



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
February 10, 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
Chad Tackett, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Richard Miller, State Fire Marshal, Council Member ex-Officio

MEMBERS ABSENT

Steve Richardson, Michigan State Firemen's Association

BFS STAFF PRESENT

Gary Crum, Region 2 Supervisor
Michael Greis, Fire Marshal Representative
Daniel Hammerberg, Region 1 Supervisor (via teleconference)
BreeAnn Hooker, Recording Secretary

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Matt Majestic, Oakland Community College
Gary Kautz, County Training
Michael McLeieer, Michigan State Fireman's Association
Keith Weisgerber, BFS Training Coordinator (Retired)
Liz Smalley, Office of Regulatory Reinvention
Mark Cleveland, Egelston Township Fire Department
Ray Wlosinski, Schoolcraft College
Dan Witwer, Grand Rapids Fire Department

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

Councilperson Richardson was excused.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Public Recognition was added for Fire Marshal Miller to recognize Keith Weisgerber for 29 years of service and dedication, where a plaque was presented on behalf of the Bureau of Fire Services.

Under Old Business, Councilperson Blomstrom requests that a report on the review of Brad Dornbos be added.

15-02-001

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

15-02-002

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Pettinger and seconded by Councilperson Tackett to approve the December 9, 2014 regular meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIES.**

4. RULE UPDATE

The more concise the rules get, Liz Smalley seeks and shares clarification in various areas. The Attorney General's office is willing to review the rules when the draft is complete. A main issue being looked at is that a student can challenge the exam without going through the academy. Liz requests proposed language to clarify equivalency from the Council. Councilperson Purchase requests that Liz put together a synopsis of the topics and areas needing to be addressed and send to Fire Marshal Miller.

5. INSTRUCTOR APPLICATIONS

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

- (7) Certified Instructor I
- (10) Probationary Associate Instructors
- (4) Probationary Instructor I
- (6) Certified Associate Instructor

15-02-003

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

**6. State Fire Marshal's Report
Leadership Changes**

Recent departmental restructuring resulted in Fire Marshal Miller now reporting to Al Pohl, who serves as the department's Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance and Administrative Services, has also been named a LARA Deputy Director. His additional responsibilities will include oversight of Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, and the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Fireworks update

Safety fees collected for the Fiscal Year 2014 season totaled \$1,895,682. 676 permanent and 215 temporary certificates were issued. In that time, 75 departments were delegated, covering 119 communities. Total Fireworks sales were reported to be \$26,440,948.

The delegated department application deadline ended in December for Fiscal Year 2015. Currently we have 72 delegated departments covering 126 municipalities. Due to updates and changes, there is a mandatory training session being held on 2/25/15 for delegated departments. The total amount of safety fees collected as of November 12, 2014 is \$4,048,577.

Training Funds

Redistribution of training funds by county was presented to Council. Clarification was sought from Councilperson Blomstrom as to why Council was not able to request a minimum disbursement. At the discretion of the Fire Marshal, the budget had to move forward without Council's input. Fire Marshal Miller and the Council agree to draft correspondence, addressing the issue of redistribution of funds so that everyone is on the same page and it was agreed that the message has to get out to the fire service in a multitude of ways.

Certificates

At the December meeting, it was requested that Fire Marshal Miller research the topic, a fire chief requesting the pass/fail grade for one of their fire fighters. The Buckley Amendment must be upheld here, there has to be written consent from the fire fighter before the grade can be released. Originally, it was a cost cutting measure, but after researching this topic there is actually an underlying law prohibiting this. A Chief has the ability to go into their department, into the personnel training records and gather whether the class that was taken was passed or failed by the individual.

Motions

A numbering system is requested by Fire Marshal Miller for the future motions that are made, have a sequential number attached, to be determined by the recording secretary for future tracking purposes, Council is in agreement.

Reappointments

There is no information updates for this, the Appointments Office has been contacted with no response back.

7. Committee Reports

Councilperson Blomstrom went over goals for the next meeting. It is requested that the Company Officer test questions be printed for distribution at the next meeting, so the review process can begin and the test be finalized by spring. Discussions continue regarding the ICS 300 & 400 program with Michigan State Police including instructor qualification, funding, and establishing a joint committee between the two entities to oversee the training.

