



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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

MIKE ZIMMER
DIRECTOR

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

3101 Technology Blvd., Suite H
Lansing, MI 48910
June 9, 2015
1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson Timothy James, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Brian Blomstrom, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Richard Miller, State Fire Marshal, Council Member ex-Officio
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
Chad Tackett, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs

MEMBERS ABSENT

BFS STAFF PRESENT

Gary Crum, Region 2 Supervisor
Michael Greis, Fire Marshal Representative
BreeAnn Hooker, Recording Secretary

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

James Edwards, Detroit Fire Department
Jamal Mickles, Detroit Fire Department
Thomas J. Tyler, Detroit Fire Department
Dan Witwer, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Wes Kelley, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Ray Wlosinski, Training Coordinator
Mark Cleveland, Egelston Township Fire Department
Jennie Kahn-Jacques, LARA Reinventing Performance in Michigan
Matthew Majestic, Oakland Community College
Ken Chesnut, Oakland Community College
Steve Richardson, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Liz Smalley, Office of Regulatory Reinvention
Gregory M. Kowalski, Wayne County Community College District
Andy Steeby, Wayne County Community College District
Pam Bissett, North Oakland County Fire Association
Tim Seal, North Oakland County Fire Association
Steve Johnson, Detroit Fire Department

Jeff Armstrong, Lenawee County
Barbara Kunkel, LARA
Katherine Sowton, LARA

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

Chairperson James called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. A quorum was determined present.

2. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Under New Business, add discussion of the use of grant money to buy computers, requested by Councilperson Blomstrom.

15-06-001

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

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

15-06-002

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to approve the April 14, 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIES.**

4. **INSTRUCTOR APPLICATIONS**

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

- (21) Certified Instructor I
- (8) Probationary Associate Instructors
- (34) Probationary Instructor I
- (0) Certified Associate Instructor

15-06-003

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

15-06-004

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Tackett and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to approve all 3 Instructor II applications based on staff recommendation. **MOTION FAILED.**

Chairperson James inquires about the lack of staff signature and inquires if the applications have been properly vetted and appropriately checked. Gary Crum states that all applicants met qualifications according to policy. Councilperson Blomstrom questions the tracking of the required hours. Chief Johnson and Gary Crum give explanation for the lack of documentation, stating that during the seven year period, the proper instruction hours were not recorded within

IMS by the course manager. Councilperson Pettinger recommends, for future reference, that course hours be documented with Instructor II applications.

15-06-005

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Tackett and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to approve the Instructor II application for Matthew Majestic. **MOTION CARRIES.**

5. State Fire Marshal's Report Fire Fighter Test Failure Rate

The fire fighter test failure rate was brought to Fire Marshal Miller's attention and has been taken very seriously. Working with the IT department to verify the issues, the exams have since been rescanned. There was an error rate detected on both machines causing the inaccuracies. 826 students were rescanned, resulting in 76 more students going from Fail to Pass. Letters will be going out from our office to the Course Managers, County Training Chairpersons, Training Coordinators and Council Members.

Non IMS Courses

The following courses have been examined and approved by Fire Marshal Miller and entered into the IMS system. Blue Card, Fire Service Data Records Training, Eastern MI Fire Staff and Command 2015, Northern MI Fire Chiefs Leadership Conference, Truck Academy, Engine Academy, Basement Fire Deadly Foe, Confined Space Awareness/Non Entry Rescue, Trench Awareness/Non Entry Rescue, Structural Collapse Awareness, Confined Space Rescue Operations Level Plus, Trench Rescue Operations Level, and Rapid Intervention Team. These courses were submitted on time, but due to inconsistent emails addresses, they were not received by the appropriate personnel. This issue has since been corrected.

HazMat Curriculum and Exam

Before it gets to be a concern, the question is whether the correct test is being used to the correct edition being taught currently. Recommendation is made that the HazMat exam be reviewed at the next curriculum committee meeting to go to the 6th edition. The standard has changed from the last test, making sense to teach to the most current standard and adjust the test accordingly.

SMOKE

There are trainings taking place all over the state over the next 2 months, for the new SMOKE system. A list is provided on the Bureau's website scheduled across the state. There were approximately one dozen in-house sessions held at the Bureau before taking it on the road. Currently, the Bureau is working on adding some training's in the Upper Peninsula. July 1st is the current goal date to transition from IMS to SMOKE. Councilperson Pettinger inquires about the capability of tracking continuing education credits, Fire Marshal Miller will have to verify this information with Ann Searles, but it is a topic being worked on.

