

# Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, Inc



## **General Membership Meeting minutes**

**September 16, 2020**

### **Virtual Meeting - using "Go-to-Meetings"**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/310634269>

Phone in - 15713173116,,310634269#

**Meeting opened at:** 10:05 by Chief Newbury

**Pledge to the Flag:** Chief Parow (ret.)

**Sickness & Distress** – Rev. Tilbe

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### **Deaths** –

- Fire Chief Dennis Budd, Ret. Worcester Fire Department
- Jerome Thompson father of Chief Jerry Thompson, Hanson Fire Department

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** Minutes of the General Membership meeting on August 16, 2020 were sent out to the membership via the FCAM News Flash.

Vote: Approved

### **Applications for Membership**

- Chief Robert Amerault, Danvers Fire Department, recommended by Chief Tom Martinuk, Middleton Fire Department
- Deputy Chief Brian Barry, Danvers Fire Department, recommended by Chief Robert Amerault, Danvers Fire Department
- Chief Christopher Madden, Milton Fire Department,

recommended by Chief Jack Grant (Ret.), Milton Fire Department

- Chief David Rave, Seakonk Fire Department, recommended by Chief Jack Parow (Ret.) Chelmsford Fire Department
- Deputy Stephen Heath, Halifax Fire Department, recommended by Chief Jason Viveiros Halifax Fire Department

Vote: Approved

### **Application for Life Membership:**

- Chief David Frizzell (Ret.) Belmont Fire Department, recommended by District 13 Rep. Chief Stark
- Chief Robert Pedrazzi, Ayer Fire Department, recommended by District 6 Rep. Chief Brouillette

Vote: Approved

### **Chief Michael Newbury – President**

- Taking and tabulating FCAM votes via zoom meeting
- Inspect schools/fire drills during covid (obstructions in hallways, doors pegged open, plexiglass shields, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- Oems-update on re-certification process during covid (conference call 9/14 report to follow)
- Mobilization letter for Hurlbut to MEMA (was sent a few secondary positions to be filled)
- Meeting with EOPSS this coming Thursday
- Thin Blue Line Flag-had conversation with PFFM
- Entrance exam-question if candidate is sick can they make up the exam
- Hazardous materials advisory board-Hurlburt and Dearborn interested
- Special BOD meeting to discuss Sec/treasurer position as well as a PDC Manager
- FPO and Credentialing extended due to Covid
- Tents at both restaurants (Heaters) and tents at schools without notification

### **Chief Michael Winn – 1st VP**

- Committee updates DFS and FCAM positions
- Clothing – Advance Embroidery

**Chief James Vouna – 2<sup>nd</sup> VP**

- Diversity committee

**Chief Dennis Condon – IPP**

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**Secretary – Chief Jack Parow, Ret.**

- Second dues notices have gone out via email
  - 91 notices were also hand mailed the end of August that were received but never opened – either the email is bad but active or most likely went to a spam folder or was blocked

**Interim Treasurer – Chief Jack Parow, Ret.**

- General Checking
  - Balance as of 9/14/2020 – \$ **162,337.78**
- Money Market
  - Balance as of 9/14/2020 – \$ **269,529.63**
- Legal Defense
  - Balance as of 9/14/2020 - \$ **25,000.00**

**Total assets: 9/14/2020 – \$456,867.41**

(previous balance 8/17/2020 – \$448,939.28)

Vote: Approved

**Government Affairs Director- Chief Bill Scoble, Ret.**

- The legislature has been mostly on vacation for the last month, there has been no movement on any of the Bills of interest to FCAM. The State FY2021 Budget still has not been acted upon, the latest temporary Budget runs out at the end of October.
- Several letters have been sent off to Congressional leaders that FCAM has signed on to. These letters are follow ups to the previous ones urging Congress to include Fire Districts as eligible for direct funding for COVID aid. These letters added in

