



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES  
RICHARD W. MILLER  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

STEVE ARWOOD  
DIRECTOR

**MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL**  
3101 Technology Blvd., Suite H  
Lansing, Michigan

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
April 9, 2013  
1:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Brian Blomstrom, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association  
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Fire Fighter Union  
Timothy James, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs  
Richard Miller, State Fire Marshal, Council Member ex-Officio  
Steve Richardson, Michigan State Firemen's Association  
David Purchase, Michigan Municipal League/Michigan Townships Association

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**BFS STAFF PRESENT**

Joseph Grütza, OFFT, Director  
BreeAnn Hooker, Recording Secretary  
Gary Crum, Region 2 Supervisor  
Michael Deprez, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Lt. James Edwards, Detroit Fire Department  
Lt. Robert Stokes, Detroit Fire Department  
Lt. Alfie Green, Detroit Fire Department  
Chief Orlando Gregory, Detroit Fire Department  
Patrick Nahgahgwon, Saginaw Chippewa Fire Department  
Raymond Wlosinski, Training Coordinator  
Dennis Haisma, Grand Rapids Fire Department  
Matthew Majestic, Oakland Fire Training Institute

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Vice-Chairperson James called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was determined present.

An overview of safety policies and procedures were given by Richard Miller.

## **2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilperson Blomstrom requested to add FF I and II Curriculum update in FY 2014 under Old Business.

Councilperson James requested an update to the Leadership I/II/III curriculum under New Business.

Councilperson Pettinger had a request on Live Burn Training, under New Business.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom to approve the meeting agenda as amended. **MOTION CARRIES.**

## **3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Pettinger and seconded by Councilperson Richardson to approve the regular meeting minutes on February 12, 2013. **MOTION CARRIES.**

## **4. INSTRUCTOR APPLICATIONS**

Staff presented the following Instructor applications for the Council's consideration:

- (15) Certified Instructor I
- (18) Probationary Associate Instructors
- (4) Probationary Instructor I
- (8) Certified Associate Instructor
- (5) Certified Instructors

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Richardson to approve the instructor applications as submitted. **MOTION CARRIES.**

## **5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Joseph Grutza**

### **Activities Report:**

February 21, 2013 Michigan Joint Fire Service Council Meeting, Lansing  
February 22, 2013 Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs Winter Conference, Midland  
February 22, 2013 Retirement Ceremony, John "Bucky" Robinson, St. Ignace  
March 28, 2013 Fireworks Vendor Meeting, GOB, Lansing  
April 4, 2013 Ingham County Fire Fighter Graduation, Mason

### **Instructor I Courses:**

The first Instructor I course for 2013 was held in Negaunee on March 15, 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2013. There were eleven students, nine successfully completed the examination and the remaining two will be invited to retake the test at a future class. Applications are being

accepted for the June 7, 8, 9, 15, and 16, at Lansing Community College. The rest of the 2013 schedule is September 16 - 20 Schoolcraft Community College and November 1, 2, 3, 9, and 10, Kalamazoo Twp. Station 4.

### **IAFF Fire Ground Survival Program**

OFFT staff is completing the IAFF Fire Ground Survival Online Program. The staff is impressed with the material so far. Once the online portion is completed, staff will work with Chris Lake to review the hands-on portion and keep Council updated.

## **6. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT – Richard Miller**

### **SAFER Council**

Nothing new to report, their next meeting will be in the next week or two.

### **Underground Storage Tanks/Aboveground Storage Tanks**

The Bureau will be paying for these regional offices through the end of the fiscal year. We are hoping to move them into home offices in the near future.

### **State Fire Safety Board**

Our fireworks season is ramping up in the next week or two.

### **Fireworks**

At a recent stakeholders meeting with the fireworks vendors, the biggest push from the vendors is to see a 24 hour hotline, which we are currently working on. After hours enforcement is also being requested. There are a number of certified sellers paying their safety fees while other groups are selling fireworks and not registering with the State nor paying their taxes and fees. Ticket books have been printed and each of our inspectors will have those to hand out violations. Our office doesn't have the manpower to track down these individuals/companies who are avoiding paying their safety fees by opening a new business with a different name. We are working with the Attorney General's office to close this loophole. Councilperson Purchase gave an update on the Fireworks Legislation; Representative Stamas' office stated a supplemental bill was coming out that they were trying to attach the fireworks safety fee to the MFFTC for fire fighter training. However, there were some problems with bringing the supplemental back to the Senate for approval. We are hoping to have the funding available to the Bureau in the next 3 weeks. The Bill itself, through Representative Haugh, is in the developmental stage and will include language to guarantee 100% of the safety fees to the Office of Fire Fighter Training. That bill should be introduced within the week and pushed through as soon as possible. Councilperson Purchase will inquire about the delegation fee and give an update in a timely fashion as well.

## **Bureau Updates**

Michael Deprez is our newest staff member. He has been handling numerous issues within the Bureau including the AST/UST program, uncollected tank revenues as well as software issues.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

### **Everyone Goes Home - Director Grutza**

There have been 20 Everyone Goes Home courses conducted in 2012/2013. Two of the twenty were in conjunction with a fire fighter I and II course. The National Fallen Fire Fighter Foundation has asked that we formalize our agreement with their organization and sign a Memorandum of Understanding. If agreed to sign the agreement, the document will be forwarded to the fire marshal for his approval.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase to recommend approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Fire Services and the National Fallen Fire Fighter Foundation as amended and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom. **MOTION CARRIES.**

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Pettinger to make the Everyone Goes Home program mandatory for fire fighter I and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase to postpone, supported by Councilperson James. Councilpersons Pettinger, Richardson and Blomstrom oppose. **MOTION DEFEATED.**

