



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES
RICHARD W. MILLER
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MIKE ZIMMER
DIRECTOR

MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
3101 Technology Blvd., Suite H
Lansing, MI 48910
April 14, 2015
1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson Timothy James, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Vice Chairperson David Purchase, Michigan Municipal League/Michigan Townships Assn.
Brian Blomstrom, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
Steve Richardson, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Chad Tackett, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs

MEMBERS ABSENT

Richard Miller, State Fire Marshal, Council Member ex-Officio

BFS STAFF PRESENT

Michael Deprez, Deputy State Fire Marshal, representing Richard Miller
Michael Greis, Fire Marshal Representative
Daniel Hammerberg, Region 1 Supervisor (via teleconference)
BreeAnn Hooker, Recording Secretary

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Matt Majestic, Oakland Community College
Andy Steeby, Wayne County Community College
Gregory Kowalski, Wayne County Community College
Michael McLeieer, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Derek Hillman, Highland Park Fire Department
Bob Coffman
Brent Cole, Genesee County Training Committee
David Denniston, McNeil and Company
Sean Jenkins, Milan Area Fire
Mark Cleveland, Egelston Fire Department
Liz Smalley, DLARA, Office of Regulatory Reinvention
Marnie Wills, DLARA, Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs
M. Skiendziel, McNeil and Company
Ernie Close, Washtenaw County Mutual Aid Association
Kevin Peck, Decker Agency

Robert Stokes, Detroit Fire Department
Anthony Watts, Detroit Fire Department
Charles Pichan, Detroit Fire Department
Jamal Mickles, Detroit Fire Department
Rodney Brown, Detroit Fire Department
Thomas J. Tyler, Detroit Fire Department
Ray Wlosinski, Training Coordinator
Carl Hollier, Detroit Fire Department
Ed Blight, Mundy Township Fire Department
Bill Miller, Gaines Township Fire Department

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairperson James called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. A quorum was determined present.

State Fire Marshal Miller is excused, on his behalf, is Deputy Fire Marshal Deprez.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Clarifications include; item #8 under Old Business, strike Appeal Process.
Item #9 New Business, Fire Fighter I and II Failure Rate should indicate the letter d. and Non IMS Applications shall change to e.

15-04-001

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

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

15-04-002

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Tackett and seconded by Councilperson Purchase to approve the February 10, 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIES.**

4. RULE UPDATE

Liz Smalley brings forth the final draft and seeks and shares clarification in various areas before finalizing the rule sets for review by the Legislative Services Bureau and Attorney General Braverman.

5. INSTRUCTOR APPLICATIONS

Staff presented the following Instructor applications for the Council's consideration:

- (30) Certified Instructor I
- (13) Probationary Associate Instructors

- (16) Probationary Instructor I
- (7) Certified Associate Instructor

A question was raised by Councilperson Pettinger regarding the verification of number of years of service. Mr. Hammerberg explained the process of confirmation via IMS.

15-04-003

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Tackett to approve the instructor applications as presented. **MOTION CARRIES.**

15-04-004

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Richardson to approve Edward Blight's Instructor II application. **MOTION CARRIES.**

6. State Fire Marshal's Report

SMOKE

Business manager, Ann Searles, presents a brief overview of the new replacement to the IMS system, System Maintenance of Knowledge and Education. Estimated time to launch this new, user friendly system is somewhere between the middle to end of May. All browsers will support this system and it will be accessible on all devices, including cell phones. Training webinars and power points are being developed.

BFS Training Survey Form (BFS-209)

As a result of the audit findings, this form was developed. This form is sent out with each class to get feedback in various areas. The question was raised as far as what the information is used for. The Instructor is notified of negative feedback and all evaluations are saved for reference.

Fireworks Update

The application period closed April 1st. Currently 990 total certificates in the queue to be approved, 100-130 more than last year. Just over \$113,000 has been collected since October 1st in safety fees. There are 70 delegate fire departments encompassing about 140 inspectors. Audience and council members are encouraged to reach out to their County Training Chairs to ensure that they are encouraging the fire departments in their county to spend the money. State Fire Marshal Miller has proposed an increase to the overall allocation and also to request a grant program of approximately \$205,000 in addition to the \$1 million allocation.

