



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
Delta Township Office Building – 2nd Floor
7710 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing, MI 48917
February 26, 2018
10:00 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Timothy James, Chairperson, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Brian Blomstrom, Vice Chairperson, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union
Chad Tackett, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Kevin Sehmeyer, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Terrance Blackmer, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Joel Hondorp, Michigan Municipal League/Michigan Townships Association

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

Hollie Metts, Assistant to the Fire Marshal/Recording Secretary

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mark Cleveland, Eggleston Township/Muskegon County
Thea Dornbush, Muskegon Township Fire Department
Adam Carroll, Hartland Area Fire Department
Carl Billings, Detroit Fire Department
Erin Wilson, Waterford Fire Department
Dan Dumas, Waterford Fire Department
Josh Dorman, Waterford Fire Department
Mike Burke, Elba Township Fire Department
Jim Chapman, Big Rapids Township Fire Department
John Hejza, Macomb Community College
Thomas Stock, Clinton Township Fire Department
Rodney Scrutchen, Shelby Township Fire Department
Justen Diaz, Memphis Fire Department
Tom Konik, Marysville Fire Department
Craig Miller, Port Huron Township Fire Department
Jason Keller, Ira Township Fire Department
Adam Munro, Macomb Township Fire Department
Joe Felton, Clinton Township Fire Department
Rick Beltinck, Mt. Pleasant Fire Department
Doug Lobsinger, Mt. Pleasant Fire Department
Dave Nelson, Ithaca Fire Department

Caitlin Harrison, Lansing Fire Department
Robert Urburtis, Delta Township Fire Department
Charles Noonan, Troy Fire Department
Dale Rottman, Jr., Billings Township Fire Department
Matt Fruchey, Beaverton Area Fire Department
Dennis Smith, Wixom Fire Department
Mike Davidson, Chikuming Township Fire Department
Jim Walker, Cascade Fire Department
Todd Stevenson, Cascade Fire Department
Matt Bruce, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety
Tom Denharder, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety
Sarah Bushee, Graafschap Fire Department
Alvin Miles, Lawton Fire Department
Jed Wild, Covert Fire Department
Eric Burghardt, Oshtemo Fire Department
Aric Massingill, Adrian Fire Department
Greg Amburgey, Putnam Township Fire Department
Christopher Paige, Solon Township Fire Department
Wendy Hause, Unadilla Township Fire Department
Philip Duezyminski, Novi Fire Department
John Baker, Portland Fire Department Fire Department
Tracy Chamberlain, Green Oak Fire Department
Nick Miller, Hamburg Township Fire Department
Phillip Miller, Windsor Township Fire Department
William Fabijanck, Jr., Windsor Township Fire Department
David McInally, VanBuren Township Fire Rescue
Michael Yanz, NIESA
Ken VanHall, Delta Township Fire Department
Brian Ball, Delhi Township Fire Department
Ray Wlosinski, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
John Clark, Delta Township Fire Department
Michael Roberts, Delta Township Fire Department
Brad Drury, Delhi Township Fire Department
Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department
John Kramer, Monitor Township Fire Department
Randy VanDenBoom, Hampton Township Fire Department
Matthew Ratliff, Sterling Heights Fire Department
Steve Kohut, Sterling Heights Fire Department
William Engelter, Lansing Fire Department
Jim Porcello, Delhi Township Fire Department
Skip McAdams, Warren Fire Department
David Carrico, Harper Woods Fire Department
Arthur Reist, Hamlin Township Fire Department
Chris Coughlin, Midland Fire Department
Greg Lelito, Madison Heights Fire Department
Kevin Powers, Madison Heights Fire Department
Paul Firth, Troy Fire Department
Shaun Abbey, Kentwood Fire Department/Michigan Professional Firefighters Union
Bill Priese, Meridian Township Fire Department

Don Biger, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Kymberly Pashkosky, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Chairperson James called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. A quorum was determined present.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

18-2-035

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to approve the February 26, 2018 special meeting agenda, as presented.
MOTION CARRIED.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

a) OPEN COMMENT ON CONTINUING EDUCATION:

A general question and answer session was held regarding the recent changes to Public Act 291 of 1966. All attendees were encouraged to review the changes to see how their department will be affected. Fire Marshal Sehmeyer also provided an overview of the rules process. The Council anticipates that the entire process will take approximately one (1) year to complete.

