



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR

**MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**
3101 Technology Blvd., Suite H
Lansing, MI 48910
August 8, 2017
1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joel Hondorp, Michigan Municipal League/Michigan Townships Association

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Hammerberg, Region 1 Coordinator
TJ Richardson, Region 2 Coordinator
Hollie Metts, Recording Secretary

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Adam Carroll, Hartland Fire Department
Thea Dornbush, Gerald Ford International Airport Fire Department
Mark Cleveland, Muskegon County
Martin Erskine, Battle Creek Fire Department
Thomas Tyler, Detroit Fire Department
Shawn Allen, Sterling Heights Fire Department
Andy Steeby, Wayne County Community College District
Shane Wash, Schoolcraft College
Liam Carroll, Schoolcraft College
Matt Majestic, Oakland Community College
Jeromy Robertson, VanBuren Tech Center
Tim Baker, Lansing Community College
Ed Hadfield, City of Fenton Fire Department
Mark Fankhauser, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Justin Holmes, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Ron Tennant, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Gregg Grobbel, Agrisphere
Ernie Close, Washtenaw County Fire

Jim Porcello, Delhi Fire Department
Bill Priese, Manchester Township Fire Department
Philip Duczyminski, Novi Fire Department
Jack Snyder, Alma Fire Department
Vaskin Badalow, Dearborn Heights Fire Department
Nick Miller, Hamburg Fire Department
Kymberly Pashkowksy, Algoma 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.

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

17-8-001

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to approve the meeting agenda for August 8, 2017, as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

17-8-002

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Tackett** to approve the June 13, 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Thomas Tyler of the Detroit Fire Department (DFD) thanked everyone who attended the funeral for DFD Firefighter Kevin Ramsey on August 3, 2017. Lt. Tyler also shared that the DFD cadets recently attended one (1) day of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's (NFFF) Courage to Be Safe program. The cadets will attend a second day of training in the near future. Lt. Tyler thanked State Fire Marshal (SFM) Sehlmeier for his support of the NFFF Courage to Be Safe program.

5. **STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:**

Senate Bills (SB) 264 and 265: Since the previous Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council (MFFTC) meeting on June 13, 2017, the SFM along with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs' legislative representative, Frank Waters, met with the legislative representative for the Michigan State Police (MSP) regarding their concerns with the proposed legislation. They were able to propose a change to the language that would exempt MSP fire investigators from the continuing education requirements. SFM Sehlmeier expects that both bills will move fairly quickly in the fall when the legislators return from break. SFM Sehlmeier added that both bills are tied to Public Act (PA) 291 of 1966, the Firefighters Training Council Act. Not only will the proposed legislation affect continuing education, but SB 264 would add members to the MFFTC and SB 265 would have a direct effect on funding.

SB 833, PA 405 of 2016: Following the June 13, 2017 MFFTC meeting, SFM Sehlmeier requested clarification from the Attorney General's office on what constitutes a proper expenditure for firefighter training. In summary, such expenditures are not limited to training manuals, equipment, props, etc., and could include structures that are a part of an approved training program. The MFFTC or the SFM are not exempt from approving an expenditure for a structure if

they conclude that it is a necessary part of an approved training program however; while the MFFTC may request approval for an expenditure, the SFM is not required to approve their request.

Online Testing: As reported at the June 13, 2017 MFFTC meeting, the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) received a grant for online testing and aims to have the Firefighter I and II (FF I & II) exams available online by April 1, 2018. The BFS is currently working with the State of Michigan's IT department, the Department of Technology Management and Budget, and has been assigned a project manager.

Exam Issues: Since his arrival to the BFS, SFM Sehlmeier has received several complaints regarding the failure rate of students who have taken the FF I & II exam(s). As a result, the SFM and the Fire Fighter Training Division staff reviewed the exams and found that 33 of the 200 questions did not reference both the IFSTA and the Jones and Bartlett textbooks. Although the Curriculum Committee had vetted out the sole source questions, SFM Sehlmeier believes that when the testing database was updated the questions were overwritten by the original test bank, and that the sole source questions were added back in. The BFS staff quickly corrected the issue once it had been identified (the exam was updated and the questions validated). Unfortunately 98 of the corrected exams were scored to the old answer key, meaning 98 students initially failed. Again, the BFS corrected the issue and when rescanned, nearly all of the 98 students had passed. On August 4, 2017, the Curriculum Committee met and also validated the new questions. SFM Sehlmeier sincerely apologized for the stress these issues have caused everyone effected and thanks the Curriculum Committee for their hard work.

GovDelivery: SFM Sehlmeier shared that the BFS has a new mechanism to communicate with the fire service called GovDelivery. The SFM encouraged everyone in the fire service to subscribe as the BFS will share training opportunities and other pertinent information.

