



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES
JULIE SECONTINE
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR

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

3101 Technology Blvd., Suite H
Lansing, MI 48910
December 13, 2016
1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Timothy James, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs, **Chairperson**
Brian Blomstrom, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association, **Vice Chairperson**
Terrence Blackmer, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
Chad Tackett, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Joel Hondorp, Michigan Municipal League/Michigan Townships Assn.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Julie Secontine, State Fire Marshal, Council Member ex-Officio

BFS STAFF PRESENT

Daniel Hammerberg, Region 1 Coordinator
Rhonda Howard, Recording Secretary
Cathy Carson, Secretary
TJ Richardson, Region 2 Coordinator
Ann Searles, Interim Deputy State Fire Marshal

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Justin Holmes, Grand Rapids FD
Lee Finlayson, Grand Rapids FD
Mark Fankhauser, Grand Rapids FD
Thomas J. Tyler, Detroit FD
Thea Dornbush, Gerald R. Ford Int'l Airport FD
Mark Cleveland, Egelston FD
Matthew Majestic, Oakland Community College
Mike Chevrette, Washtenaw County
Karl Holder, Rochester Hills FD
Philip Duczyminski, Novi Fire Department
Greg Kowalski, Wayne County Community College District
Dan Oberst, Bath Fire Department
John Kramer, Monitor Twp FD
Josh Mosher, Midland FD

Jim Peterson, Saginaw Twp FD
John Cieslik, Rochester FD
Bill Coty, St. Louis Area FD
Martin Erskine, Battle Creek FD
Jeff Slayton, Battle Creek FD
Liam Carroll, Schoolcraft Community College
Don Munn, Walker FD
Dennis Firment, Farmington Hills FD
Rich Marinucci, Self
Jim Peterson, Saginaw Twp FD
Bill Pawluk, Lansing Community College
Kevin Sehlmeier, Courtland FD

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairperson James called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. A quorum was determined present.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

16-12-001

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

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

16-12-002

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Blackmer and seconded by Councilmember Blomstrom to approve the October 28, 2016, regular meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIES.**

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

5. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT – Ann Searles in Absence of Fire Marshal Secontine

The Bureau has been working on the Accela program for the storage tanks division and beginning will go live shortly. We will also be using the Accela program for the fireworks program in January. We will also not be running the delegate program this year. The training division has applied for an AFG grant which hopefully we will hopefully hear back in January or February on this and will use this for SMOKE enhancements.

Chairperson James asked Ann Searles what the scope of the project for the enhancements to SMOKE the bureau was looking to do. Ann stated that some of the enhancements are coming from the public facing and also online training and testing.

Councilmember Pettinger asked why we are not having the delegated inspections this year like we have the past 3 or 4 years. Ann Searles stated that it was a Bureau decision since this piece of the new system wasn't ready for use yet. The Bureau will be doing all of the fireworks inspections this year. Council person Pettinger asked who they could talk to about the

delegations being cancelled for this year. Ann Searles stated that they could talk to State Fire Marshal Secontine.

Chairperson James advised that he attended the JCAR hearing yesterday 4 members of each house present. There was roughly 45 requests for 15 day waivers and the fire service was in that group and it was approved. Next the rules move to the Office of the Great Seal and then take affect shortly thereafter. The FFTC will finally have new rules after 7 years. The rules were originally drafted in 1979 and received a minor update in 1981.

Chairperson James asked Ann Searles about any word on staff replacements for the Bureau? Ann Searles informed him that there were not any to date. Chairperson James asked if any of the positions have been submitted? Ann stated not at this time. Chairperson James asked if they expected to get them submitted? Ann stated that right now they've disbursed BreeAnn Hooker's work out to others in the Bureau and would probably be looking into this probably first of the year.

Chairperson James asked the Deputy State Fire Marshal if she had a report on the unencumbered funds for the them since we are coming up on the end of the year? Ann stated that she did not but would have TJ Richardson get that information to the Council. TJ Richardson asked if they were looking for the non-allocated funds and if so that is was right around \$900,000 not allocated as yet. He has heard from Wayne County and they are working on their courses into the system this week. Chairperson James asked if reminders had been sent out? TJ Richardson stated that yes they have been sent out via email, newsletters, etc. Councilmember Pettinger asked if it was just reminders to the CTC's or training officers? TJ Richardson stated that the only ones we can send it to are the CTC's as they are the ones that authorize the expenditure of the funds so we hope that they would do their due diligence to get the message out.

Chairperson James asked Ann Searles if there was a way between her and the Fire Marshal they could get out a mass message to the fire service that this money needs to be encumbered by the end of the year? Ann stated they could work on that.

