



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 48910

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2014

1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson Timothy James, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Vice Chairperson David Purchase, Michigan Municipal League/Michigan Townships Assn.
Brian Blomstrom, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
Steve Richardson, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Chad Tackett, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs

MEMBERS ABSENT

Richard Miller, State Fire Marshal, Council Member ex-Officio (joined via teleconference)

BFS STAFF PRESENT

Joseph Grutza, FFTD, Manager
BreeAnn Hooker, Recording Secretary
Paula Brzezinski, Curriculum Specialist

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Matthew Majestic, Oakland Community College
Ray Wlosinski, Fire Fighter Training Division
Andy Steeby, Wayne County Community College
Greg Kowalski, Wayne County Community College
Jacob McGill, Ingham County Tanker Task Force
Bob Phillips, Macomb Township Fire Department
James Edwards, Detroit Fire Department
Dan Oberst, Lansing Fire Department
Mark Cleveland, Egelston Fire Department
Martin Erskine, Battle Creek Fire Department
Kevin Sehmeyer, Grand Rapids Fire Department

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

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

Richard Miller joins us via teleconference while he attends the NFPA conference.

2. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Request to move the request for Closed Hearing on Disciplinary Action until after public comment.

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

3. **APPROVAL of MINUTES**

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Tackett and seconded by Councilperson Richardson to approve the April 2, 2014 Study Session minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIES.**

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to approve the April 2, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIES.**

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Richardson and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom to approve the May 15, 2014 Special Meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIES.**

4. **APPLICATIONS for INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL - Manager Grutza**

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

- (17) Certified Instructor I
- (15) Probationary Associate Instructors
- (1) Probationary Instructor I
- (10) Certified Associate Instructor

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to approve the instructors as presented. **MOTION CARRIES.**

- (6) Certified Instructor II

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Tackett and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom to deny the application submitted by James Edwards for Instructor II certification. **MOTION CARRIES.**

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Pettinger and seconded by Councilperson Richardson to deny the application submitted by Alfie Green for Instructor II certification. **MOTION CARRIES.**

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Richardson to approve the application submitted by Michael R. Harper for Instructor II certification. **MOTION CARRIES.**

It is clarified that you must have been a member of a fire department within the last five (5) years since being a member of a fire department.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom to table the application submitted by Gary Kautz for Instructor II certification pending additional information. **MOTION CARRIES.**

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Tackett to approve the application submitted by Michael Thomas Kennedy for Instructor II certification. **MOTION CARRIES.**

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Pettinger and seconded by Councilperson Purchase to deny the application submitted by Robert L. Stokes for Instructor II certification. **MOTION CARRIES.**

5. MANAGER'S REPORT – Manager Grutza

Manager Grutza briefs the Council of a meeting regarding the Training Coordinator budget between the finance division, Rich and Joe. There is \$70,000 but only \$43,000 allocated, based on prior years average and Fire Marshal Miller confirms he does not have it elsewhere in his budget to supplement that difference.

A "Police Response to Fire Emergencies" class was held by Michigan State Police. Concerns were raised at the last meeting as to whether or not this was an acceptable class. Manager Grutza reviews the email correspondence, as well as the syllabus and test questions given. MIOSHA was contacted who reviewed the information and deemed it "acceptable". The relationship the MFFTC has with MCOLES needs to be improved and both groups need to work together, it was suggested that if a class like this runs in the future that the fire service be informed. Councilperson Pettinger is concerned with the description of the class, while the test is appreciated, she recalls the New York City police officers where one perished in April of this year, and doesn't want anyone, especially police officers injured or dying in a fire. Councilperson Pettinger penned a letter intended for MCOLES to be reviewed by the Chairperson for his review with his endorsement sought before sending to the intended entity.

There was a massive rush to get Administrative Rules approved under this Administration. As far as we know, we are in line and it waits on Liz Arasim's desk before going to the Legislative Services Bureau.

Three separate vendors will be attending the Curriculum Committee meeting on August 19th and displaying their products. Test banks have been purchased and Paula is awaiting Department approval for out-of-state travel. Scanners have been ordered but finance is waiting for the signed meeting minutes showing the approval of the Council to finalize the purchasing process. Paula is awaiting approval to travel out of state before she finalizes her enrollment to the training.

The AFG grant is checked twice a week to see if it has been approved. 26 departments in Michigan have received their grants and only 1 state has received the AFG grant since April 1.

6. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT – Fire Marshal Miller

Open positions for Fire Inspector for Region 4, which is north of Gaylord. Secretary position has been posted to fill Anna Swanson's position who took a promotion with MDOT, as well as a student position.

