



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Virtual Meeting via Teleconference
Call In Phone Number: 1-877-820-7831
Conference ID: 973313
April 14, 2020
1:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chad Tackett, Chairperson, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Brian Blomstrom, Vice Chair, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Alan Styles, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Terrance Blackmer, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Jacob Steichen, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal
Lynnae White, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society
Greg Janik, Michigan Municipal League
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

None

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

Andrea Keown, Department Technician, Fire Fighter Training Division/Recording Secretary
Dan Hammerberg, Region 1 Coordinator, Fire Fighter Training Division
TJ Richardson, Acting Region 2 Supervisor, Fire Fighter Training Division
Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal (Teleconference moderator)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Matthew Erickson, LARA Communications (Teleconference moderator)
No public sign in sheet due to the meeting being a teleconference.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Chairperson Tackett called the regular meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. A quorum was determined present. Chairperson Tackett read the following introduction to everyone on the teleconference:

In order to minimize disruptions, until the time designated by the Council for public comment, members of the public will be muted to the Council and other attendees and participants. During the time designated by the Council for public comment, members of public will no longer be muted and may participate and provide their comments by orderly speaking using the microphone on their phone. All existing Council rules regarding public comment (including rules designed to minimize disruptions and allow for full public participation) still apply.

All quorum rules still apply. In the event of a disconnection caused by the meeting host, the Council will be considered to be in recess. Every effort will be made to reestablish a publicly accessible connection. If the host is unable to do so within a period of 30 minutes from the time of the disconnection, the Council will adjourn and not address any new business until its next meeting. Any decisions made prior to the disconnection will be binding. The Council will not recess or adjourn due to technical or other issues experienced by individual members of the public that render them unable to attend or participate in the meeting."

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES

611 OTTAWA ST., 4TH FLOOR • P.O. BOX 30700 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

www.michigan.gov/bfs • 517-241-8847

LARA is an equal opportunity employer/program.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

20-04-01

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to approve the April 14, 2020 regular meeting agenda. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Chairperson Tackett recommended that since this is a teleconference, a roll call vote will be done for any motion put forth to council for the remainder of this meeting.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

20-04-02

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and seconded by **Councilperson Styles** to approve the following minutes as presented:

February 11, 2020 Regular Meeting
February 11, 2020 Special Meeting
March 9, 2020 Special Meeting

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes
Councilperson Styles – yes
Councilperson White –yes
Councilperson Blackmer – yes
Councilperson Janik – yes
Councilperson Steichen – yes
Councilperson Pettinger – yes
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – yes

Nine votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IV. COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairperson Tackett was contacted by a few fire chiefs regarding COVID-19 but stated the training moratorium memo posted on GovDelivery from the Fire Marshal answered all of their concerns.

Councilperson Steichen mentioned the northwest region training coordinators are hosting a Fire Officer I ProBoard online course.

V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:

- a) **COVID-19 Updates:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier informed everyone that the entire Bureau of Fire Services' (BFS) office is currently working from home until the Stay Home Stay Safe order has been lifted.
- b) **Zoom Meeting:** The Fire Marshal shared with the council that Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR) granted a 90-day extension to get a final draft of the rules submitted. Now that BFS has a Zoom account, the Special Meeting/Rules Work Session can be rescheduled. Hollie Metts will send out a Doodle Poll to the council members to see which dates work with their schedule over the next two weeks.
- c) **Training Moratorium Extended:** The Fire Marshal has asked that course managers not reschedule any courses until May.
- d) **Revised Course Summary:** The Fire Marshal noted the Course Summary that was provided to council and reiterated the importance of chiefs keeping their rosters up to date, so the statistics are as accurate as possible.

1. **Jones & Bartlett:** The Fire Marshal informed council that the names of the curriculum committee have been sent to Jones & Bartlett (J&B) and each member of the curriculum committee can contact Joy Knobbe at J&B to obtain their Officer I Textbooks.
- e) **Update on vacant positions:** The Fire Marshal communicated that the Region 2 Coordinator and Curriculum Specialist positions are on hold potentially until the new Fiscal year. The qualified candidates were emailed and informed that they will be notified once the positions are able to be filled.
- f) **2020 Fatal Fires:** The Fire Marshal stated that there have been a total of 45 fire fatalities in Michigan since January and stressed the importance of members of the fire services using their platform to raise awareness.

VI. CURRICULUM WORK GROUP REPORT:

Councilperson Blomstrom shared that the curriculum work group has been given instructions to email Andrea Keown at BFS their contact information to obtain their copy of the Fire Officer I textbook from J&B. He is looking to schedule a meeting in May for the work group to meet.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Fire Officer I Delivery:** The Fire Marshal asked the council to consider BFS running a Beta course for online delivery of the Fire Officer I course. The Fire Marshal explained that the Officer I format will not be much different from the Fire Instructor I format. The Fire Marshal gave a brief synopsis of the course to the council. Councilperson Blomstrom asked if a Train the Trainer or curriculum update will be offered before the official roll out of the course. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier said BFS will know more at the June council meeting. Councilperson Pettinger asked if the Curriculum Committee will be looking over the exam before it is administered. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier assured that the Curriculum Committee will be looking at the exam beforehand.

20-04-03

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and supported by **Councilperson Pettinger** to allow BFS to move forward with a Beta online course for Fire Officer I with 20 participants. A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes
 Councilperson Blomstrom – yes
 Councilperson Styles – yes
 Councilperson White –yes
 Councilperson Blackmer – yes
 Councilperson Janik – yes
 Councilperson Steichen – yes
 Councilperson Pettinger – yes
 Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – abstain

Eight votes yes and one abstention. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- b) **FY20 Funding:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier met with the budget office and suggested that council move forward with the same \$2.3 million budget as last fiscal year. Due to COVID-19, firework sales could be down, and the bureau has had to dip into fireworks safety fees reserves to the maintain the 2.3 million in county training funding. Chairperson Tackett asked if the reason for the borrowing from the reserve is because firework sales are down or because of loop holes and non-payment of fees due. The Fire Marshal confirmed it was from lack of firework sales and lower collection of safety fees.
- c) **Q Course Applications:**
 1. **Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program**

20-04-04

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and seconded by **Councilperson White** to approve Q Course Application, FMQ20-014. A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes
Councilperson Styles – yes
Councilperson White –yes
Councilperson Blackmer – yes
Councilperson Janik – yes
Councilperson Steichen – yes
Councilperson Pettinger – yes
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – yes

Nine votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments.

X. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilperson Blomstrom: No comments.

Councilperson Blackmer: No comments.

Councilperson Steichen: Thanked those who called in and looks forward to the Zoom meeting and getting the rules finalized.

Councilperson Pettinger: Stated this was a productive meeting and appreciates that we can still meet while we are all under the Stay Home Stay Safe order. Hopes everyone stays safe.

Councilperson Styles: No comments.

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier: Thanked everyone for calling in, is excited to get Officer I going and appreciates being allowed to present the information to council. Be safe everyone!

Councilperson Janik: Grateful that the teleconference was put together, looks forward to the Zoom meeting.


Chairperson Tackett: Thanked the public for attending and is looking forward to the Zoom meeting. Thanked Matt and Hollie for moderating the teleconference. Be safe, stay low, and take care of each other and yourself.

d) ADJOURNMENT:

20-04-05

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

APPROVED:



Chairperson Tackett



Councilmember