



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Bureau of Fire Services – Conference Room B
3101 Technology Blvd., Suite H, Lansing, MI 48910
February 25, 2019
1:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Greg Janik, Michigan Municipal League

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bill Weaver, Saginaw County
Liam Carrol, Schoolcraft College Fire Training Institute
Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department
David Pelton, Walker Fire Department
Tom Stuck, Macomb County
Mark Cleveland, Muskegon County
Mike Betts, Saugatuck Township Fire District
Andre Doser, Battle Creek Fire Department
Rob Ginther, Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety
Bill Pawluck, Lansing Community College
Charles Pichan, Detroit Fire Department
Philip Duczmiaski, Novi Fire Department
Matt Majestic, Oakland Community College
Thomas Rowley, Chesterfield Township Fire Department
Steve Perna, Warren Fire Department
Michael Youz, N.I.E.S.A.

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES
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Jeremy Connell, S. Joseph Department of Public Safety
Adam Munro, Macomb Fire Department
John Skelly, III, Washington Township Fire Department
James Hill-Harris, Detroit Fire Department

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Chairperson Tackett called the regular meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was determined present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

19-02-17

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to approve the regular meeting agenda for February 25, 2019. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

19-02-18

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and seconded by **Councilperson White** to approve the following meeting minutes:

December 11, 2018 Special Meeting
December 11, 2018 Regular Meeting
January 23, 2019 Special Meeting

MOTION CARRIED.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. **Dave Pelton, Walker Fire Department:** Shared that he supports Councilperson Janik and the removal of the Fire Instructor II moratorium. Mr. Pelton feels that the students should not be penalized for the council not having the rules in place.
- b. **Bill Pawluk, Lansing Community College:** Inquired whether a date for the new curriculums had been approved. Councilperson Blomstrom shared that the decision was made at the December meeting to approve both the IFSTA and the Jones & Bartlett curriculums (motion #18-12-05). Fire Marshal Sehmeyer shared that the Bureau of Fire Services must establish a new test bank before an updated test can be given. The bureau plans to implement the new curriculum by October 1, 2019, at the start of the new fiscal year. Mr. Pawluk shared that Lansing Community College's fire academy begins in August 2019 and had hoped to switch to the new curriculum before then.
- c. **Liam Carroll, Schoolcraft College Fire Training Institute:** Inquired whether there would be a sunset period due to the college semesters that cross over into the new fiscal year. They would not be able to change books midway through the semester.

Region Coordinator Dan Hammerberg shared that in the past, the switch to a new curriculum was done by October 1st. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that there are significant changes in the new editions. It was decided further discussion was needed on this topic and will be addressed under new business at the next regular meeting on April 9, 2019.

V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:

- a. **Grant Application Prep:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier thanked bureau staff for their work that went into preparing the grant applications for council's review. He shared that over 100 staff hours went into completing this project on top of their day-to-day work. He was pleased to see that overall, NFIRS reporting has gone up since the last grant process.
- b. **Revised Course Summary:** A revised course summary was provided to council for review. The Fire Marshal pointed out that a total of 3,964 firefighters have completed 81,000 of training hours statewide in FY19. Councilperson Pettinger noticed that the Instructor I course average was low. The Fire Marshal confirmed that the course average is below 80% and that the bureau continues to monitor.
- c. **Future Q Course Application:** The Fire Marshal shared with the council that he will seek Q Course approval for Silouan Green's firefighter suicide class. Mr. Green presented at the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society fall conference in September and the Fire Marshal has received great feedback. Councilperson Pettinger agreed that it was a great program.
- d. **Firefighter Training Budget:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier confirmed that the FY20 budget has been submitted for \$2.3 million. The Fire Marshal encouraged the council to start thinking about funding for FY20 if they want to increase the amount of training funds in upcoming years.
- e. **Equipment/Props:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier stressed that all props purchased using grant funds must follow the State of Michigan's purchasing process. Further, all bid paperwork must be included with the request for auditing purposes.
- f. **NFA Course Call:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that the Bureau of Fire Services will send out information regarding the NFA's course call in March.

