



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

**MINUTES**  
**MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

Friday, December 4, 2020  
1:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88142818550?pwd=YXl3UE9UU0ZzV3B5V0p4V0c1L0ExUT09>

Password: **vyv0K1**

Phone: (866) 390-1828 (US Toll Free)

Conference Code: 394127

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chad Tackett, Chairperson, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs  
Brian Blomstrom, Vice Chair, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association  
Alan Styles, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs  
Lynnae White, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society  
Terrance Blackmer, Michigan State Firemen's Association  
Greg Janik, Michigan Municipal League  
Jacob Steichen, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal  
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union  
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:**

Dan Hammerbrg, Region 1 Coordinator, Fire Fighter Training Division  
Andrea Keown, Department Technician, Fire Fighter Training Division/Recording Secretary  
Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal (virtual meeting moderator)

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Alfie Green, Detroit Fire Department	David Feichtner, Springfield Twp. Fire Department
Andy Down, Long lake Twp. Fire Department	David Pelton, Walker Fire Department
Barry Narrin, Otter Lake Fire & Resuce	David Platz, Holly Fire Department
Bill Parker, Blair Twp./Northwest RTC	Derek Smith, Long Lake Rescue/Almira Twp. Fire & EMS
Bill Priese, Meridian Twp. Fire Department	Don Drent, Northeast Ingham Emergency Serivices Authority
Brandon Cory, Marquette City Fire Department	Doug Borgeois, Beaver Creek Fire Department
Brian Marquardt, Eastpoint Fire Department	Jack White, Shelby-Benona Fire Department
Brian Sipe, Grand Haven Twp. Fire Department	Jeffrey Hughes, Crockery Twp. Fire Department
Bryan Kukla, Frankenlust Twp. Fire Department	Jeff Johnson, Novi Fire Department
Cameron Pichan, Detroit Fire Department	Jerry Becker, Harrison Community Fire Department
Charlie Noonan, Troy Fire Department	Jesse Marcotte, Northville Twp. Fire Department
Cindy Conrad, South Lyon Fire Department	Jim Stevenson, Warren Fire Department
Colin Morrow, Jackson Fire Department	Jon Roberts, Berkley Department of Public Service
Corey Miller, Berkley Dept. Of Public Safety	
Dan Besson, Leland Twp. Fire Department	

Jon Stone, Stanton Twp. Fire Department  
John Martin, Novi Fire Department  
John Pender, Orion Twp. Fire Department  
John VanCoillie, Albert Twp/Lewiston Fire Department  
Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department  
Justen Diaz, Memphis Fire Department  
Kurt Corradi, Bay City Fire Department  
Kurt Grover, St. Clair Shore Fire Department  
Liam Carroll, Schoolcraft College RTC  
Mark Cleveland, Egelston Twp. Fire Department  
Mark Fankhauser, Grand Rapids Fire Department  
Matt Majestic, Oakland Community College  
Matt Samhat, Northville Fire Department  
Michael Yanz, NIESA  
Mike Gregorich, Marquette Twp. Fire Department  
Mike Keefe, Allendale Fire Department  
Mike Koehler, Troy Fire Department

Nick Miller, Hamburg Twp. Fire Department  
Paul Hapke, Fennville Area Fire Department  
Paul Vosburg, Kalamazoo Airport Fire Department  
Rob Ginther, Beverly Hills Dept. Of Public Safety  
Robert Smith, Dexter Area Fire Department  
Scott Harkes, Allendale Twp. Fire Department  
Sean Canto, Rochester Hills Fire Department  
Shawn Allen, Sterling Heights Fire Department  
Steve Dalton, Clinton Twp. Fire Department  
Steve Rynbrandt, Clio Area Fire Department  
Steven McKellar, Plainfield Twp. Fire Department  
Terrance Chesney, Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union  
Thea Dornbush, Muskegon Twp. Fire Department  
Timothy Seal, North Oakland County Fire Authority  
William Engelter, Lansing Fire Department

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:**

Before **Chairperson Tackett** called the regular meeting to order, he announced a roll call vote will be done for any motion put forth to council during this meeting and read a virtual meeting introduction advising of the procedures for the meeting, public comment, and the steps that would be taken if the meeting were disconnected.