SFM Response Letter to Carl Billings Jr and Carl Billings III

Two complaints have been received by Fire Marshal Miller in regards to a Regional Training Center. An investigation was completed and action was taken to respond to those complaints.

7. Committee Reports – Blomstrom

Gary Crum notified the Committee that, at the present time, the discussion from the Fire Marshal's Office is to consider moving back to one book for all curriculums; this may be an issue for EVOC, unless there is just one test for the Driver's Training curriculum. Dave Denniston of McNeil and Company Risk Management, felt the current generalized test would meet the McNeil program and ongoing program as well, however, he offered to review the

current test and ensure those points were in the test. Act 300 would also be added to the Michigan Book. Mr. Denniston also stated the book is updated every 12-24 months to ensure the most current information is present. The last update to the current curriculum was in 2008. Each book from McNeil and Company is specially printed for the state adopting it, so adding required topics and points is not a problem.

Cost: Workbook is about \$8.50; the hand-held version is \$5.00

Instructor packet materials are \$25.00

Fire Department Members/Agencies insured by this company or members of the MFSIA (a policy holder) would not have to pay for materials.

Train-the-Trainers were discussed; McNeil stated they would set up the programs free of charge around the state. As for distribution of the books, the Michigan State Fireman's Association offered to assist with the printing and distribution of books, and would work out a plan to ensure those that could obtain the materials for free would be able to.

15-04-005

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to adopt the McNeil and Company EVOC program as part of the Fire Fighter Training Division course menu offerings. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Councilperson Purchase abstained from the vote being involved with the other company, that being VFIS.

15-04-006

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Richardson that 2 instructors be authorized to teach ICS 300 and 400 and be compensated accordingly to the current schedule. **MOTION CARRIES.**

15-04-007

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Purchase to increase the funding for the Agricultural Rescue course, K05A, to reflect 2 instructors for 16 hours. **MOTION CARRIES.**

The next curriculum committee meeting is set for May 11, 2015, 9AM, at the Bureau of Fire Services.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Traffic Incident Management TIM

A letter from Fire Marshal Miller was sent to the Traffic Incident Management Engineer, Annjanette Kremer, indicating the position of the Council was clarified from adoption to endorsement.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

Clarification of PA 300 Related to EMT's only on FD

There was a concern that Gary Crum passed on to Councilperson Purchase relating to the EVOC course. An employee from Solon Township who is an EMS responder only, the question is raised as to what this person needs to take in order to drive fire apparatus and what direction does the Chief take. The Chief was advised to solicit the legal opinion from their township attorney. The department shall designate a program, they have 1 of 3 programs to pick from on the EMS side and show documentation and competency.

Dornbush Company Officer Request

Chief Szakacs requests the Council's support for Thea Dornbush to teach Company Officer based on her Chief's recommendation. It is the Chief's opinion that she has served in a role of a Company Officer according to NFPA 1021 for more than three years.

15-04-008

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Pettinger and seconded by Councilperson Tackett to table Thea Dornbush's request to teach Company Officer, pending more discussion with Liz Smalley regarding rule clarification. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Coffman Discipline Appeal

Review of the letter, violation of instructor policy 2-1 addressed to Mr. Robert Coffman, by Deputy Fire Marshal Deprez. Mr. Coffman verifies the investigation findings and expresses his apologies.

15-04-009

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to uphold the State Fire Marshal Miller's discipline, but to increase the County Training Committee Chair suspension from 1 year to 2 years. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Councilperson Tackett and Councilperson Blomstrom abstained from voting.
4 in favor. 2 abstention.

Firefighter I & II Failure Rate

A complaint has been received on the fire fighter failure rate by Fire Marshal Miller. Mr. Greis defers to Councilperson Blomstrom to explain how the curriculum committee came up with questions on the Fire Fighter examination. The test bank was received and the questions were divided among the curriculum committee for determination of questions being placed on the examination and verification that the questions can be found in both IFSTA, 6th edition and Jones & Bartlett, 3rd edition books. The failure rate has gone up considerably since the release of the 6th edition exam. Instructors are asking for a remedy to this situation. Deputy Fire Marshal Deprez will review the concerns presented with Fire Marshal Miller and office staff. Councilperson Purchase requests a copy of the Fire Fighter exam to review. Councilperson Blomstrom is requesting 6 new people look at the Fire Fighter exam.