The original **MOTION** was withdrawn by Councilperson Pettinger and support was withdrawn by Councilperson Blomstrom.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Pettinger to table and address at the June 11, 2013 MFFTC meeting for the review and mandatory implementation of the Everyone Goes Home program in fire fighter I program for FY 2014 and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom. **MOTION CARRIES.**

### **HMEP Funding Report – Director Grutza**

Council was given a report on the current HMEP fund balance. Counties were given a deadline of June 1, 2013 to encumber the funds.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### **Fire Fighter I and II Curriculum – Councilperson Blomstrom**

Councilperson Blomstrom noted that the Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association (MSFIA) executive board inquired why the OFFT had made the decision to adopt the 2013 NFPA 1001 standard for fiscal year 15 and not earlier. They also inquired about the possible adoption of the Fire Engineering Fire Fighter I and II curriculum. Director Grutza responded that our current publications are still receiving comments on their new editions and once they are completed a new test bank would need to be purchased. Test questions will need to be verified for all adopted curriculums before adoption of the 2013 standard. Director Grutza stated he had not seen the new Fire Engineering FF I and II curriculum and will report to Council once that is received. It will be necessary for the Council to take action by April, 2014 in order to implement the new training standard by FY 15.

### **Request for Instructor I Reciprocity: Michael Manchester**

Michael Manchester has submitted documentation requesting that he be given reciprocity for Instructor I. Since the request is outside the guidelines as established under the Instructor policy, the request requires Council approval. His qualifications have been reviewed and presented to Council. It is the Directors recommendation that the Council approve Instructor I reciprocity request.

Discussion was held on submitted documentation.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase to approve Michael Manchester for Instructor I reciprocity and seconded by Councilperson Richardson. **MOTION CARRIES.**

### **Regional Training Center (RTC) Report**

A letter was sent to all RTC's requesting they submit an annual by February 1, 2013. Lansing Community College, Delta Community College, Macomb Fire and Emergency Training Center, Northwest Regional Fire Training Center, Wayne Community College District and Oakland Fire Training Institute have submitted their reports. Kirkland Community College, Alpena Community College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Lake Superior State University, Muskegon Community College, Schoolcraft Community College, St. Clair County Community College, Grand Rapids Fire Regional Training Center and Detroit Fire Academy have not submitted their annual report. Under the requirements for maintaining RTC status, each RTC is responsible to submit an annual report and keep their contact information and advisory board membership current. Councilperson James is recommending that we enforce the policy and ask the RTC's to submit their annual report and update their information prior to the June 1, 2013 meeting.

## **Leadership I/II/III Update**

Vice Chairperson James expressed his concerns with the status of the Leadership I, II and III curriculums especially if the latest editions are being used and if the Bureau of Fire Service website reflects the most current information. Curriculum specialist Paula Brzezinski reported that the latest editions are available and the updates on the website will be made.

## **Request for Live Burn Training**

Councilperson Pettinger reported that many fire departments are operating with fewer personnel and new fire fighters are being placed on the job without adequate live fire training experience. She stated that this lack of live fire training is at a critical point and the MFFTC should take action. She suggested utilization of a portion of the fireworks safety fees be used to assist departments in getting the live fire training. In a real live fire situation, it is essential that everyone knows how to do basic search and rescue.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Pettinger to allocate funds for live burn training and seconded by Councilperson James.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase to table and address this at the June meeting and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger. **MOTION CARRIES.**

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Detroit Fire Lt. Green inquired about Instructor I requirements and is seeking clarification on the process. He expressed concern with too frequent changes and variances from the established policy.

Oakland County Fire Training Institute Director Matthew Majestic provided information on their live burn/tower class and its cost to run. He requested to be kept updated on the implementation of the instructor's continuing education credit requirements for Instructors. He also noted the difficulty their RTC and others are having filling their FF I and II academies

Detroit Fire Lt. Stokes inquired about the potential expiration of instructor status. Director Grutza reported that the three year cycle for achieving Instructor CEC's will not begin until the Information Management System is ready to accept the data.

Detroit Fire Chief Gregory expressed his disappointment with the oversight by the Detroit Fire Academy in submitting their annual report and stated it will be done ASAP. He expressed his support for the Everyone Goes Home program. He agreed that caution be taken when dealing with variances to the reciprocity process for Instructor I.

**10. COUNCIL COMMENT**

Councilperson Pettinger voiced appreciation for the public coming to the meetings, the input is valued. Councilpersons Richardson, Purchase and James all echoed those sentiments. Councilperson Blomstrom commended curriculum specialist Brzezinski's website work. Vice-Chairperson James scheduled a day long work session to work on the rules. The Council will meet at 9:00 am on May 6, 2013, at 3101 Technology Boulevard, Lansing.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Pettinger and seconded by Councilperson Richardson to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIES**. The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

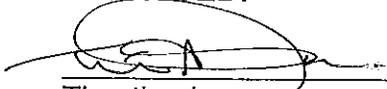
**NEXT MEETING**

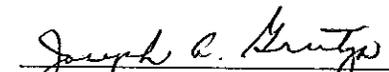
**June 11, 2013, @ 1:30 p.m.**

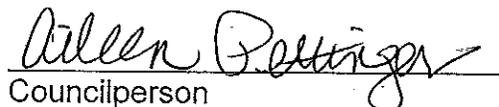
Location:

3101 Technology Blvd, Suite H, Lansing, Michigan 48910

**APPROVED:**

  
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Timothy James  
Vice-Chairperson

  
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Joseph A. Director Grutza, Director  
Office of Fire Fighter Training

  
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Aileen Pettinger  
Councilperson