



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**

Bureau of Fire Services – Conference Room B  
3101 Technology Blvd., Suite H, Lansing, MI 48910  
Tuesday, April 9, 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  
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union  
Alan Styles, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (via conference call until 9:35 a.m., in person after)  
Lynnae White, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society  
Terrance Blackmer, Michigan State Firemen's Association (via conference call until 9:45 a.m., in person after)  
Greg Janik, Michigan Municipal League  
Jacob Steichen, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal  
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:**

Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal/Recording Secretary  
Dan Hammerberg, Region 1 Coordinator  
TJ Richardson, Region 2 Coordinator

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Liz Arasim, LARA Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs (joined at 9:23 a.m.)  
Chris VanLoo, Saginaw Fire Department  
Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department  
Mark Cleveland, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs  
Dave Glotzbach, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs  
Stephanie Johnson, Representing the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs

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

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom called the special meeting/work session to order at 9:02 a.m.  
A quorum was determined present.

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

**19-4-01**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to approve the special meeting/work session agenda for April 9, 2019. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **III. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Fire Fighter Training Council General Rules Update:** The discussion began with an overview of the administrative rules process. A handout was provided to all in attendance and will be posted on the Bureau of Fire Services' website ([www.michigan.gov/bfs](http://www.michigan.gov/bfs)) following the meeting. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier advised that there is a lot of misinformation being shared among the Michigan fire service regarding the administrative rules process and that he hoped the handout would help to clarify the process. The Fire Marshal added that the rules document is a work in progress and until the council feels they have reached final draft the document will continue to evolve at each work session.

Councilperson Janik and Councilperson White felt that making the administrative rules process summary available to the fire service would be helpful at dispelling some of the current rumors.

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier added that he would like to issue an informational memo on GovDelivery and include the administrative rules process summary as an attachment.

Councilperson Styles shared that the council should be transparent and that each of the council members can address concerns from their respective organizations.

Councilperson White agreed that the council should be transparent. She added that she requested input from the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society on the topics that pertained to their organization.

Regarding the draft document that was released, Councilperson Pettinger shared that it would have been more appropriate to share a summary of the proposed changes until the final draft was completed as it is a working document.

Councilperson Janik stated there should be a certain amount of discretion as well as a balance between transparency.

Chairperson Tackett added that having gone through the rules process twice now,

he's learned a lot about the process. He would like the process to keep moving forward. He also feels the biggest misconception among the fire service is that the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council initiated the changes to Public Act 291 of 1966, the Fire Fighters Training Council Act, and that is not the case.

Councilperson Steichen agreed. He added that he explains to the northern fire chiefs that the council can only implement the provisions within the Act and that the council is nearing the end of the beginning of the process.

Councilperson Blackmer shared that the various versions of the draft rules circulating among the fire service has added to the confusion.

Councilperson Blomstrom stated that each fire service organization was able to nominate their representative on the board to not only do a good job for their organization, but for the Governor as an appointee and the Michigan fire service as a whole.

Region Coordinator TJ Richardson displayed the draft document so that all in attendance could follow along. Picking up at Section 29.405, the council discussed fire chief certification requirements and at length the option of basing the requirements on the total population in the community, while TJ noted the council's suggestions in the draft document.

## **V. COUNCIL COMMENT:**

**Councilperson Pettinger:** None.

**Councilperson Steichen:** Shared that he wishes more of the fire service could see the work that is taking place at the work sessions and that overall, he has enjoyed being part of the process.

**Councilperson Janik:** Felt that the work session was productive.

**Councilperson Blackmer:** Suggests addressing the rumors regarding the rules process at the afternoon meeting clear up the misinformation that has been shared.

**Councilperson White:** None.

**Councilperson Styles:** Shared that the council must keep moving the process forward.

**Councilperson Blomstrom:** Requested a change to the February 25, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Specifically, that both ISO classes can be taught now however, the old class will sunset as of September 30, 2019.

**Chairperson Tackett:** Stated he would like to move public comment to the end of the regular meeting this afternoon.

Fire Marshal Sehmeyer: Shared that he is looking forward to the regular meeting this afternoon.

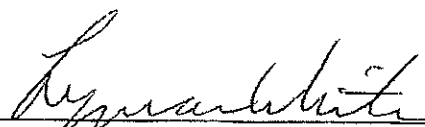
**VI. ADJOURNMENT:**

14-4-02

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Styles** to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
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Chairperson Tackett

  
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Councilmember