VI. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT:

Councilperson Blomstrom shared that there is no formal report at this time. However, he noticed recently that Arson Detection for First Responders is still in the SMOKE system. He believes this class was sunsetted and replaced. He will work with bureau staff to confirm.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **NFA ISO Update:** Councilperson Blomstrom requested to add this item to the agenda to adopt the new class curriculum. While on the subject, Councilperson Blomstrom shared that an NFA ISO class had been taught in Greenville, Michigan in January 2019. There were 22-23 students in the class. Councilperson Blomstrom stated the instructor gave an overview on some of the subjects and taught the class in nine (9) hours instead of the required 16-hours.

19-2-19

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to approve the 2016 NFA ISO course. Fire Marshal Sehmeyer shared that he would follow up with the students regarding the nine (9) hour delivery of the class. **Councilperson Blomstrom amended the motion** to allow the current curriculum to be completed. The current curriculum would sunset on September 30, 2019, and the new curriculum would begin on October 1, 2019. **Councilperson Pettinger accepted the amendment. MOTION CARRIED.**

- b. **ICS 300/400 Courses and MI-Train Entry:** Councilperson Blomstrom shared that in talking with the Michigan State Police it was determined that there have been ICS 300/400 courses registered only in SMOKE and not in MI-TRAIN. Those courses may not be recognized as they were not registered for properly in MI-TRAIN. Fire Marshal Sehmeyer shared that he would follow up with Lt. Sosinski and report back to council at the next meeting on April 9, 2019.
- c. **MIOSHA Part 74 & NFPA 1403 Live Fire:** Fire Marshal Sehmeyer shared that MIOSHA needs something in writing before they can act regarding MIOSHA Part 74.

19-2-20

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson Styles** to allow the Fire Marshal to write a letter requesting that MIOSHA update Part 74 to the NFPA 1403 Live Fire standard. Chairperson Tackett asked whether the update would be added to the document. The Fire Marshal responded that it would be updated in the public act. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- d. **Firework Safety Fee Funds/Certification Funding:** Fire Marshal Sehmeyer shared during the December work session that additional staff will be needed to track the fire service certifications. This position would be a dedicated person to oversee the fire service certifications per Public Act 291 of 1966, as amended. He also shared that he has received approval to backfill the vacant departmental technician position in the Fire Fighter Training Division. This position would likely take over as liaison to the council. The Fire Marshal is seeking approval from the council to fund (100%) a certification specialist position and partially fund (20%) a departmental technician position using fireworks safety fees. The Fire Marshal added that he doesn't feel that current bureau staff can take on any more to fully implement the changes in the Act, which is why he is asking for approval to fund the two (2) positions. Further, additional funding is needed for the training coordinators to give certification exams.

19-2-21

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to authorize the replacement of the Fire Fighter Training Division's departmental technician position in FY19, funded 80% by the LARA general fund and 20% by fireworks safety fees. **Chairperson Tackett** asked whether any of the funding for the position would come from the \$2.3 million of appropriated training funds. **Fire Marshal Sehmeyer** confirmed that the position would be funded only by fireworks safety fees and general fund dollars. **MOTION CARRIED.**

19-2-22

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded **Councilperson Steichen** to fully fund (100%) a certification specialist position using fireworks safety fees effective October 1, 2019. **Councilperson White** asked whether this position would have an impact on firefighter training funds. **Fire Marshal Sehmeyer** confirmed that it would not and that the position would be funded 100% using fireworks safety fees. **MOTION CARRIED.**