6. Committee Reports – Vice Chairperson Blomstrom

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom went over the Curriculum Committee meeting main points and recommendations. Next meeting will be in January.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Funding for Fire Academies/Fiscal Year 2017 Training Funds

Don Munn thanked the council for giving him the opportunity to speak to them. He stated for about the last year and a half he has been working his local school district Kent Intermediate School District that serves Kent County, Ottawa County, Montcalm County and Newaygo County. He has been working to try and develop and get established a fire academy for high school seniors. The intermediate school district in cooperation with one of their local training centers they have developed a program that they would like to begin in the fall of 2017. The students will all be seniors and the course is set up so that they will have approximately 400 hours of instruction between classroom and practical instruction. Kent County has allotted money and will conduct 3 academies. Kent is also looking for officer classes, instructor

classes, etc. The school district can come up with close to \$75,000 towards this with a big portion of that being for transportation. The Kent county chiefs have all come on board with this. He's looking for \$35,000 to pay for the instructor and other instructors for the practical sessions. This will be a little over 2 hours a day per week for this course.

Chairperson James advised that unfortunately the way the boilerplate language is written in the law the council cannot encumber any funds for this program, funds are disbursed to the counties and he could ask the 4 counties for the money to fund this program. He also stated that hopefully if the law gets changed in the near future they would be able to do grants again in the future as they did the first year that opportunity was taken away with boilerplate language in the law. Chairperson James stated on a positive side this is a great opportunity for these high school students. Chairperson Pettinger stated that this was actually voted on this week and it's going in the right direction but he should definitely contact his legislators in Kent County.

Courage to be Safe Report

T.J. Richardson was asked to do a review of the number of courage to be safe programs that have been run since its inception. These numbers are generated from the smoke system, in 2013 we had 367 students complete, in 2014 there were 1,039 and in 2015 there were 1,063 and there are still some open and non-funded courses for 2016 to finalize. Chairperson James asked Mr. Sehlmeier how these numbers stacked up to his projections from when this program was implemented? Mr. Sehlmeier said that he thinks their pretty good, the question he would ask is how many fire fighters went through FFI and II last year so that could give us a better idea as the 1,063 that completed it as to how many we had. Mr. Sehlmeier needs the statistics to be able to validate. Chairperson James asked how do these numbers match up to the rosters? As of about 30 days ago there were about 40,000 fire fighters in the network nationwide and we need to hit about 1.3 million so we have a ways to go. There is a renewed focus in what they are going to do nationally and they will role that out in January. Chairperson asked if he could go into that system and pull out just Michigan so council can see how many of the 40,000 are signed up from Michigan? Mr. Sehlmeier stated that he could. He then stated that just because an instructor pulls a course number from the state doesn't mean that the roster will get sent to national. TJ Richardson stated for FY 2015 Fire Fighter I and II that 1,025 completed the course.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Recommendations

Council tabled until the next meeting.

Non-SMOKE County Training Fund Application

Michigan Agricultural Accident Rescue Systems

16-12-003

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Tackett and seconded by Councilmember Blackmer to approve the application. **MOTION CARRIES**

Officer Development

16-12-004

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Blackmer and seconded by Councilmember Hondorp to approve the application. **MOTION CARRIES**

Airport Live Fire Training

16-12-005

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Hondorp and seconded by Councilmember Blomstrom to approve the application. **MOTION CARRIES**

Fairground Survival

16-12-006

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Pettinger and seconded by Councilmember Blackmer to approve the application. **MOTION CARRIES**

Tactics for the Due Engines

16-12-007

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Hondorp and seconded by Councilmember Blomstrom to approve the application. **MOTION CARRIES**

ISFSI Training Officer Credential

16-12-008

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Blomstrom and seconded by Councilmember Pettinger to approve the application. **MOTION CARRIES**

Structural Tower Rescue

16-12-009

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Hondorp and seconded by Councilmember Pettinger to approve the application. **MOTION CARRIES**

Trench Rescue-Advanced Technician Level

16-12-010

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Blackmer and seconded by Councilmember Tackett to approve the application. **MOTION CARRIES**

Water Response/Rescue-Awareness/Operations

16-12-011

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Pettinger and seconded by Councilmember Blomstrom to approve the application. **MOTION CARRIES**

Machine Rescue Technician

16-12-012

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Blackmer and seconded by Councilmember Blomstrom to approve the application. **MOTION CARRIES**

Surface Water Rescue

16-12-013

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Tackett and seconded by Councilmember Blackmer to approve the application. **MOTION CARRIES**

Anhydrous Ammonia Operations

16-12-014

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Blomstrom and seconded by Councilmember Pettinger to approve the application. **MOTION CARRIES**