Reciprocity

In the current statute, there is no reciprocity for Fire Fighter I and II. Fire Marshal Miller has been working with Senator Zorn's office concerning reciprocity. A draft bill is out; Senate Bill 372 is believed to be in Committee at this time. There was some change in language to add

reciprocity to the statute. No issues are anticipated and hopefully an update will be given at the next meeting.

LARA Hiring Freeze

LARA is currently under a hiring freeze until further notice. However, approval has been granted to continue on with the hiring process to fill Gary's position. The job will be posted, interviews will be conducted, but the candidates will be notified of where the department stands with the hiring freeze. Chairperson James reviews the training division hierarchy and observes that a lot of the previous issues would not have happened had the training division had the proper personnel in place to do the required jobs. Fire Marshal Miller takes note and will relay that position to Leadership.

6. Committee Report-Blomstrom

Discussion of the development of online and face-to-face programs for Firefighter I/II encompassing the 240/290 hours of training required under the rules by developing a hybrid course. The final conclusion was that each class is different using online content to foster classroom education (videos, tests, quizzes). However, the review of PowerPoint slides alone in a "hybrid" format, using state-adopted programs (IFSTA and Jones & Bartlett) wouldn't meet the lecture portion of requirements and isn't ready for a true online experience. Therefore, no recommendation for a hybrid course can come forth at this time. Yet, if an instructor chooses to build a true online program using an online vendor, they are more than welcome to submit the class to the Committee for review and final recommendation to the MFFTC.

The next scheduled meeting is June 18th in Lansing. On the agenda is the review of the HazMat test as well as the issue that has been brought up of Instructors teaching Instructor I should also be able to teach Educational Methodology. Anticipated discussion of the 40 available courses will be reviewed. Determination if the courses are categorized properly, what courses can be eliminated, and if any courses can be added. Working with Mike Greis to compose a list and construct a plan to come up with a process to get those out to the public and have those courses taught.

7. OLD BUSINESS

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

DNR Training Advisory Update-Tackett

Back in November, Chief O'Brian asked Councilperson Tackett to get with Don Johnson from DNR to assist with training issues. Their main goals are to expand their training base, their training courses, and try to get more insight from the fire service and develop more of a partnership with Fire Fighter Training Division. At the next meeting, DNR will have a proposal put together with some suggestions.

Non-IMS Applications

15.18

15-06-006

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Pettinger and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom to approve the Kent County Fire Chief's request for Training for Failure by Dr. Richard Gasaway, in the amount of \$4500. **MOTION CARRIES.**

15.19

15-06-007

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to approve the request from Iron County for Wilderness GPS training, put on by Crystal Falls Fire Department, in the amount of \$1200. **MOTION CARRIES.**

15.21

Councilperson Blomstrom requests the Fire Marshal to obtain an itinerary and clarify the goals and objectives and who the instructors are for the R.I.T. class being offered by St. Clair Chiefs.

15.22

15-06-008

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Tackett to approve the Forcible Entry course being offered by Kalamazoo County Fire Chief's Association, in the amount of \$2,000. **MOTION CARRIES.**

15.23

15-06-009

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Pettinger and seconded by Councilperson Tackett to approve the Managing Tractor and Machinery Emergencies course put on by Genesee County Association of Fire Chief's, in the amount of \$4,000. **MOTION CARRIES.**

15.24

15-06-010

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to approve the Driver Training Simulator offered by Macomb Township Fire Department in the amount of \$8,048. **MOTION CARRIES.**

ICS 300 and 400 Discussion-Blomstrom

Update on recommendations to the ICS 300 & 400 program, including instructor qualification, funding, allowing for two instructors to teach the course, working with the Michigan State Police, and establishing a joint committee between the two entities to oversee ICS training.

15-06-011

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Tackett to recognize that ICS 300 and 400 as a 3rd party course and in order to teach it, you must be recognized by the NFA or take the L449 course. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Q Courses

Discussion concludes that a Q course is a payment code only. Scantrons will no longer be sent out with packets. These courses should not show up on an individual's training record. There needs to be a way to draw out the number of people that attended MFFTC approved courses

Grant Funds

The Curriculum Committee learned at the last meeting that \$200-250,000 of the \$500,000+ grant that was allocated for SMOKE was used to buy computers for the Bureau. Upon questioning the technician about functionality of the SMOKE system, it was divulged that only \$250,000 was being used for SMOKE. The Council voted to allocate fireworks funds to assist with the SMOKE program. A general consensus that the Council was misled as far as what the money was being used for. Fire Marshal Miller states that a business decision was made and yes computers were bought. Fire Marshal Miller also reports that he will provide a more accurate figure of the dollar amount that was spent on SMOKE. It is conveyed that the money was not spent inappropriately and it was spent within the grant parameters. The question was asked if an addendum was submitted, Fire Marshal will research that. Chairperson James requests a more open dialogue in the future. Councilperson Blomstrom requests a copy of the initial 2013 AFG grant.