19-2-23

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to authorize \$140,000 of fireworks safety fees for the training coordinators to give certification exams in FY20. To clarify, **Councilperson Pettinger** asked if the certification exams will be additional work for the training coordinators. **Fire Marshal Sehmeyer** confirmed that it will be. **Councilperson Pettinger** then asked if \$140,000 in fireworks safety fees would be enough. **Fire Marshal Sehmeyer** shared that \$140,000 is an estimate of the cost and if it turns out to be less, the remaining funds will not be spent. The **Fire Marshal** added that the bureau may need to hire additional training coordinators to accommodate the workload. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- e. **Instructor II:** Fire Marshal Sehmeyer explained that items E and F are the same. Councilperson Janik had requested the Fire Marshal have a discussion regarding the topic. The council discussed the topic and why the decision was made to put the class on hold until the rules are completed. Councilperson Blomstrom explained that the motion was made because the process is unclear until the rules are in place. Once the rules are in place it will be clear for everyone. Councilperson Blackmer agreed that the council did not anticipate some of the issues that came up regarding this course and sees no issue with keeping the hold in place until the rules are completed. Councilperson Blomstrom added that it's too bad the motion had to be made but feels it was necessary as some individuals were trying to circumvent the system. There was no action taken on this item. It was decided that this topic would be added to the April 9, 2019 meeting agenda under old business for further discussion with Councilperson Janik.
- f. **Removal of Instructor II Moratorium:** Discussed under item E.
- g. **Draft – FY18 MFFTC Annual Report:** The councilmembers have submitted their feedback to Hollie Metts for the FY18 MFFTC Annual Report. Councilperson Blomstrom requested that the final report be posted to the bureau's website.

h. Q Course Applications:

19-2-24

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and seconded by **Councilperson Blackmer** to approve the following Q course applications under one (1) consent approval, excluding Q course application numbers 6, 12, 13, 20 and 21:

1. HAYO (Hey Are You Okay) / Instructor: Alan Styles / Phone: 231-286-2518
2. How to be a HIPP Firefighter / Instructor: Alan Styles / Phone: 231-286-2518
3. Down and Dirty Firefighter Survival / Instructor: Alan Styles / Phone: 231-286-2518
4. MI/WI Combined Fire and Life Safety Seminar / Instructor: Varies
5. Big Box Store Firefighting Strategies and Tactics / Instructor: On Scene Training Associates / Phone: 609-743-0166
7. Fire Investigation Training: Practical Application and Hands on Experience / Instructors: Dennis Richardson and James Hill-Harris / Phone: 313-596-2946
8. LSSU RTC Forcible Entry Course / Instructor: Nicholas Vaught and Fred Newton, Jr. / Phone: 248-459-0069
9. Basement and Cellar Fires: Strategy and Tactics / Instructor: John Brophy / Phone: 201-407-8902 / Email: brophyjohnr@aol.com
10. First Due – The First 5 Minutes / Instructor: John Brophy / Phone: 201-407-8902 / Email: brophyjohnr@aol.com
11. VES: Beyond the Door / Instructor: Brother in Battle, LLC / Phone: 718-208-9573
14. HazMat IC / Instructor: Michael Wallace / Phone: 603-890-1320
15. Engine Company Operations / Instructor: Nick Martin / Phone: 610-637-8315
16. Combat Ready Firefighting / Instructor: Nick Martin / Phone: 610-637-8315
17. Truck Company Operations / Instructor: Nick Martin / Phone: 610-637-8315
18. HazMat Operations Refresher / Instructor: Oakland Community College Instructors / Phone: 248-232-4212
19. Advanced Fire Engine Operator / Instructor: Oakland Community College Instructors / Phone: 248-232-4212
22. Copper Country Live-fire Training / Instructor: Jonathan Stone (lead instructor), Dan Sarazin, Andrew Black, Greg Tarnowski and Todd Markham / Phone: 906-369-4567

Councilperson Styles and **Councilperson White** abstained. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Regarding Q course application numbers 6, 12, 13, 20 and 21:

6. Pro-Board Instructor III / Instructors: RAFT Instructors / Phone: 248-521-5453

The council asked for clarification on the course name. Mark Cleveland stated that the course name should be Pro-Board Instructor II.

19-2-25

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to deny the application due to the error/incorrect application. **MOTION CARRIED.**

12. Company Officer I / Instructor: Regional Alliance for Firefighter Training
13. Company Officer II / Instructor: Regional Alliance for Firefighter Training

19-2-26

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to deny the applications for Company Officer I and II due to the incorrect form/application. **MOTION CARRIED.**

20. Rope Rescue Operations / Instructor: Scott Rieckmann and Kaylin VanStappen / Phone: 920-850-1232
21. Rope Rescue Technician / Instructor: Scott Rieckmann and Kaylin VanStappen / Phone: 920-850-1232

The council discussed the applications for Rope Rescue Operations and Rope Rescue Technician further.