**Chairperson Tackett** called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM, a roll call was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – present  
Councilperson Blomstrom – absent  
Councilperson Styles – present  
Councilperson White – absent (present at 1:05 PM)  
Councilperson Blackmer – absent (present at 1:20 PM)  
Councilperson Janik – present  
Councilperson Steichen – present  
Councilperson Pettinger – present  
Fire Marshal Sehmeyer – present

A quorum was determined present.

#### **II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**20-12-03**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and seconded by **Councilperson Janik** to approve the December 4, 2020 regular meeting agenda, as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – yes  
Councilperson White – absent  
Councilperson Blackmer – absent  
Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehmeyer – yes

Seven votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**20-12-04**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and seconded by **Councilperson Janik** to amend the agenda to reflect a 1:00 PM start time.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – yes  
Councilperson White –yes  
Councilperson Blackmer – absent  
Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehmeyer - yes

Eight votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**20-12-05**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to approve the following minutes with **Councilperson White** and **Councilperson Pettinger's** grammatical edits:

November 10, 2020 Regular Meeting

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – yes  
Councilperson White –yes  
Councilperson Blackmer – absent  
Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehmeyer - yes

Eight votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**IV. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Fire Marshal Sehmeyer:** has received several phone calls and had several conversations about mental and behavioral health initiatives in the state. These phones calls stem from the Wednesday Wrap-Up's as well as the recent suicide of a 25-year veteran of the Detroit Fire Department. There have also been two line of duty deaths in the last 15 days, so there will be a lot of conversation going forth.

**Councilperson Janik:** received correspondence from the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC).

**Councilperson Pettinger:** received inquiries about accommodations for people with learning disabilities during HazMat tests. Spoke with Dan Hammerberg and he answered some questions for State Representative Paquette's office. The fire marshal and I met with Saint Clair Shores via Zoom in regard to officer classes and also I have communicated with several people about behavioral health as well as the recent suicide in Detroit.

**Councilperson Blomstrom:** over the last six weeks, I have had conversations regarding mental

health as well. There was some discussion among the instructor board with some questions as to Instructor I as well as the payment to the training coordinators while teaching that course. I spoke with fire marshal about it and will be drafting a response to our organization based on that conversation.

**Chairperson Tackett:** received a letter from MAFC as well, will forward it out to the group concluding this meeting. Also, I received a couple inquiries of the agendas not being online. I forwarded that request to Hollie and Andrea to see if we can get the agendas online earlier than what we have been.

**Councilperson Steichen:** reached out to several of the RTC coordinators regarding the discussion from last meeting that revolved around live fire to vet their needs and how they see things going in the future. I believe that live fire training, especially in the northern regions, is a priority and we are going to work towards bettering the access to live fire training.

**Councilperson White:** received a call from President Kyle Svoboda from Michigan Fire Inspector Society (MFIS), he assured me that I will be receiving better communication from the MFIS going forward.

#### V. **STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:**

Fire marshal started out by welcoming the Jackson County High School Fire Academy. He then acknowledged the two line of duty deaths that happened in November. On November 17, 2020, Captain Joe Gallow of Blissfield Township Fire Department and on November 19, 2020, Michael Buitendorp of the Grant Township Fire Department.

- a) **Region Coordinator Position:** The position is being posted as of December 4, 2020 and closes on December 10, 2020 at 5:00 PM. To view the job posting and apply go to [www.michigan.gov/mdcs](http://www.michigan.gov/mdcs) (MDCS = Michigan Dept. of Civil Service) and click on "State Jobs".
- b) **Revised Course Summary (Handouts):** Fire marshal provided council with handouts for FY21 to give an idea of how courses are going so far in the first quarter fiscal year.
- c) **Deadline to Encumber FY21 County Funding:** Fire marshal reminded the county training chairs that the deadline to encumber all county funds is December 31, 2020. Any money that has not been encumbered at the county level will be returned to the training council.
- d) **Draft FFTC Rules Update:** We are continuing to move through the rules process at LARA. The Regulatory Impact Statement and Cost Benefit Analysis was just completed and is waiting on any clarifications needed from MOAHR. If approved, MOAHR will notify JCAR and a Notice of Public Hearing is prepared and sent to MOAHR, who again will notify JCAR. Everyone will get notice of the public hearing, either by newspaper or by GovDelivery. For more information on the Rulemaking Process click [here](#).
- e) **Legislative Updates:**
  - 1) **"Lame" lame duck:** Anything legislative wise must be taken care of or taken up and voted on by December 31, 2020. If there is no movement on legislation then all the Bills introduced since January 1, 2019 go away and we start over on January 1, 2021 during a new two (2) year legislative session. Some of the things to consider for the next legislative session is that everyone is up for re-election two years from January.
  - 2) Bills to watch that may come up during lame duck:
    - i. **HB 4792 – Unattended Fueling:** All of the fire groups, as well as the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) have come out against that Bill. We need to ensure the safety of the fueling public as well as the community at large.
    - ii. **HB 6148 – O'Malley Bill to amend PA 390 of 1976, the Emergency Management Act:** This would take emergency management out of the Michigan State Police and move it into its own agency.