Fireworks Safety Fees: To date, SFM Sehlmeier reported that approximately \$142,000.00 has been collected in fireworks safety fees. The SFM also shared that the BFS saw a reduction in the number of consumer fireworks retail sales certificates issued and fireworks sold this year. Looking ahead at Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18), the SFM confirmed that \$2 million dollars has been budgeted for training throughout the state and that each county will receive a minimum of \$15,000.00. The total funds to be allocated to each county will be announced in the near future.

Unencumbered Training Funds: Since the June 13, 2017 MFFTC meeting, SFM Sehlmeier withdrew all unencumbered funds from the counties. The BFS staff have been working to schedule free training (classes previously approved as a Q course) for firefighters across the state using the unencumbered funds. The SFM added that although the Council would be voting on several Non-SMOKE applications, not all requests would be funded at this time.

Staffing Updates: SFM Sehlmeier introduced Hollie Metts, who will be taking over Cathy Carson's duties for the Council. SFM Sehlmeier thanked Ms. Carson for her services to the Council and explained that this internal change was made because of the continuity as Ms. Metts is also the Assistant to the SFM.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. **Vehicle Extrication Course/Levels**

Councilperson Blomstrom

No movement due to the issues with the FF I & II exam at the last meeting. Retain as old business.

b. **Class-A Live Fire Training Structure**

Robert Grabinski

17-8-003

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to approve the Class-A Live Fire Training Structure as an acceptable expenditure for firefighter training. SFM Sehlmeier reiterated that the Council was approving the structure to facilitate training throughout the state however; funds were not available at this time.

Councilperson James requested to amend the motion and require that the structure meet the current requirements set forth in the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) 1402 and 1403 standards. **Councilperson Blomstrom** and **Councilperson Pettinger** accepted the amendment. The **MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED.**

c. **Ventilation & Forcible Entry Training**

An updated cost analysis of the program was provided by Tim Baker on behalf of Lansing Community College and the Delta Township Fire Department.

17-8-004

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Tackett** to approve the application. **MOTION CARRIED.**

d. **Fire Instructor II Beta Program**

Mark Cleveland

17-8-005

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson Tackett** to approve application. The curriculum shall be reviewed by the Curriculum Committee. SFM Sehlmeier recommended that the passing score of the exam be set at 80%, instead of 75% as proposed. Councilperson Blomstrom also requested to remove item #4 of the proposal, which states that four (4) Train-the-Trainer (TtT) courses shall be completed in the next year with one (1) per quarter in a different region of the state. **Councilperson Blomstrom requested to amend the motion** to approve the application to include the following (3) criteria:

1. Instruction of the course can be done by any Instructor II that has taken the program or any other Instructor II that has completed a TtT, which will take approximately 6 hours.
2. The criterion passing score for the written exam to be set at 80% consisting of 100 multiple choice questions, with 25% of the questions being changed annually.
3. The practical portion will be evaluated by a contract training coordinator and both instructors utilizing inter-rater reliability.

Councilperson Pettinger and **Councilperson Tackett** accepted the amendment. **MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED.**

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. **Fire Officer I-IV Program**

Brian Blomstrom

Councilperson Blomstrom shared a worksheet with the Council which outlined the Curriculum Committee's proposed equivalencies for the Fire Officer I-IV Programs. Originally, Councilperson Blomstrom had made a motion at the Curriculum Committee meeting that the Fire Officer program follow only the IFSTA or the Jones and Bartlett curriculum, which is approximately a 50-hour course and would eliminate all of the co-requisites. The motion failed

5-2 as the majority of the members feel that co-requisites are needed. Councilperson Blomstrom thanked Martin Erskine, who drafted the revised worksheet for the proposed Fire Officer levels. A roll call vote was taken and the revised worksheet passed 7-0. Councilperson Blomstrom asked the Council to consider the proposed Fire Officer equivalencies and will look for a vote on this in October.

b. Updating Leadership I, II & III Courses

Brian Blomstrom

Councilperson Blomstrom shared that as of October 1, 2017, the National Fire Academy (NFA) will no longer be supporting the Leadership I, II and III courses. These courses will be replaced with the following courses:

Leadership in Supervision: Creating Environments for Professional Growth (FW0646)

Leadership in Supervision: Perspectives in Thinking (FW0647)

Leadership in Supervision: Frameworks to Success (FW0648)

17-8-006

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Blackmer** to adopt NFA's Leadership in Supervision courses. **MOTION CARRIED.**

17-8-007

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to allow students to take the current NFA Leadership courses or the new correlating course together to obtain Fire Officer III until September 20, 2018. **MOTION CARRIED.**

c. Non-SMOKE Applications

Leadership Exemplified

SFM Sehlmeier

17-8-008

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to approve SFM Sehlmeier's request for "Q" course approval. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NFFF Health and Safety Summit

SFM Sehlmeier

17-8-009

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson Tackett** to approve SFM Sehlmeier's request for "Q" course approval. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Traffic Incident Management Course

Ron Tennant

SFM Sehlmeier shared that this class can be taught with one (1) or (2) instructors.

