to serve on a committee.

S – Chief Holway

V – Unanimous

M – Chief Coleman: To send to the bylaw committee for a recommendation and approval.

S – Chief Knoff

V – Unanimous

Millville update: Chairman Belsito explained how Deputy Chief Steve Furno stepped down and Chief Landry appointed Roy Liard as the new delegate. Chief Landry will try to get more involved with the district.

District Explorer Posts: Asst. Chief Silver gave an update. He has spoken to all the area Explorer Posts, including Sutton, Holden, Grafton and Upton. He is in process of organizing a meeting with all the advisors.

District Fire Investigation Group: Asst. Chief Silver explained, they have not a committee meeting yet. E-mails have been exchanged. He has contacted the D14 team for details on how they operate. He has their rules and will set up a committee meeting before the next district meeting. He also discussed it with Marshal Ostroskey who is 100% behind it.

District Thermal Imager Grant: Chief Fleischer stated the deadline is February 1st, they have seven communities, they are ready to apply.

District Dues: Chief Martell questioned if the dues should be adjusted, up or down, for next year. Chief Kessler felt they should stay the same for now, we have dropped the district recruit training but have other trainings and projects working. Chief Gauthier felt it should be done at the annual meeting because towns have to submit their budgets early.

M – Chief Coleman: To keep the dues the same (\$1000 each & \$100 radio committee, per year)

S – Chief Vinson

V – Unanimous

Mendon Update: Chairman Belsito introduced interim Mendon Fire Chief Richard Harris. He also thanked Chief Kurczy for his time as Public Safety Chief. Deputy Chief Buccino was also present. Chief Kurczy announced the Deputy is retiring and thanked him for his tremendous service to the town and the district. Chief Coleman thanked Chief Kurczy, who was very involved with the district during his tenure. Chairman Belsito also thanked Deputy Buccino and offered Chief Harris any assistance he needed.

Good of the Organization

Chief Coleman ordered the bugle awards.

Chief Belsito welcomed newly appoint Charlton Fire Chief Ed Knopf.

Chief Coleman spoke about his bid for FCAM 1st VP. The vote will take place at the April 11th meeting in Leominster. He feels this is a critical vote and was asking everyone's support and anyone that's an FCAM member to attend the meeting. Some discussion followed.

M – Chief Hickey: For the District to endorse Chief Coleman for FCAM 1st Vice-President.

S – Chief Gauthier

V – Unanimous

M – Chief Kessler: to Adjourn

S – Chief Coleman

V – Unanimous

Adjourned 21:15

Next Meeting: February 22nd, Auburn

**District 7 Chiefs
Meeting Sign-In
January 25, 2018**

Name	Affiliation
STEVEN R. DUPRE	NORTHBRIDGE FIRE
DAVID M. WHITE	NORTHBRIDGE FIRE
MICKY GAUTHIER	GRAFTON FIRE
MATT BETA	SUTTON FIRE
Glenn Johnson	Auburn Fire
* GARY R FLEISCHER	Worce Fire
RICH HAMILTON	MILLBURY FIRE
MARK BUCCINO	MENDON FIRE
Richard Harris	mendon fire
AARON GOODALE	UPTON FD
Bob Wilson	LEICESTER
Peter Matil	Brookfield
RICK PHILLIPS	BROOKFIELD FIRE
MIKE DUPUIS	LEICESTER
KENT VINSON	DOUGLAS
DAVID KURCZY	MENDON
MARK DIFRONZO	SOUTHBRIDGE

**District 7 Chiefs
Meeting Sign-In
January 25, 2018**

Name	Affiliation
Kristen Jerome	MEMA
Pat Cavene	MEMA
Roy Liard, Jr	DCR
Jon Belanger	Oxford
Paul Konieczny	Dodley
Drew Hickey	Weston