- the issues of hurricanes and wildfires affecting the nation.
- The Police Reform Bill is still in Conference Committees. There is no word on when they'll be out.
  - There have been many news articles critical of the Conference Committee for not releasing the Bill.
  - The Health Care Cost Containment Bill is also still in Conference Committee, with no reported movement.
  - The Governor signed the Bond Bill which has the funding for the Bridgewater DFS campus and the Fire Equipment Grant Program. There are some issues with the wording for the bonding, Bills with the corrective language have been filed.
  - In the Primary Election, the three candidates FCAM backed were successful. They were Senator Walter Timilty in the Norfolk/Bristol District, Representative John Rogers in Norfolk County, and Candidate for Representative Meghan Kilcoyne in Worcester County. It's important to remember that FCAM as a private organization has backed certain candidates, but as individual Fire Chiefs you are a municipal appointed official, and you must not get involved in your role as Chief. It also violates FCAM and IAFC Code of Ethics.

### **State Fire Marshal – Marshal Ostroskey**

- FM Advisories can be found at [Mass.gov/advisories](https://www.mass.gov/advisories)
- School fire Drill – requirements have not changed. Evacuation is still a requirement. You might have to do more drills based on the schedule the students are in the school.
- Tents – lots of discussion – temporary heat could become an issue over the winter
- Firefighter of the Year will be virtual this year. You can submit nominations anytime of the year, do not have to wait. July 2019 – June 2020 need to be made up.
- Uptake in home explosives, pipe bombs and military devises are being found and washed up.
- Working on the next edition of the Fire Codes. The FM encourages everyone to participate, meetings are virtual. Should be enacted sometime in 2021.

### **Reports of Special Committee**

- Civil Service – Chief Stark

- Scores resulting from the statewide Dis/Dep Fire Chief Series are currently being sent.
  - E&E appeal end date is 9/25
  - List date 10/1
  - Please direct all inquiries to [civilservice@mass.gov](mailto:civilservice@mass.gov)
- Fire Chief Exam is still scheduled for 10/14/20.
- Fire Lieutenant and Captain Exam scheduled to occur on 11/21.
  - Application are still being accepted (thought 9/15).
  - Participating departments are encouraged to attach the posting certification and their eligibility form to the requisition.
  - Firefighter Entrance Exam is tentatively scheduled for last week of October/ First week of November
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  - Depends on availability of sites in Hanover, Wilmington, Reggie Lewis Center, Western Mass
  - Part of the entrance exam will be online as well as paper and pencil exam
    - HRD will be following the already excepted COVID protocols by the Command Center for the Police promotional exam which is slated Sept 19, 2020
  - Based on the fire candidate count we are looking at 5 to 6 days of administration of the exam two sessions a day
  - Administration and Finance is fully supportive of getting this entrance exam administered in a timely fashion
- Entry Level PAT is moving forward working Monday through Friday 7am – 6pm
  - Looking to add Saturday to the schedule
  - Second PAT site is on hold due to lack of raw steel to build props
- IAFC – Chief Stark
  - **ReIGNITE Virtual Conference Highlights**
    - ReIGNITE Virtual Conference will be held on October 19–22, 2020
    - One day of live-stream and on-demand education

focused on current EMS issues and topics on COVID-19 response. (October 19 – Fire-Rescue Med Education)

- Top-Quality FRI Education, Your Way
- Virtual Marketplace and Networking
- Connect Digitally with Your Peers
- Extended Access to Education and Resources
- It just keeps getting better—#VirtualFRI and ReIGNITE Digital Conference are FREE to attendees.

### **Unfinished Business**

- none

### **New Business**

- none

### **Remarks for the Good of the Association**

- Chief Robert Pedrazzi will retire, his last day is October 8<sup>th</sup>. The department will be having an open house at headquarters from 9-12 for those that want to stop by and wish him well.
- Mark McDonald, Greenwood Fire Apparatus – open house cancellation
- Donation can be made to Jack Grant and Mario's wife for their fund-raising efforts.

**Meeting Adjourn at:** 11:16 AM – 98 members attended

**Next regularly is scheduled meeting:**

October 21, 2020 – Virtual