A Driver Training vendor has approached the Curriculum Committee for review of their program and then possibly bring before the Council for adoption to coincide with the VFIS program.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Firefighter Training Annual Report Update

Thanks to Councilmember Purchase for his hard work on the Annual Report.

The question was raised whether the Annual Report goes by Fiscal Year or Calendar year. It is asked that council members review the report and respond by end of business Friday, February 13, 2015 to Councilperson Purchase. Councilperson Purchase will then compile the feedback and send to Fire Marshal Miller for his review.

Report on Review of Brad Dornbos

Upon further review of his instruction history, it shows that he does not qualify for Instructor II certification.

15-02-004

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and seconded by Councilperson Pettinger to rescind the Instructor II certification of Brad Dornbos as requested and passed by Council during the October meeting, subsequent to the investigation, in determining that he did not meet the requirements as stated. **MOTION CARRIES.**

9. NEW BUSINESS

None

10. Non-IMS County Training Fund Applications

15.7 Romulus FD Fire Staff and Command

15.8 Oakland Community College Recon RIT

15-02-005

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Tackett to approve the training fund application, 15.7 for Romulus Fire Department Fire Staff and Command. **MOTION CARRIES.**

15-02-006

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Purchase and seconded by Councilperson Blomstrom to approve the training fund application, 15.8 for Oakland Community College Recon RIT based on per student cap of \$325. **MOTION CARRIES.**

11. Public Comment

Gary Kautz applied for Instructor II certification several months ago; he is expressing his reason for wanting that certification. The only qualification Mr. Kautz does not meet at this time is having been retired from the fire service for more than 5 years. He has continued to teach since retirement and believes the Council should make an exception and reconsider his application.

Matt Majestic, has been a Union secretary for an extended period of time and suggests sequencing the motions by year, month and sequential order in the format as follows, 15-02-001. Pleased to hear the Company Officer test will be returning.

Dan Witwer, reiterates the importance of the Company Officer test. Also, the Grand Rapids RTC was able to garner VA benefits for veterans to use their GI bill money to receive training. As a result, they were able to successfully train 3 people. Mr. Witwer comes here to encourage other RTC's to apply to the Federal Government for assistance as well.

Mark Cleveland inquires on the status of the new IMS system. Fire Marshal Miller states that the Bureau is currently working towards implementation. Time sensitivity of the federal grant money has accelerated the sense of urgency with moving forward, though an extension has been requested. \$800,000 has been encumbered from another division to assist in moving the other divisions forward. The question was also presented in regards to replacing Gary upon retirement. Fire Marshal Miller states that at the last budget meeting, the approval has been granted to replace Gary upon his retirement.

12. Council Comment

Councilperson Blomstrom inquires as to whether the Curriculum Specialist position will be filled. Fire Marshal Miller states that at this time, he does not have approval to fill that position.

Clarification on BFS Training Survey/Evaluations was sought by Councilperson Purchase. At the August meeting, there was a motion to place this form on hold until a plan is in place for review and discipline outlined for not returning the form is established and discussion to be brought before council. Place this topic on the agenda for the next council meeting for discussion.

15-02-007

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Blomstrom and supported by Councilperson Purchase to approve the amended 2015 meeting schedule as posted. **MOTION CARRIES.**

13. Adjournment

15-02-008

A **MOTION** was made by Councilperson Pettinger and seconded by Councilperson Tackett to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIES.** The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

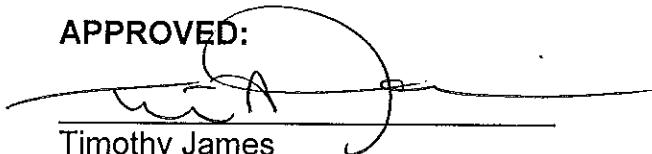
NEXT MEETING

April 14, 2015 @ 1:30 p.m.

Location:

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

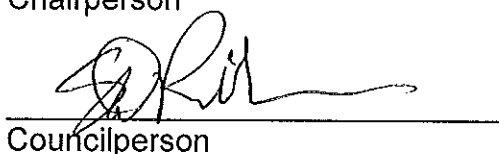
APPROVED:



Timothy James
Chairperson



Fire Fighter Training Division Representative



Councilperson