17-8-010

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Tackett** and seconded by **Councilperson Blackmer** to approve Chief Tennant's request for "Q" course approval. **Councilperson Blomstrom opposed the motion.** The motion passed 5-1. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Getting Code Official & Event Partners Under the Same Tent

Jim Williams

17-8-011

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to approve the Kalamazoo County Fire Chiefs Association's request for "Q" course approval. **Councilperson Tackett abstained. MOTION CARRIED.**

Career Survival

Christopher Germain

The Council determined that this course has already been approved as a "Q" course. Funding is not available at this time. Shawn Allen with the Sterling Heights Fire Department (SHFD) shared that the SHFD has provided this training and has received positive feedback.

EVO Liabilities & Strategies

Christopher Germain

17-8-012

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to approve the Delta County Fire Training Council's request for "Q" course approval. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Thermal Imaging Training

Christopher Germain

SFM Sehlmeier clarified that this specific Thermal Imaging Training is the SAFE-IR course.

17-8-013

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Tackett** to approve the Delta County Fire Training Council's request for "Q" course approval. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Using Thermal Imaging to Improve Fire Ground Operations

Brent Cole

Ed Hadfield of the City of Fenton Fire Department shared on behalf of the applicant, Brent Cole, and the Genesee County Training Committee that this program is a subset of the SAFE-IR program.

17-8-014

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Tackett** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to approve the Genesee County Training Committee's request for "Q" course approval. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Agricultural Tech Rescue

Gregg Grobbel

Mr. Grobbel shared that students must be an active member of a recognized fire department with verification from the fire chief to take the class. The maximum cost of the class is \$5,000.00 however, the cost may vary depending on the training needs of the fire department and the number of students attending.

17-8-015

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson Tackett** to approve Mr. Grobbel's request for "Q" course approval. Chairperson James asked for clarification on which class Mr. Grobbel was seeking "Q" course approval for as the Non-

SMOKE application listed an agricultural tech rescue course as well as a 2-day and a 3-day confined space search and rescue course. The Chairman felt that the application should include the proper course objectives for the desired course. Councilperson Blomstrom felt that the application should have been submitted by a recognized fire department rather than a private entity seeking approval. **Councilperson Pettinger requested to withdraw the motion. MOTION WITHDRAWN.**

Global Positioning System (GPS) Operations

Ron Zawlocki

Shawn Allen of the SHFD spoke on behalf of the applicant, Ron Zawlocki. The council determined that the application for GPS Operations did not meet the criteria as the applicant (MABAS) is not a recognized fire department in the state of Michigan. **APPLICATION WITHDRAWN.**

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Planning

Ron Zawlocki

Shawn Allen of the SHFD spoke on behalf of the applicant, Ron Zawlocki. The council determined that the application for USAR Planning did not meet the criteria as the applicant (MABAS) is not a recognized fire department in the state of Michigan. **APPLICATION WITHDRAWN.**

Logistics Specialist

Ron Zawlocki

Shawn Allen of the SHFD spoke on behalf of the applicant, Ron Zawlocki. The council determined that the application for Logistics Specialist did not meet the criteria as the applicant (MABAS) is not a recognized fire department in the state of Michigan. **APPLICATION WITHDRAWN.**

Max Fire Training – Fire Behavior Interactive Learning

Bill Priese

17-8-016

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Tackett** to approve the Ingham County Fire Chiefs Association's request for "Q" course approval. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Driver Training Train-the-Trainer

Shawn Allen

SFM Sehmeyer shared that Macomb County had planned to spend their county funds on this class when the unencumbered funds were pulled back from the counties. The drivers training course is already an approved course however, Sterling Heights is seeking approval to fund the train-the-trainer portion of the class. The cost of the class would be \$120.00 per student not to exceed \$3,600.00.