The attendees were surveyed on the following items. The results will be charted out and taken into consideration during the rules process.

- Continuing education format – open (up to the department) or EMS based
- Number of continuing education credits need for each classification classifications per year:
 - Firefighter
 - Fire Instructor
 - Fire Officer
 - Fire Investigator
 - Fire Chief
 - Public Safety Director
 - Hazardous Materials Responder
 - Tech Rescue Responder
 - Airport Rescue Firefighter
 - Plans Examiner
 - Fire Inspector

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT:

a) Education Format:

- Don Biger, MFSIA: Questioned whether the Council is considering a one (1)

year education format or a three (3) year format like the process in place for EMS. Chairperson James shared that the Council will review the survey results and take that information into consideration before deciding on an education format.

b) Firefighter:

- Chief Clark, Delta Township Fire Department: Chief Clark shared that a one (1) year requirement may be hard to meet for all firefighters due to other obligations, especially those on non-career departments.
- Chief Miller, Port Huron Township Fire Department: Agreed with Chief Clark's comment.
- Shaun Abbey: Would like to see a minimum number of credits per year to discourage individuals from waiting until the last year to complete the required training.
- Adam Carroll, Hartland Area Fire Department: Added that training requirements must also comply with the MIOSHA requirements.

c) Fire Chief/Public Safety Director:

- Dave McNally, Van Buren Fire Department: Questioned whether a public safety director will be required to perform the same skills as a fire chief? Chairperson James shared that this is an item needing clarification as it was not clear in the law. Fire Marshal Sehmeyer added that it would likely depend on whether the public safety director performed only administrative functions or if they were taking command at a fire.
- Carl Billings, Detroit Fire Department: Asked what the requirement(s) would be for administrative roles that are civilian appointees? Chairperson James shared that they are not addressed in the Act.

d) Fire Inspector:

- Chairperson James shared that the Council is content with the requirements currently outlined in Section 29.501 and will adopt this section by reference in the revised Fire Fighters Training Council General Rules.
- William Engelter, Lansing Fire Department: Asked if there will be any crossover and if credits may be applied to multiple classifications? (i.e. firefighter and EMS.) Fire Marshal Sehmeyer shared that professional development activities are allowed but may only be half of the required number of credits per three (3) year cycle.
- Brad Drury, Delhi Township Fire Department: What is the certification process, and will dual certifications be needed? Will the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council certify these classifications? He further shared that he feels that continuing education requirements are being looked at before the certifications have been clearly defined. Chairperson James shared that yes, the MFFTC through the Bureau of Fire Services will certify these classifications and that the certifications will be drafted to the current standard(s).

e) Plans Examiner:

- William Fabijanck, Jr., Windsor Township Fire Department: Recommends that the current NFPA certification be accepted.

- Chief Cleveland, Eggleston Township/Muskegon County: Echoes Chief Fabijanck's comments as 60 continuing education credits are already required every three (3) years.
- f) Fire Investigator:
- Adam Munro, Macomb Township Fire Department: Recommends that the same dialog is followed for plans examiner and inspector using a pre-adopted curriculum and NFPA standard 1033.
 - Paul Firth, Troy Fire Department: Shared that through the completion of an ISO survey, for 100% investigators receive 40 credits. He added that there are several other ways to receive credits, such as through regional training, seminars and online training.
 - Brad Drury, Delhi Township Fire Department: Shared that there should be a test for the specific job function. (i.e. Pro-Board certification)
 - Chief Fabijanck, Windsor Township Fire Department: Recommends that the Pro-Board certification be accepted.
 - John Hejza, Macomb Community College: Do these requirements apply to Michigan State Police arson investigators? Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that it does not apply to them.
- g) Fire Officer:
- Charles Noonan, Troy Fire Department: Will there be different categories for part-time, part-paid, career and volunteer? Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that there will not be different categories.
 - Michael Yanz, NIESA: Requested clarification on the pre-reqs/co-reqs for this classification. Fire Marshal explained the difference and the checks and balances that the bureau has in place before certifying this classification. The bureau is developing pathways that will be published to help explain the process to students.
 - Sarah Bushee, Graafschap Fire Department: Asked whether grandfathering would apply to this classification? Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that it does not. To move up to the next level, an individual must become certified as a Firefighter II or may be obtained through a challenge process.
 - Philip Duezyminski, Novi Fire Department: Will students be allowed to take online classes? Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that they may depending on the class.
 - Shaun Abbey, Kentwood Fire Department/Michigan Professional Firefighters Union: Asked the Council to keep in mind specific contract language regarding certifications to avoid conflicts with the rules.
 - Eric Burghardt, Oshtemo Fire Department: Is it the expectation or the intent of the law that a person must be educated before they put on the rank? Or, may they put on the rank and then become educated within a certain timeframe? Chairperson James shared that the person must be trained commensurate with their duties.
 - Carl Billings, Detroit Fire Department: Has the Council taken into consideration how the larger fire departments will be affected by continuing education? Chairperson James shared that the law is very specific and that the Council will take into consideration the language that was provided in the revised Act.

