

MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DISTRICT FOURTEEN

MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 2026, 9:00 AM
Hudson Fire Department

Present:

A/Chief Murphy	Chief Young	Chief Robie	Chief McPherson	Chief Ward
Chief Lawless	A/Chief Kelley	A/Chief Ripley	Chief Whitney	Deputy Doucet
Chief Choate	A/Chief Gordon	A/Chief Schultz	Deputy Harrington	Chief Desautels
Deputy DeTore	Chief Colby	Deputy Weigold		

Absent:

Acton	Boxborough	Bellingham	Hopedale	Marlborough	Stow
Natick	Northborough	Weston	Carlisle	Hopkinton	Southborough

Meeting called to order at 9:05 AM

- Acceptance of April minutes. Motion was made by Chief McPherson, seconded by A/Chief Ripley and voted unanimously to accept the April minutes as presented.

MEMA Update

- Justin Shrair provided updates on the New England Preparedness Summit: Navigating the Storm Together. The Northeast Emergency Management Training and Education Center (NEMTEC) is sponsoring the summit on September 9th and 10th in Worcester at the DCU Center, hosted by MEMA. The goals are to strengthen partnerships, share knowledge, and enhance preparedness capabilities across the region. The MEMA Planning Committee is seeking proposals and suggestions for topics or speakers. Registration link is NEMTEC.eventbrite.com.
- Information is continuously gathered for public safety purposes regarding FIFA watch parties. Local coordinators are seeking information on public gatherings with a site capacity or expected daily attendance of 1,000 people or more.

Treasurer

- Chief McPherson presented the May Treasurer's Report. He shared that the portfolio is running at a low-risk return of approximately 3.8%. Motion made by A/Chief Ripley, seconded by Chief Ward, and voted unanimously to accept the May Treasurer's report as read.

Submitted Committee Report Questions or Comments

- Chief Colby shares that NERAC has switched to full overtime rate for reimbursement, increasing costs for recurring reimbursements. District 14 was approved for \$32,000 for training, the same funding received last year, despite anticipating higher costs. The northeast technical rescue team has reduced their number of drills due to being funded through NERAC.
- \$14,836 was received for Swiftwater equipment, including 8 complete sets of PPE (dry suits, rope, etc.). The Tech Team and Dive Team plan to work and train together on this equipment, with the Tech Team currently having 12 Swiftwater certified individuals.

Old Business

- The next monthly meeting will be held on Friday, June 12th, at Firefly's, instead of the typical day, as June 19th is a holiday. Dianne will send out an RSVP request to all members and retirees to get a headcount.
- I Am Responding teams updated lists have only been received from the Tech Team and Comms Team. FIT, CISM, IMAT and Dive need to submit current lists (including name, cell phone, and carrier) to ensure the correct texts are received.
- Chief Young states that there is no update regarding Car 14 at this time.

New Business

- Chief Choate raises a concern regarding the Fire Academy's non-compliance with the state OEMS policy requiring affiliation with an EMS agency. The EMS coordinator (Mr. O'Neill) proposed a plan for the Fire Academy to become an affiliated licensed EMS service. The proposal is currently blocked by non-firefighter members of the Training Council's policy committee who are reportedly seeking to eliminate the EMS position and replace it with "safety person" providing only first aid, which is below the BLS minimum level required by NFPA for live-fire training. Much discussion ensued but the group will wait to see the formal policy proposal from the Training Council before taking an official position.
- A/Chief Ripley shares that Wayland lacks a Hearings Officer, preventing the use of citations for fire prevention and code enforcement. He proposed establishing a shared, district-wide Hearings Officer, which would be a cost-effective and more proficient model given the infrequent need for the position in individual communities. The Hearings Officer would hear appeals for citations written under 527 (up to \$2,000 fine) for fire and building code violations. The stipend for a municipal appearance officer is traditionally \$2,500. Money collected from the citation is legally required to go back to fire correction-related training.

- A/Chief Ripley will conduct further investigation into a shared resource model, acquire an implementation document from a successful district, and bring a formal plan to the next meeting.
- A thank you was extended by Chief Lawless to Chief Purcell on his retirement from the FCAM president position.
- Our next meeting is at Firefly's in Marlborough on Friday, June 12, 2026.

Chief McPherson makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chief Choate and voted unanimously to accept.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Arsenault
Coordinator