17-8-017

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded **Councilperson Blackmer** to approve SHFD's application. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Vehicle Extrication and Rescue Technician Level Training

Ernie Close

17-8-018

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Tackett** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to approve the Washtenaw Area Mutual Aid Association's request for "Q" course approval. **MOTION CARRIED.**

HazMatIQ Tactics – PropanelQ Training

Ernie Close

17-8-019

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Tackett** to approve the Washtenaw Area Mutual Aid Association's request for "Q" course approval. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Artificial High Directional Workshop

Ernie Close

17-8-020

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to approve the application. SFM Sehlmeier requested clarification on the cost per student to attend the class. Mr. Close confirmed that the cost per student is \$1,050.00. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Surface Water Rescue

Ernie Close

17-8-021

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Tackett** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to approve the Washtenaw Area Mutual Aid Association's request for "Q" course approval. Chairman James, Councilperson Tackett and Councilperson Blomstrom favor the motion. Councilperson Blackmer, Councilperson Pettinger and SFM Sehlmeier oppose the motion. Motion tied 3-3. **MOTION FAILS.** The applicant may bring the application back in the future.

Drivers Training Obstacle Course

Liam Carroll

17-8-022

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to approve Schoolcraft College Regional Training Center's request for "Q" course approval. **MOTION CARRIED.**

SAVER Sub-Apparatus Vehicle Emergency Response

Liam Carroll

17-8-023

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Blackmer** to approve Schoolcraft College Regional Training Center's request for "Q" course approval. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IAFF Peer Support Training (2)

**Christopher Stoecklein
Shawn Allen**

Councilperson Pettinger shared that this class is free for all International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) members. Non-IAFF members would also be able to attend if the class was

not full for a pro-rated cost. SFM Sehlmeier added that \$7,500.00 is the correct amount to fund the class.

17-8-024

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Tackett** to approve the applications submitted by the Canton and SHFD's request for "Q" course approval. **Councilperson Pettinger abstained. MOTION CARRIED.**

IAFF Peer Fitness Training

Lisa Martin

17-8-025

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to approve Dearborn Heights Fire Department's request for "Q" course approval. **MOTION CARRIED.**

8. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilperson Blomstrom:

- a. As a result of the issues with the FFI & II exams, the Curriculum Committee discussed the possibility of going back to one (1) curriculum. The consensus of the Curriculum Committee was to take this suggestion into consideration. If the change were to occur, it would not take place until the new books were written. A decision has not been made regarding which textbook would be used. Councilperson Blomstrom advised anyone interested in purchasing new textbooks to hold off at this time.
- b. In regards to the MI-TIME Traffic Incident Management course, Councilperson Blomstrom questioned whether police or other first responders be charged a fee to attend the class. Chairperson James stated that in the past, other first responders have paid a fee to attend. SFM Sehlmeier added that those individuals could not be registered in the SMOKE system or added to the roster. Councilperson Blomstrom requested that this topic be added to the agenda for the December meeting.
- c. Councilperson Blomstrom encouraged all fire departments to begin preparing a training plan for FY18 so that everything is in place by December 31, 2017.

Councilperson Tackett:

- a. Thanked everyone for their support at the funeral for Chief Switalski. While events like this are unfortunate they really bring out the brotherhood/sisterhood among the fire service.
- b. In regards to online testing, we will also need to consider where our online test bank will come from as we move forward.

Councilperson Blackmer: None.

Councilperson Pettinger:

- a. Thanked Councilperson Blomstrom for all of his work on the Curriculum Committee.
- b. Councilperson Pettinger gave Councilperson Blomstrom credit for encouraging fire departments to prepare a training plan for FY18.
- c. Councilperson Pettinger also acknowledged everyone for submitting so many Non-SMOKE applications for review and that it's great to see so many applications for training opportunities.

SFM Sehlmeier:

- a. The SFM stated that he would review all classes that were approved today and would notify the applicants within 24 hours if their class would be funded.
- b. Again, the SFM encouraged everyone in attendance to sign up for GovDelivery. The SFM also applicants of approved courses to provide Ms. Metts with a training flyer to be distributed through GovDelivery.
- c. The SFM encouraged the counties to spend all of their FY18 county allocations in the upcoming year.

Chairperson James:

- a. The Chairman shared that both the SFM and his staff work extremely hard behind the scenes to pull off the meetings and support the fire service. The Chairman appreciates the work that the BFS does for the fire service and is looking forward to positive things in the future.
- b. The Chairman reminded all in attendance to watch for school busses and school crossings as school will begin in about a week or so.
- c. Last, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting today.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:

17-8-026

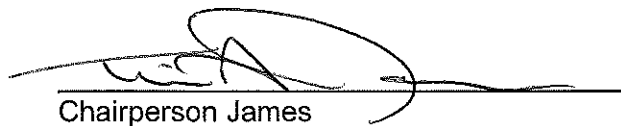
A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Tackett** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED**. The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

October 27, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

Park Place Hotel – 300 E. State Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

APPROVED:


Chairperson James


Councilmember