19-2-27

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Styles** to approve the Rope Rescue Operations and Rope Rescue Technician Q course applications. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IX. 2019 MFFTC Training Grant Application Awards:

i. Regional Applications:

19-2-28

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and seconded by **Councilperson White** to approve the following regional grant applications under one (1) consent approval:

- FMG-104 – Copper Country Live Burn Training for \$25,000
- FMG-119 - various classes for \$19,660
- FMG-022 – Live Fire Training for Clinton County for \$25,000
- FMG-095 – Kalamazoo Metro Training Project for \$24,675
- FMG-087 – Principles of Modern Fire Attack for \$3,550
- FMG-028 – Forcible Entry Simulators for \$14,085
- FMG-055 – Door Prop – Smoke Machine for \$8,600
- FMG-075 – Multi-force Door for \$7,305
- FMG-068 – Thermal Imaging and Modern Fire Dynamics for \$8,485
- FMG-083 – Flashover Training for \$4,882
- FMG-096 – IAFF Peer Support for \$8,000
- FMG-101 – Farm Rescue for \$10,000
- FMG-057 – Smart Screen Distant Learning for \$15,408
- FMG-112 – Engine Company Operations for \$9,000
- FMG-066 – Bullex Digital Attack for \$22,409.54

Chairperson Tackett explained that the council tried to distribute training throughout the state and took into consideration the types of training and how many students would be trained. Fire Marshal Sehmeyer reminded applicants that training funds must be spent by September 20, 2019. **Councilperson**

Styles amended the motion to include funding for the following regional grant applications should funding become available:

FMG-032 – Agricultural Machine Rescue for \$1,760
FMG-030 – Pump Ops/Mutual Aid Tanker Shuttle for \$2,660
FMG-063 – Fire Ground Survival for \$5,854.32
FMG-116 – Midland County Training DVDs for \$6,535
FMG-092 – Recon Rit for \$21,000
FMG-042 – Lion Hose Prop for \$22,000
FMG-002 – Training Equipment/Props for \$22,000
FMG-100 – Fire Ground Survival Training and RIC for \$22,020
FMG-123 - Live Fire Training Simulator for \$22,201.83
FMG-071 – Blue Card Online for \$24,820
FMG-036 – 2nd Annual EUP Firefighters Conference for \$25,000

Councilperson White accepted the amendment. MOTION CARRIED.

- ii. **Department Applications:** Chairperson Tackett shared that there was not enough funding available for the department applications. Regional applications were given priority.

19-2-29

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to hold the department applications until the end of the fiscal year for consideration should additional funds become available.
MOTION CARRIED.

X. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilperson Blomstrom: Shared that he is very happy with the grant process as it allows all 83 counties an opportunity to receive training funds. For those that can't spend the funding, that's great that it can be given to other counties in need. Every county is different and has different training needs.

Councilperson Styles: Asked that the fire service continue to be patient as the council works on the rules. He encouraged all in attendance to contact their council representative with any questions.

Councilperson White: Thanked all in attendance for coming to the meeting. Wished they could give funding to everyone.

Councilperson Blackmer: None.

Councilperson Steichen: Shared that he was happy with the meeting today and feels this is a very positive time for the fire service. He also encouraged all in attendance to reach out to their council representatives and voice their opinions.

Councilperson Pettinger: While the council had to make some tough decisions today, by focusing on regional grants they are to train more firefighters in the state.

Fire Marshal Sehmeyer: Shared that the council is back to the Bureau of Fire Services on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 to continue working on the Rules. Once the draft is completed, it will be submitted to the Office of Regulatory Reinvention for review. He encouraged all attendees to come to the work sessions and shared that he looks forward to getting the rules completed so that staff can begin preparing for the certifications.


Chairperson Tackett: Thanked the bureau staff, including Hollie Metts. He also thanked the attendees for coming to the meeting and said that he appreciates the crowd that comes to the meetings on a regular basis. The Chairman added that he would share a video conference link for any of the councilmembers that are not able to participate in person during the work session on February 27, 2019.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

19-2-30

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Styles** to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

APPROVED:



Chairperson Tackett



Councilmember