- Thea Dornbush, Muskegon Township Fire Department: Asked whether the current classes will continue to run although the new law took effect on January 31, 2018. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that the current classes will continue to run. Chairperson James added that until the revised rules are adopted, we will operate under the current rules.
 - Brad Drury, Delhi Fire Department: Asked whether RAFT will be an acceptable certification in the future. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that although a procedure must still be developed, the new law does allow for reciprocity and that the student must show proof that they meet the requirements.
- h) Technical Rescue Responder:
- Paul Firth, Troy Fire Department: Asked whether the NFPA 1072 standard would be followed for this certification. Chairperson James confirmed that the law references this standard.
 - Eric Burghardt, Oshtemo Fire Department: Recommends breaking up the requirements for this classification based on level of discipline.
- i) Airport Rescue Firefighter:
- Councilperson Pettinger: Suggested following the Federal standards.
 - Thea Dornbush, Muskegon Township Fire Department: Shared that the FAA sets the requirements for training while the agency sets the number of required training hours. The NFPA also provides for the jprs.
- j) Fire Instructor:
- Adam Munro, Macomb Township Fire Department: Would like to see some crossover for continuing education credits to make it attainable. Would also like to see instructors receive credits for attending meetings (i.e. Michigan Fire Fighter Training Council Meetings, county meetings, etc.).
 - Jim Walker, Cascade Fire Department: Recommends adopting the EMS techniques already being used.
 - Mark Cleveland, Eggleston Township Fire Department/Muskegon County: Would like to see the current EMS requirements being used but would also like to see classroom hours required.
 - Ray Wlosinski, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association: Would like to see a conference held once per year as many of programs offered are education based.
 - Don Biger: Recommends that an individual have a fire department connection to be certified as a fire instructor.
 - Todd Stevenson, Cascade Fire Department: Asked for clarification regarding an instructor remaining active. Chairperson James shared that the instructor may teach in and outside of their department.
 - Shaun Abbey, Kentwood Fire Department/Michigan Professional Firefighters Union: Asked if there had been any discussion regarding the different standards for each level. Chairperson James stated that this is the initial discussion.
 - Councilperson Blomstrom: Shared that a Fire Officer I must also attain and maintain Fire Instructor I as well.
 - Michael Yanz, NIESA: Shared his concerns for smaller departments trying to meet the teaching requirements will less members on their department.

V. **COUNCIL COMMENT:**

- Councilperson Tackett: Thanked 1-800-Boardup for lunch as well as Chief Clark for hosting the meeting. He also shared that the NFPA standards will provide a good base to follow as we look at each certification.
- Councilperson Pettinger: Also thanked 1-800-Boardup for lunch and Chief Clark for hosting the meeting. She also thanked the attendees for all of their comments and encouraged them to continue to reach out to the Council as the rules develop.
- Councilperson Blomstrom: Also thanked 1-800-Boardup for lunch and Chief Clark for hosting the meeting. He also shared that the Council must carefully consider our current processes as well as the NFPA standards and the new law to ensure that all requirements align.
- Fire Marshal Sehlmeier: Thanked the attendees for their feedback and the Council for their work on the rules process already.
- Chairperson James: Thanked the attendees for their participation and feels the feedback received will be valuable as the Council works through the rules process.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT:**

18-2-036

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson Tackett** to adjourn the special meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

APPROVED:



Vice Chairperson Blomstrom



Councilperson Pettinger