

Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, Inc



MEETING: **General Membership**
TYPE: **Minutes**
DATE: **January 21, 2026, 1000 hours**
LOCATION: **Virtual Meeting**

The meeting opened at: 1000 hrs. by President, Chief Patrick Purcell

Sickness & Distress : none

Deaths:

- Chief Warren Ide Ret. New Bedford Fire Department

Previous Minutes Approval:

Minutes of the General Membership Holiday Luncheon meeting held December 17, 2025, distributed by email, were voted on for acceptance.

A motion was made and seconded,

Vote: **APPROVED**

The following applications were voted on for Membership –

- *Fire Chief Christopher Cesati, Haverhill Fire Department, recommended by Fire Chief John Weir, North Andover FD*
- *Assistant Fire Chief Brad Cronin, Avon Fire Department, recommended by Fire chief David Charest, Avon FD*

A motion was made and seconded,

Vote: **APPROVED**

Applications for Life Membership:

- *Fire Chief Timothy Smith, Falmouth Fire Department, recommended Chief JJ Burke, Sandwich FD*

A motion was made and seconded,
Vote: **APPROVED**

Chief Patrick Purcell – President

- President acknowledged that five letters of interest have been received and the Executive Board will be meeting to discuss the selection process
- President Purcell advised the member that the Board of Directors have agreed to an increase of dues commencing in FY27, the Board is recommending a \$50 increase for memberships except life and retired members
- Reminded members of the new Legal Defense Fund sign up
- Gave an update on the Worcester Retirement Board issue and that they have not responded to our FOIA request
- Spoke about a request from a reporter from The Shoestring looking for information about Balsa Bill on sprinklers, in particular asked about the recent Holyoke apartment fire. FCAM did not comment. An article was released.

Chief Brian Nardelli – 1st VP

- Chief Nardelli reminded members that the new Legal Defense Fund sign up went out by email and is prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year
- The IMT training scheduled to begin January 26 is expected to have a snowstorm then, will advise if a delay needs to happen
- Mentioned that our Legal Counsel recommends that Fire chief fill out a disclosure and submit it to appropriate people during the budget process.

Chief Christopher Norris – 2nd VP

- Chief Norris spoke on the presentation that DCF did to the Board, DCF has space available for local Fire setter Programs, Car Seat Programs, and other resources available for fire departments. DCF will be providing new Baby Safe Haven signs for departments
- The Board will be listening to Fire Responder Coaching, about what resources they have available for first responders and Chiefs
- Chief Norris along with Gad II Doherty testified on Beacon Hill on

Cistern Legislation at Senator Moore's request.

Chief Michael Kelleher- IPP

- Chief Kelleher mentioned that his department recently started using Fire Net, and they are very happy with it how it works

Secretary/Treasurer Chief Kevin Partridge, Ret.

Secretary Partridge reviewed various correspondence and information:

1. Christmas card from Paul Jacques PFFM Legislative Agent
2. Christmas Card from Amesbury FD
3. Lexipol Dividend was received in the amount of \$1,264.65
4. Lexipol has a program and information on Opioid Funding Justification Guide
5. A draft meeting schedule was put out
6. 100 Club thank you letter for our recent donation from the Christmas Luncheon 50/50 raffle
7. Thanked all the districts for donating to the PDC
8. CFSI Update (Sponsors- NFPA, possibles NextNav, NFSA)
9. He gave an Update the PDC
10. Mentioned that the Board is going to have a campaign to increase the 100 Club Memberships from FCAM members

Treasury –

Bank Balances as of January 20, 20265

Chase Bank:

- Checking \$ 1,000.00
- CD 1 4 mth-4286 \$139,850.54 maturity date 4-11-26
- CD 2 4 mth-4287 \$139,182.78 maturity date 4-11-26

Assets Chase Bank = \$279,033.32

BayCoast Bank:

- Checking Operating \$ 70,219.94
- Checking Legal Defense \$ 23,687.50
- Money Market \$ 263,682.13

Assets at BayCoast Bank = \$ 357,589.57

Quickbooks checking = \$ 17,365.24

Total assets: \$ 653,988.13

**A motion was made and seconded,
Vote: APPROVED**

Government Affairs Director- Chief Bill Scoble, Ret.