NON IMS Applications

15.14 Gladwin MSFA Spring Fire School

A request for \$770.00 to send 7 Chief's from Gladwin County to attend the MSFA Spring Fire School.

15-04-010

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to approve the Gladwin County Fire Chiefs request to attend the Michigan State Fireman's Association Spring School. **MOTION CARRIES.**

15.15 Macomb FCA Conference in Petoskey

Macomb County Fire Chiefs Association is looking to send 11 personnel to the Northern Michigan Chiefs Conference in Petoskey and is requesting \$1375.00.

15-04-011

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Tackett and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom to approve the Macomb Fire Chiefs Association request. **MOTION CARRIES.**

15.16 Gratiot ICS Table Top for Multi Company Operations

Gratiot County Training Council is requesting \$650 to send command staff to ICS Table Top for Multi Company Operations.

15-04-012

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Richardson and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to approve the Gratiot County request. **MOTION CARRIES.**

15.17 Gratiot Offensive Exterior Operations

Gratiot County is requesting \$650 to send Chiefs, Officers and Firefighters to Offensive Exterior Operations.

15-04-013

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Tackett to approve the Gratiot County request for Offensive Exterior Operations. **MOTION CARRIES.**

10. Public Comment

Robert Stokes, Detroit Fire Department, Regional Training Center, offers their help in assisting the Council in any way.

Carl Hollier, retired Captain from Detroit Fire Department, was named in a complaint that was filed by Carl Billings against the Regional Training Center. The allegation was that Mr. Hollier was not qualified to teach Company Officer. He feels his name was slandered by Mr. Billings, tarnishing his 28 year career. He feels that it was done maliciously and to cause hurt.

Charles Pichan expresses his appreciation to the Council and the fact that the fire fighter exam will be reviewed.

Raymond Wlosinski, inquires about the 9 NON-IMS Applications that were faxed on March 10th, sent to the attention of Gary Crum.

Derek Hillman, Highland Park Fire Department, expresses his thanks and offers his assistance should the Council or Bureau staff, need it.

Bill Miller, Gaines Twp. Fire Department, has seen a lot of transitions over the years as an Instructor and Curriculum Committee member. The feedback being given around the state, stating the test is not viable. Thanks and appreciation expressed to Council.

Brent Cole, chairman of Genesee County, offers suggestions to remedy the exam situation. Why can't a retest be done with the 5th edition?

Ernie Close, Washtenaw County, inquires about the 5 NON-IMS Applications that were sent to Gary Crum via email on March 2nd. They are not on the agenda and he needs authorization to spend his county money.

Tom Tyler, Detroit Fire Department, expresses he is more than happy to get involved to review that fire fighter exam.

11. Council Comment

Councilperson Blomstrom reviews the process of the test bank questions for fire fighter exam and reiterates that the current curriculum committee not be involved, whatsoever.

Councilperson Tackett thanks the audience for coming to the meeting.

Councilperson Richardson appreciates the public comment as it assists the Council in doing their job.

Councilperson Pettinger appreciates the audience and also being on the curriculum committee, does not support going back to the 5th edition, as the 6th edition is out for a reason. Look at the 6th edition and making it right.

Deputy Fire Marshal Deprez reflects on the rules process. Based on feedback, the current exam will be reviewed and made right. Also, expresses appreciation to the Detroit Fire Department and the Council.

Chairperson James expresses his appreciation to Liz Smalley for remaining consistent with the rules process and interpretations of the law and keeping the Council on track. Appreciation to the curriculum committee for their hard work and also states his disagreement with going back to the 5th edition. Work session will be planned for the next meeting and possibly a special meeting.

12. Adjournment


A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Pettinger and seconded by Councilperson Tackett to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIES.** The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

6-9-15 @ 1:30 p.m.

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

APPROVED:



Timothy James
Chairperson



Fire Fighter Training Division Representative



Brian K. Blanton
Councilperson