- iii. HB 4063 - Cancer Presumption Bill: Was approved by the Insurance committee to include paid on call and volunteer firefighters and moved to the Ways and Means Committee. MPFU is trying to get it on the agenda to include breast, ovarian, and cervical cancer as well as retirees from when they retire from the fire department to when they are eligible for Medicare.
- f) **eNFIRS Update:** Still some issues with third-part Software providers., Please remember on third party software NFIRS data transfers, just because the email subject line says "Data Transfer" does not mean that your data uploaded to the NFIRS site. Please go to the last page of the whole email to see how much data was uploaded. Many of the third-party software that a lot of the departments are using around the state have work that needs to be done to align with the rules of what NFIRS will allow to allow your fire reports go into the system. Third-party users can now upload data, just not massive files and not all at one time. If you are an eNFIRS user or you use the free federal NFIRS software, that is up and running.
- 1) **Wednesday Wrap-Up:** The next Wrap-Up is on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 4:00 PM. They will continue after the holidays and will host monthly Zoom calls at 7:00pm.
- g) **It's Friday with MI Prevention:** The second edition will be held on Friday, December 11, 2020 at 2:00 PM via Zoom. The topic this time will be carbon monoxide.
- h) **2020 Fatal Fires:** As of December 4, 2020, there have been 112 fire related deaths in the state.
- i) **Upcoming Training:**
- 1) Instructor Orientations will be held on December 22, 2020 and January 1, 2021 from 6:00pm-10:00 PM.
  - 2) Instructor I Update will be held on January 5, 2021 from 6:00-10:00 PM. In order to attend the update you MUST be Instructor II Certified and have taken the Michigan Fire Instructor I class.
  - 3) Fire Officer I & Fire Officer II Train-the-Trainers have three sessions in the new year. January 21, 2021 from 12:00-5:00 PM, February 9, 2021 from 6:00-11:00 PM, and March 11, 2021 from 12:00-5:00PM. There will be more sessions scheduled throughout the year. In order to attend the Train-the-Trainer you MUST be certified in the following:
    - Fire Officer I (E01A or E01B)
    - Fire Officer II (E02A or E02B)
 or
    - Company Officer I and II series (O21A)
 and be certified as a
    - Certified Fire Instructor I (O54A)

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier gave a summary of the accomplishments the BFS, with the help of the MFFTC was able to complete this year.

- BFS implemented the brand new Fire Instructor I curriculum.
- Provided refresher training to 70 people for the HO7C Instructor I course update so those instructors may continue to teach Fire Instructor I.
- Updated the Fire Instructor I exam to the latest NFPA 1041 Standard.
- We now have the capability in the State of Michigan to do Fire Fighter I & II courses virtually.
- We ran a pilot course and released the new Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II curriculum.
- We are currently developing the Fire Officer III with a target date of having the Train-the-Trainers up and running by February 1, 2021.

#### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) **FY21 Returned County Allocations:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier explained in Public Act 291, that any money returned after January 1<sup>st</sup>, that council may reallocated those funds. At the special

work group meeting, it was determined that the council would like to do some things with mental health and worked to break the state into 27 regions. Council spoke about how as the funds are returned, it would be distributed in \$27,000.00 increments, meaning each region would receive \$1,000.00 every time the bureau receives \$27,000.00 in unencumbered funds. Each of the 27 regions will have to establish a fiduciary that would accept that money on behalf of said region. It will also have to be one of the county training chairpersons of that area because they are already established in the bureau's system for accepting payments. There are currently 7 courses available, however any new mental and behavioral health course will have to be approved by council.

Fire marshal further clarified that **Motion 20-06-09** from the June 9, 2020 Regular Meeting giving the Joint Fire Council the first \$80,000 would come out of the unencumbered funds first, then any returned funds after that will go towards any mental and behavioral health initiatives.