Principles of Modern Fire Attach: SLICE-RS

16-12-015

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Blackmer and seconded by Councilmember Blomstrom to approve the application. **MOTION CARRIES**

Incident Safety Officer Academy

16-12-016

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Blomstrom and seconded by Councilmember Blackmer to approve the application. **MOTION CARRIES**

Instructor II

16-12-017

Mark Cleveland asked the council for permission to run 2 beta test pilot classes for an instructor II program. He presented the program to the curriculum council last Tuesday. A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Blomstrom to run the 2 beta test pilot classes for the instructor II program, with results to be brought back to council by June of 2017 and seconded by Councilmember Blackmer to approve. **MOTION CARRIES**

VFIS EVDT Program

Chairperson James asked the Bureau for their thoughts on the VFIS program and their charging of additional fees for updates. Dan advised the council, stating that one of their instructors in Antrim County called and stated he couldn't obtain the newest updated VFIS curriculum and that the State Fireman's Association was not allowed to sell the instructor guides anymore. He was told to contact VFIS directly and they would not sell him and instructor guide without going through an update or a train the trainer. So he called Dan and he stated that our office was not notified. Dan called the State Fireman's Association that VFIS stated that they would no longer sell the instructor guides they can still sell the student manuals. Dan called VFIS talked to a secretary and she sent him to the Michigan office. She told him to email Brian Timmer and has not gotten a response. Dave Purchase called on the VFIS and Dan inquired as to what was going on, so Dave made some calls. There has been no resolution at this point on how to get the updates. Chairperson James asked Dan if a meeting with the State Fire Marshal and VFIS has been scheduled yet? Dan stated not yet. Chairperson James asked if that was in the works and Dan said yes. Councilmember Blomstrom asked if we stay where we are at right now, will they pull the opportunity to teach this class. Dan stated that they would not pull the course since they've done train the trainers for more than 30 instructors since the change over, 16 have gone through the update however we have 1500 instructors statewide. Chairperson James stated that if there was anything the council could do to help facilitate and work through these issues they will.

9. Council Comment

Councilmember Pettinger asked all of the council members to go back to their organizations and talk about this important training and apply for it. Councilmember Pettinger also stressed the importance of getting these Training Division positions filled, we need a curriculum specialist, the director, BreeAnn Hooker's position filled and asked Ann to pass that on to LARA. It also concerns her that the delegation program is cut this year.

Councilmember Blackmer agreed with Councilmember Pettinger stating that he just feels that the training division is just being systematically dismantled. People are asking questions we don't have questions for and it's becoming very frustrating, something has to give and we need to rebuild everything we've lost here.

Councilmember Blomstrom stated at some point in time we need to go back through the minutes and determine if there was ever a decision in writing about the scope of practice for the old certified instructor program. At one time Joe Grutza state that this level was frozen, you would not lose anything by keeping it, but you couldn't take any train the trainers since those were only for instructor I individuals. We shouldn't limit these individuals from taking these trainings. This makes more programs available to the certified instructors.

Chairperson James stated that under the new rules R 29.408e, an instructor who is approved by the department at the effective date of these rules as a certified instructor, according to qualifications established prior to 2010, shall maintain his or her status as a certified instructor. A certified instructor is an instructor who has demonstrated the knowledge and ability to coordinate other instructors, and who is capable of using a variety of teaching strategies to develop lesson plans and instructional aids based on a task analysis.

A certified instructor may teach all courses he or she is qualified to instruct as of the effective date of these rules or that he or she has successfully completed unless a third party certification is required. So if they have, using drivers training as an example, completed the drivers training class, now the 3rd party instructor certification is required, so now they can go back and take the class.

Councilmember Blomstrom stated that they found out in December that the PICO and STICO classes were updated and TJ Richardson has been working to get those updates on the instructor association site. At the next meeting a recommendation will be made to phase out the old and adopt the new and just change the number for curriculum number.

Chairperson James addressed the council and asked again for the bureau to fill the vacant positions as that curriculum person would be so helpful. Also, we are down to the last minute to get funding encumbered and get the message out.

10. Adjournment

16-12-018

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Blomstrom and seconded by Councilmember Pettinger to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIES**. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

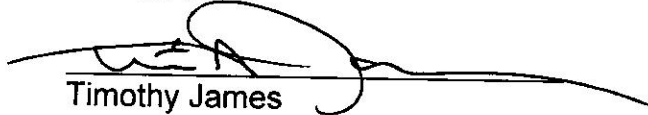
NEXT MEETING

February 14, 2017 @ 1:30 p.m.


Location:

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

APPROVED:


Timothy James
Chairperson


Brian K. Blanton
Councilmember


Fire Fighter Training Division Representative