1. All of the 6 Senate Bills and 2 House Bills regarding the creation of a Public Safety Building Authority have been reported out of Committee favorably. We have never had any of these Bills progress this far.
2. There has been a lot of activity surrounding the Ambulance Reimbursement/Patients' Rights Bills. We've had several meetings with both the House and Senate Sponsors and their staff, and the national news had an interview with Senator Moore regarding his version of the Bill
 - a. There was a zoom meeting with Senator Moore and his staff to prepare for an interview with NBC Nightly News
 - b. There was a zoom meeting with the Ambulance Coalition regarding next steps
 - c. Bill Cass, Bill Megandahl and I had a zoom meeting with two staff members from Senator Cindy Friedman's Office (Senate Chair of Health Care Finance Committee, where the Bill now sits)
3. I accompanied Vice-President Norris and Hopkinton Chief Gary Daugherty to a Hearing of the Financial Services Committee to testify on a Bill to create a program to install cisterns in communities without water systems. We were requested to weigh in on the issue by Senator Moore who filed this Senate Companion Bill to coincide with one in the House filed by Speaker Pro-Tem Kate Hogan.
4. Several other Bills were reported out favorably including the Implementation of the Walsh-Kennedy Report, the creation of a PFAS mitigation fund, and one to create a local option real estate tax reduction for call/volunteer firefighters.
5. The Bill to transfer the oversight of OEMS from DPH to EOPSS has received a lot of attention from the Legislature recently.
6. Unfortunately, a Bill to study the "profession" of Emergency Management Directors has been reported out favorably. Leadership has been working to defeat this Bill.
7. After an article from a Western Mass reporter examining the lack of sprinklers following two fires in Holyoke, former Rep. Ruth Balsler reached out to me regarding the comments from the Senate President.

8. There is an event for Senate Chair of Ways and Means Mike Rodrigues on January 26th that members of the Executive Board will be attending.
9. The PAC Year-end report has been filed with the OCPF in accordance with State law. A PAC mailing will go out this year as it's an election year.
10. The Bristol County Legislative Clam Boil is scheduled for February 12th, and the Essex County Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for February 13th.
11. On-Site will be offering a Chiefs-only weekend on April 21-22. More details to follow.
12. CFSI is March 18th – 19th. Currently we have 57 Chiefs making the trip. The Breakfast will be in Room LJ-119 at 08:30.

State Fire Marshal – Jon Davine- not in attendance

1. Marshal Davine spoke on NERIS and that there are 284 departments on board and using the system, and there are 8 that still need to sign up for the system, the next steps are training for Derryl Dion on how to use the data. IMC is having some issues , please call Derryl Dion if you need assistance
2. National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFAM) has assigned John Wood from DFS to the Homelessness Training Initiative
3. Fire Equipment Grants for \$5 million will be out soon , there will be no extensions.
4. The Office has sent out information on Cold Sparklers to company that have been selling them in MA, New Bedford or Fall River FD's confiscated some at night clubs
5. Antonio Tavares has been selected as the Intel Analyst, he is working on FIFA, the Boston Marathon planning and will be pushing out intel briefs
6. There will be a fire investigator class in March
7. There still remains a hiring freeze, and DFs currently has 30 vacancies
8. Haz Mat and Special Ops resources will be involved in FIFA planning
9. Marshal reported that there was a fatal fire in Oakham this morning, there were 44 fatal fires in 2025, 90% were from residential fires

Reports of Committees

- **Civil Service** - Chief Greg Purcell read Chief Gentile's report,
- **District and Deputy Chief Exam**
 - Exam took place on **November 15**.
 - Scores released January 6
- **Lieutenant and Captain Exam**

- Application Period 1/5/2026-2/10/2026
- Exam Date of 4/7/2026
- **Fire Chief Exam**
 - Application Period opens in Marcg for June 6th Exam
- **Firefighter Revalidation Project**
 - ELPAT to be completed in Jan of 2026
 - Entry level lists for PD are now using high school graduates as a residency preference. You can go online and see what those look like.
- **Firefighter job analysis**
 - HRD will be releasing an online job survey for firefighters to fill out. The survey will take less than an hour to complete. A firefighter can log on start and stop and restart at any time. Those that complete the survey will receive an exam fee waiver for an HRD administered exam. Good for 5 years.
 - The survey data will be confidential and used solely for purposes of revalidation.
 - The job analysis will be incorporating revalidation for our entry level exam, upcoming revalidation of initial hire medical standards and the physical ability test (PAT).
- 67 Reports – due March 1st! Now's the time to update your 67 report and send in.
- In February, HRD Civil Service will be sending out an annual report of all Local Register/Cadet hires and hires from a certification (eligible list).
 - Note: hires from the local register/cadet program are capped at 50% of total hires.
- **IAFC** - No Report
- **Fire Mobilization** – November 29 Ambulance Strike Team 4A responded to Rockland for a fire in a rehab center needing evacuating
- **Tech Rescue** – No report
- **Haz Mat** – No Report
- **State 911** – No Report
- **Utilities**- Webinar on wildfire responses was well attended with 175
- **EMS**-
- **DEI**- Held their meeting and discussed the challenges Chiefs are facing, they are going to work on a video for recruitment that will be shared with Chiefs.
- **Mass Fire Training Council** – MFA launched an automated system for when filing recruit application, the system will auto reply that it is received, they are presenting it to the MFTC .

- **Mass Fire Service Commission- no report**

There was question in the Chat: Is there going to be any restrictions on the grants regarding communities that have not accepted the MBTA Zoning legislation.

The Marshal stated , yes if your community has not complied you will not be eligible.

Unfinished Business : None

New Business : None

Remarks for the Good of the Association

- President Purcell will be attending the Governors State of the State

Next regularly is scheduled General Membership meeting

- February 24-26, 2026 PDC
- March 11, 2026 Tommy Doyle's Sidelines, Brockton

Adjourn at: 1053 hours