**20-12-06**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and seconded by **Councilperson Blackmer** to approve returned fireworks funds to be distributed to a designated county training chairperson in the amount of \$1,000, for a total of \$27,000 to the council designated 27 districts for mental and behavioral health courses.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – abstain  
Councilperson White –yes  
Councilperson Blackmer – yes  
Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier - yes

Eight votes yes, one abstention. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- b) **Adoption of the Health and Safety Program Manager Curriculum:** The Health and Safety Program Manager Course (F0722) is scheduled in Muskegon County in January 2021. The class is currently full with 25 people. Since the previous Health and Safety Officer course has been eliminated, councilperson Blomstrom is requesting this course be added to the course catalog and made available to Instructor I's who successfully complete the course. Also, by adding it into SMOKE prior to the NFA arriving, the BFS will have a record of who took the initial offering and could instruct it in the future.

**20-12-07**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** that council adopt the new Health and Safety Program Manager Curriculum (F-0722).

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – yes  
Councilperson White –yes  
Councilperson Blackmer – yes  
Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier - yes

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- c) **Sunset of the Health and Safety Officer Program:** Councilperson Blomstrom communicated that this course is no longer supported by the NFA and has been eliminated and replaced by the Health and Safety Program Manager course.
- d) **Updated Course Codes for McNeil's Driver's Training Program (new version):** Councilperson Blomstrom conveyed that this can be moved to Old Business as the updated Driver's Training program was set to be released around the Instructor's Conference however, that did not happen. When the new program is finally released, Councilperson Blomstrom will be requesting an updated course code for the overall class and a course code for the newest Train-the-Trainer. The course has not been finalized yet, but it will hopefully be ready to go in February 2021.
- e) **Updating ICS 300/400 Courses in the Course Catalog (I15A and I16A):** The newest manuals for ICS 300 and ICS 400 were released in April 2019. During that time, FEMA offered online updates and exams to "recertify" instructors to the new curriculum. In December 2019, FEMA disbanded their recertification program, turning it over to the Michigan State Police (MSP). During this calendar year, the MSP has been working with individuals to recertify their ICS 300 and ICS 400 credentials. A joint memo from the BFS and the MSP was posted over GovDelivery about the updates and need to recertify as well. After the instructors are recertified, they are given the newest edition of the instructional materials. At this point, of the 32 instructors for ICS 300 and ICS 400, ten instructors have recertified and are eligible to instruct the course. Councilperson Blomstrom requested the old ICS 300 and 400 course codes be deactivated and have new course codes for the classes correlating to the April 2019 newest curriculum. The ten instructors from the previous BFS instructor list who have recertified through the MSP or FEMA would be placed on the newest instructor list. If additional original instructors decide to recertify, they could also be added to the list in the future.

**20-12-08**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Janik** to sunset I15A and I16A and establish I15B and I16B using the recent curriculum, ICS 300 and 400 from FEMA.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – yes  
Councilperson White –yes  
Councilperson Blackmer – yes  
Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehmeyer - yes

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- f) **Increasing funding for Firefighter I & II Programs:** Councilperson Blomstrom explained that during public comment at the last MFFTC meeting, it was mentioned about the need to increase funding for Firefighter I and II programs in order to assist with compensating additional instructors to meet a 5 to1 student-to-instructor ratio. In December 2019, **Motion 19-12-05** was made to have a three-tiered system of class compensation, based on the number of students failed, however, the same problem still exists. The main problem is that \$16,225 does not adequately compensate academies for payroll, supplies, and needed items for class. The funding in SMOKE needs to be increased above \$16,225 so counties have the ability to fund academies above their \$17,500 utilizing other county fireworks funding. Currently, once the

\$16,225 limit is reached, departments are forced to pay cash to cover the rest of the balance of the course, this can be difficult for departments with very minimal training budgets.

