



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
WORK SESSION - RULES

Delta Township Fire Department
811 N. Canal Road, Lansing, MI 48917
Thursday, September 5, 2019
9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chad Tackett, Chairperson, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (joined at 9:10 a.m.)
Brian Blomstrom, Vice Chair, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Lynnae White, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society
Terrance Blackmer, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Jacob Steichen, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Alan Styles, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Greg Janik, Michigan Municipal League

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal/Recording Secretary
TJ Richardson, Region 2 Coordinator

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Liz Arasim, LARA Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs
Steven McKellar, Plainfield Township Fire Department
Mark Cleveland, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Adam Carroll, Hartland Area Fire
Nick Miller, Hamburg Township Fire Department
Ryan Tibbets, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety
Jack White, Shelby-Benona Fire Department
Matt Calus, Delta Township Fire Department
Chris Stoecklein, Canton Fire Department

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom called the special meeting/work session to order at 9:03 a.m.
A quorum was determined present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

19-9-01

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson White** to approve the special meeting agenda for September 5, 2019. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. COMMUNICATIONS:

Councilperson Steichen shared that he has received new correspondence since the last meeting but has not had a chance to review it. He will bring these items back to the next meeting.

Councilperson Blackmer has received about a dozen inquiries regarding the fire officer classes. He shared that these individuals want to run fire officer classes over the winter and are not happy that the rules will not be finished.

Councilperson Blomstrom received an inquiry regarding county allocations. Specifically, whether a fee can be charged if all county funding is used. Councilperson Blomstrom shared that he spoke to the Fire Marshal and the he confirmed that a fee may be charged if all county funding is used.

Councilperson White has not received any new inquiries since the last meeting.

Councilperson Pettinger also received an inquiry regarding officer classes. She shared that she contacted Region Coordinator Dan Hammerberg and he was able to answer her questions.

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier:

- Held a town hall meeting in Richland, Michigan on August 22, 2019. Some of the attendees voiced concerns regarding in-house training. Others shared that they felt the council was trying to get rid of volunteer firefighters. The Fire Marshal confirmed that is not the case. Councilperson Blackmer stated he has also heard that the council is trying to get rid of volunteer firefighters.
- To make the rules process easier to follow, the Fire Marsal advised the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council section on the bureau website will be reorganized/updated and will include the following: a current draft of the rules that will be updated after every work session, a copy of Public Act 291 of 1966, MIOSHA Part 74, and contact information for the council members.
- Has been advised by the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs that all governor appointees will be issued a State of Michigan email account.
- Regarding Councilperson Blackmer's comments on fire officer classes, the Fire Marshal shared that he has also heard these concerns from the fire service. Most of the people he has talked to have shared that they will focus on Firefighter I and II and Instructor I courses. If there is funding left over, the Fire Marshal has encouraged departments to consider using the funding for regional collaborations, equipment purchases, and/or Q Courses.

- **Chairperson Tackett** has not received new correspondence since the last meeting.
- **Liz Arasim** shared that the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (formerly the Office of Regulatory Reinvention) has provided clarification on the requested items from the last meeting. Fire Instructor, rather than Fire Service Instructor, will be the language used for this certification and firefighter shall be one word to remain consistent with the Act.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- Fire Fighter Training Council General Rules Update:** A revised draft of the Fire Fighter Training Council General Rules was provided to the council in their meeting packets and projected for all attendees to view during the work session. Region Coordinator TJ Richardson made changes to the document per the current discussion. The council started with a review of the Fire Instructor I, II and III classifications with a brief break at 10:40 a.m. At 11:00 a.m. the discussion regarding Instructor III resumed.

19-9-02

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to adjourn the meeting from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
MOTION CARRIED.

The discussion resumed at 1:35 p.m. and covered the fire service instructor and fire investigator classifications.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chief Carroll shared that he has some comments regarding reciprocity that he will share when the council is ready to have that discussion.

VI. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilperson Steichen shared that he broadened his email list to include more of the fire service in northern Michigan and the UP. He encouraged them to reach out to him with questions and/or feedback regarding the rules.

Councilperson Blackmer: None.

Councilperson Blomstrom: None.

Councilperson White: None.

Councilperson Pettinger: None.

Fire Marshal Sehmeyer shared that approximately 165 fire departments in Michigan are

not currently reporting in NFIRS. The non-reporting departments are not limited to a specific area but scattered throughout the state. The Fire Marshal shared that the bureau will be sending letters early next week to the city managers and township supervisors advising of the requirements in the Act as well as information regarding the free software that is used for reporting. Overall, 84% of fire departments are submitting fire reports.

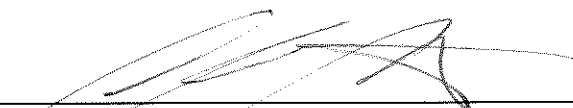
Chairperson Tackett thanked the council for their work today and shared that he thought the work session was productive.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:


19-9-03

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

APPROVED:



Chairperson Tackett



Councilmember