Public Assemblage/Ad Hoc committee had their first meeting on May 27th.

At the end of the month, the Michigan State Fireman's Association will be rolling out the SAFE program (Smoke Alarms for Everyone), more details forthcoming.

Councilperson Pettinger requests the Attorney General opinion, State Fire Marshal Miller denies it and Councilperson Purchase states it will be requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum Committee- Councilperson Blomstrom reviews various issues covering the last two meetings. Discussion of central storage file facility, videos and Company Officer program. Online access and 2 sets of videos are in the process of being purchased. The videos will be purchased in the event internet access is not available.

Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association will provide 15G or more of hard drive space and will take all classes offered through the Office of Fire Fighter Training and make it available to all instructors. The secretary of the organization will have to be contacted since it will be password protected but easily accessed. It is requested that Fire Marshal Miller look into whether or not a Memorandum of Understanding is needed to acknowledge a partnership revolving around this working relationship.

Involving recommendation #6, which requested adoption of a 75 second time limit for the SCBA Station 2 practical examination. Chairperson James requests defensible analysis to support putting out a standard that isn't defensible before an endorsement is made on this standard from the stand point of testing criteria.

Vice Chairperson Purchase inquires if there is money to pay for a test bank and to pay training coordinators for FY 2015 for the Company Officer course. Fire Marshal Miller states there is not. Now knowing the budget concerns today, it is acknowledged that recommendation 10,

which would implement an FFTD conducted Company Officer course examination, will be challenging and will need to be revisited.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Tackett to accept Recommendations 7, 8 and 9 from the curriculum committee. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Curriculum Committee minutes were placed on file.

8. OLD BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

Fire Safety Fund Elective Grant Applications

14.23

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom to approve the elective grant application for \$5,000 by Manistee County Firefighters Association for purchase of a proposed training facility. **MOTION CARRIES.**

14.34

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Richardson to deny the elective grant application by Salem Township Fire Department to purchase training equipment for rope rescue. **MOTION CARRIES.** Councilperson Tackett abstains from voting as a member of the team.

14.50

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to deny the elective grant application based on lack of information from Kentwood Fire Department. **MOTION CARRIES.**

14.46

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom to approve the Allegan County Agriculture Extrication class for \$6,000. **MOTION CARRIES.**

A review of the elective grant budget and the recommendation that no other grants be awarded until the August meeting, when it is better understood how much money is left.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and supported by Councilperson Tackett to rescind the authorization of paying for the Attorney General bill for the opinion reflecting the expenses of the fireworks fund. **MOTION CARRIES.**

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chief James Edwards of Detroit Fire Department appreciates the standards for Instructor II, asked for point of reference for requirements and questioned how the public was notified. Manager Grutza stated Instructor II requirements are stated on the application. Grutza will review future requests to assure applicants understand the requirements.

Matthew Majestic, Oakland Community College, raised concerns with the Region Supervisor over the last couple of weeks regarding student confidentiality, expressing concern regarding any instructor or person being able to look up a course summary for any class. Grutza reported that the BFS/FFTD Information Management System is an open system and critical information such as social security numbers is not available.

Public comment question to Rich as to when Joe is going to be replaced. Fire Marshal Miller states that it is a civil service position and they are not going to pay for two positions at one time. He will attempt to be proactive and start the process sooner. Councilperson Purchase states that it would be nice to know whether or not he will be replaced. Fire Marshal Miller did not respond.

11. Request for Closed Hearing on Disciplinary Action – Chairperson James

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Richardson and supported by Councilperson Purchase to meet in closed session under section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act, to address a disciplinary action upon an approved Instructor. **MOTION CARRIES.**

The regular session resumed at 5:10 p.m. Chairperson James indicated that the Council had completed a Disciplinary Hearing and asked Council if they were ready to make a MOTION regarding that Hearing.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger that we modify the penalty established through the investigation of Mr. Phillips suspension be modified from two years to six months. **MOTION CARRIES.**

12. COUNCIL COMMENT

Position of Council is that the law must be upheld until it may or may not be changed.

Councilperson Purchase stresses his new understanding of the work the Region Supervisors put in for running the Instructor I program.

13. ADJOURNMENT – Chairperson James

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson James and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIES.** The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

August 12, 2014 @ 1:30 p.m.

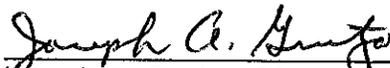
Location:

3101 Technology Blvd, Suite H, Lansing, Michigan 48910

APPROVED:



Timothy James
Chairperson



Joseph A. Grutza, Manager
Fire Fighter Training Division



Brian K. Blanton
Councilperson