**20-12-09**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** for a five (5) tier system for FF I&II/HazMat Operations. 1-10 students is \$12,000, 11-15 students is \$16,225, 16-20 students is \$20,000, 21-25 students is \$24,000, and 26-30 students is \$28,000 for money that can be placed into SMOKE, with the student number coming from the 4th lecture date. For only FY21, any class with 15 or less students stays at \$16,225.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – yes  
Councilperson White –yes  
Councilperson Blackmer – yes  
Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier - yes

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**g) Q Course Applications:**

- 1) **SOFA Basic Ground Ladder Techniques (FMQ20-018)**  
Instructor: Robert Ginther / Phone: (248) 540-3417  
Email: [rginther@beverlyhillspolice.com](mailto:rginther@beverlyhillspolice.com)
- 2) **SOFA Basic Fire Ground Communications (FMQ20-044)**  
Instructor: Robert Ginther / Phone: (248) 540-3417  
Email: [rginther@beverlyhillspolice.com](mailto:rginther@beverlyhillspolice.com)
- 3) **SOFA Advanced Fire Ground Communications (FMQ20-045)**  
Instructor: Robert Ginther / Phone: (248) 540-3417  
Email: [rginther@beverlyhillspolice.com](mailto:rginther@beverlyhillspolice.com)

**20-12-10**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and supported by **Councilperson Steichen** to approve **FMQ20-018, FMQ20-044, and FMQ20-045** submitted by Robert Ginther.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – yes  
Councilperson White –yes  
Councilperson Blackmer – yes  
Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier - yes

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- h) 2021 Meeting Dates:** At a minimum council needs to approve a February date to meet to set up our meeting dates for 2021.



20-12-11

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson White** and supported by **Councilperson Pettinger** to meet virtually on Tuesday, February 9th, 2021 at 1:30 PM where we will vote on 2021 meeting dates.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – yes  
Councilperson White –yes  
Councilperson Blackmer – yes  
Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier - yes

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Rob Ginther, Beverly Hills Public Safety:** Fully supports and believe it is a good idea to tier the fire academies based on participation, however would like to bring to councils attention is the timeline of encumbering money versus what you may end up resulting with in your academies, which is to say, you have an academy in April, you're pretty sure you're going to have the maximum amount, however you only end up with 15, that money would automatically go back into the state training fund for redistribution. However, there may be unfunded courses within that county that didn't make the cut. Council may want to consider, that if academies encumber money but use less based upon the tiered pricing, that that money is first given back to that county for reallocation for courses that may not have been funded before it is taken from the county.

**Colin Morrow, Jackson Fire Department:** Thanked everyone for hosting Jackson County academy.

**Steven McKellar, Plainfield Twp. Fire Department:** Would like to commend the board. The fire academies, depending on your students, are ran by the more students you have the more instructors you have and I'm glad that's being recognized.

**Tim Seal, North Oakland Fire:** Appreciates councils due dilligence and hard work. Thank you for addressing the academy issue, it is a move int he right direction to provide the quality instructing int he academy that council is looking for. Thank you very much.

**X. COUNCIL COMMENT:**

**Councilperson Tackett:** I'd like to echo each and every one of you. I think it's been an outstanding year. We've made lots of progress, most of all I'd like to thank our friends and family who come to these meetings every single day. Even if they don't come to the meetings, they're reaching out to us about their concerns and the changes they want to see. That's really where we get our vision from, where we get our direction from. Even though we are part of organizations I think obviously the fire services is one big family, and we are all together on this. Brian, good work on the tiered system and bringing it back, I don't think the concept before was out there, it was just the motion itself. I think we all know they are underfunded. It's a good start, we can always make adjustments if necessary. I wish each one of you and your families a safe, Merry Christmas.

**Councilperson Blomstrom:** Merry Christmas to everyone. Thank you for being patient with me and going through the 300, 400, as well as looking at the tiered system. I think it was kind of a blessing that last year it was voted down because I think that the feedback I've received since that time, I've listened to council members after that meeting, some of the concerns that were weaved into this. I look forward to moving forward with the better "product". I appreciate all the council

people that spoke to me about this in the last year especially after that vote and also the feedback I received in the field. Again, Merry Christmas everyone and Happy Holidays.

**Councilperson Styles:** A couple things, a long day but thank you for the due diligence of everybody, I know some of the people who weren't there this morning, we did go long and hard about it, and I'm very passionate about mental wellness and I think that this is a step in the right direction, obviously next year we'll do something different, but I think this is key right now. I share sentiments with Aileen about the firefighter who lost his life to cancer but again, the 109 that have taken their lives, no all necessarily from Michigan but the 2 in Detroit here recently really hit home again that we have to fix this, and I know some people don't like this and I will say this as a Chief Officer, if your administration doesn't believe in this, have then call me. I will explain to them very fruitfully of why this is important and believe me we will be successful. For the rest of my council members, thank you for really putting the due diligence into this. To Brian for the right thing to do, it just took some time, like everything, you can't build it in a day but you can get it there. I wish everybody a very happy holiday season and wish for everyone to have a Happy New Year. Please be safe with this Covid, it's still getting us but we'll get there. Keep your head up and your hands clean and we'll see ya when we see ya.