9. Public Comment

Steve Richardson conveys his appreciation to have worked with the Council.

Mark Cleveland, Fire Chief of Egelston Twp., for the people that don't get their email addresses in, what happens when IMS is shut down. They should be able to still log in with their 6 digit pin and they will be prompted to add their email address. Congratulations and appreciation for his service is conveyed to Gary Crum on his retirement.

Gary Crum thoroughly enjoyed his time with the Bureau but fears for the Escanaba office.

Jamal Mickles, Detroit Fire Regional Training Center, in reference to the Scantron issues at the state level. Requests that the process be outlined for checking the state test for the Fire Fighter I and II test and inquires about what is being done now and in the future to prevent these issues. Mike Greis states that the machines have been calibrated and the prior tests are being rescanned.

Chief Johnson, Detroit Fire Regional Training Center, congratulates Gary on his retirement. A letter was sent in May in regards to the 2 Instructor applications, he questions why he was not notified that more information was required. The severity of the issue regarding the scanner issues was outlined. Fire Marshal Miller has drafted a letter to send out outlining the situation as well as three personal letters to Chief Johnson's students addressing this situation.

James Edwards, Detroit Fire Regional Training Center outlines his frustration with his Instructor II application and the process he has gone through.

Matthew Majestic, Oakland Community College, expresses his appreciation on his Instructor II approval. Offers assistance to the Fire Fighter Training Division and seeks clarification on the

funds used per fiscal year. If the course starts in 2015, 2015 funds may be used. Expresses well wishes and appreciation to Gary on his retirement.

10. Rule Update and LARA Presentation-Liz Smalley, LARA/ORR, Barbara Kunkel and Jennie Kahn-Jacques

Liz brought the new appointee handbooks, but seeing they were not in attendance, they will be presented at the next meeting. The instructor II requirements were discussed in length. The officer requirement has to come out of the rules, it is unenforceable as there is no authority for the Council to determine and certify officers. The letters serve no purpose to establish that anyone would have met qualifications under Instructor II of NFPA unless that person mentored that Instructor for the period to establish all of those qualifications. There has to be consistency. The goal is to wipe out barriers to entry. Michigan Fire Training Division Best Practices are recommendations by the Council that could potentially work in their favor towards updating the statute. The Governor's directive was made clear, as well as the Council's authority. The Bureau and the Council were made aware of the legality issues involving issuance of payments, it is now the Bureau's responsibility to correct it and they are required to fix it. Before the next meeting, review of the appointee handbook, as well as review of the rules, and any other issues needing to be discussed.

11. Council Comment

Councilperson Pettinger expresses her frustration with the communication in regards to SMOKE and use of funds. Expresses gratitude to Gary and well wishes on his retirement.

Councilperson Tackett and Councilperson Blomstrom also express their appreciation.

Councilperson Blomstrom reminds that the counties should not be overlooked in regards to RTC's providing assistance. The county training committee's should also be given the opportunity to provide training in their respective county.

Fire Marshal Miller conveys his apologies again in regards to the scanner issue. It is also expressed, his concern in regards to the HazMat test.

Chairperson James communicates his appreciation to past Councilpersons Richardson and Purchase for their time spent on the Council and also to Gary for his dedication over the years.

12. Adjournment

15-06-012

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Pettinger and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIES**. The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

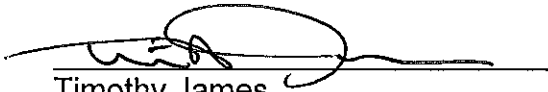
NEXT MEETING

August 11, 2015 @ 1:30 p.m.

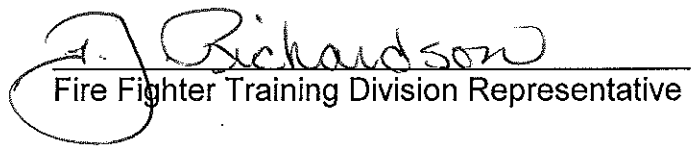
Location:

3101 Technology Blvd., Suite H, Lansing, MI 48910

APPROVED:



Timothy James
Chairperson



Fire Fighter Training Division Representative



Councilperson