**Councilperson Blackmer:** It was a good day today. It was a long day, but we got a lot accomplished. I also voted "no" a year ago on the similar proposal, but I think it is important to look to the things we've tackled as a council, we seem to find a way to get a compromise and do what we think is best for the fire service in our state. I think that it's good that that happens, I'm always proud when we can come to a compromise and find some middle ground, even on some things that we started a mile apart on, by the time we are finished with the discussion, we are able to bring things together. Just to reiterate, I think the motion for the mental health and well-being is very important and the groups that we put together will take that and use those funds to continue to improve the mental well-being of our firefighters. With that, everybody have a great Christmas and well see you after the new year.

**Councilperson Janik:** Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone. I feel the council made some significant progress today, strong work. In particular to Aileen for brining behavior and mental health to the forefront to the focus of the council, my hat is tipped to you. Brian, you're like locomotive, you just keep going and I admire that about you. I think both of you are most notable today and that's all I have.

**Councilperson Steichen:** Thanks everyone for their attendance and their hard work. I commend Brian on his motion today, your work doesn't go unnoticed. I also want to acknowledge feedback on the original motion that Brian had submitted to the council that I voted "no" on. After reaching out and getting feedback necessary to make the right vote, I was comfortable today with agreeing with Brian's motion. Everyone's feedback in important, all of our contact information is available on the bureaus website and I look forward to hearing from everyone via phone or email.

**Councilperson Pettinger:** I want to start out with listening to the fire marshals report and the line of duty deaths we've had, I know a fellow fire fighter who recently passed from cancer. I was going to suggest to see if we could start each council meeting with a moment of silence for all fire fighters who have died since the previous council meeting. I don't know if we need a motion for that, I just thought it would be appropriate. I think we used to but we kind of got away from it. If we could add that to the agenda, that would be great. Talking about cancer, House Bill 4063, we are trying to rename it in memory of Chris Slezak who died November 25<sup>th</sup> after a 12 year battle with leukemia, I just would like to say to all the Sterling Heights firefighters that you're in our hearts and we're just thinking of you guys and we're hoping to get this thing passed. I will be sending in the chat, Representative Iden's phone number as well, I saw his email in there a couple times. I'd like to say thanks for patience and due diligence with the fire academy motion we did, we did a great job and a lot of research and I appreciate it. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Everybody.

**Fire Marshal Sehlmeier:** Great work by the council, it's pretty amazing, when you look back on the year and see all that you've accomplished in this very weird year. Now we're moving forward with meeting the needs and it all starts at the beginning, it starts at the fire academy and if you don't build a solid foundation, a lot of things can happen along the way. Looking at line of duty deaths, Alan you hit it spot on, if you have a chief that doesn't believe in this stuff, I will share with you, that I know a number of people that are on the job across the state, in some of the biggest fire departments and some of the smallest fire departments, and at the end of the day we probably have about 80% of our fire service in the state that doesn't have any type of insurance that will help them to address their mental health. I would ask you to go out and look at this before we come back and show me where there is a place somebody can call and can get help and better yet, they don't have to pay out of pocket. We're going to do great things, I'm happy about the things we worked on this morning. I'm happy that the academies are lining up, I think we fixed some things, I know that it costs a lot of money to put on academies. But I also would challenge you to do this; somehow we have to work with, what do we do to help the people who are struggling with mental health and how do we come up with a system where they can get the help they need, and it doesn't financially ruin them in the process. When you start putting finances into the equation, people stop coming to training, people stop coming to the department, it is hurting retention and recruitment, problems with marriages, there are a host of things here that we need to focus on. Thank you for all the great work this last year, it's been great to work with this council, I look forward to what we're going to do in 2021. Get Covid behind us, hopefully sooner than later. Happy Holidays everyone and we're going to continue to make the fire service better here in the state of Michigan and it all starts with every one of us stepping up and doing a little more to make it better.

d) **ADJOURNMENT:**

**20-12-12**


A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to adjourn the meeting.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – yes  
Councilperson White – yes  
Councilperson Blackmer – yes  
Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – yes

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** The meeting adjourned at 4:08 PM.

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson Tackett

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember