



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

**MINUTES**  
**MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**WORK SESSION – RULES**

Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
1:30 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://zoom.us/j/98227574304?pwd=ajk4WG1JMExyb0NBVHJ2dUIDU0RHdz09>

Password: 1HdRqg

Phone: (636) 651-0008 or (877) 336-1839 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 629222

**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  
Lynnae White, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society  
Terrance Blackmer, Michigan State Firemen's Association  
Greg Janik, Michigan Municipal League  
Jacob Steichen, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal  
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union  
Kevin Sehmeyer, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:**

Dan Hammerbrg, Region 1 Coordinator, Fire Fighter Training Division  
Andrea Keown, Department Technician, Fire Fighter Training Division/Recording Secretary  
Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal (virtual meeting moderator)

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Adam Carroll, Hartland Twp. Fire Department	Michael Keefe, Allendale Fire Department
Adam Munro, Macomb Twp. Fire Department	Michael Kennedy, Ann Arbor Fire Department
Andre Doser, Battle Creek Fire Department	Michael Yanz, Northeast Ingham Emergency Service Authority
Bill Parker, Blair & Paradise Twp. Fire Department	Nick Miller, Hamburg Twp. Fire Department
Bryan Kukla, Frankenlust Fire Department	Robert Ginther, Beverly Hills Public Safety
Corey Miller, Berkley Dept. Of Public Safety	Robert Bryant, West Bloomfield Fire Department
Greg Flynn, West Bloomfield Fire Department	Robert Smith, Dexter Area Fire Department
Jack White, Shelby-Benona Fire Department	Scott Damon, Cambridge Fire Department
Jim Stevenson, Warren Fire Department	Shaun Abbey, Kentwood Fire Department
Jon Stone, Stanton Fire Department	Steven Apostal, Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department
Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department	William Pawluk, Lansing Community College
Kurt Corradi, Bay City Public Safety	
Liam Carroll, Schoolcraft College RTC	
Mark Cleveland, Egelston Twp. Fire Department	

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES

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**I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:**

Before **Chairperson Tackett** called the special meeting to order, he announced a roll call vote will be done for any motion put forth to council during this meeting and read the following introduction to everyone in the virtual meeting:

*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.”*

**Chairperson Tackett** called the special meeting session to order at 1:33 P.M. Roll call was taken

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

A quorum was determined present.

**II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**20-06-05**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to approve the June 9, 2020 regular meeting agenda, as presented.

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.**

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**20-06-06**

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

April 14, 2020 Regular Meeting

April 30, 2020 Special Meeting  
May 11, 2020 Special Meeting  
May 18, 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:**

**Fire Marshal Sehlmeier:** Received letter from Shaun Abbey regarding a Michigan Joint Fire Service Council (MJFSC) Training Convention but will speak to it in his report and that it is on the agenda

**Chairperson Tackett:** Received letter from Chief Kennedy from Ann Arbor in support of Shaun Abbey's letter.

#### **V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:**

a) **COVID-19 Updates:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier informed everyone that on May 15, 2020 under [Executive Order 2020-77](#), firefighter training and council approved courses can resume. Fire marshal conducted training with coordinators, spent time going over procedures to follow to conduct training and testing going forward.

On June 3, 2020, the fire marshal provided clarification on facemasks and helmet shields. While testing, a person who is participating and practicing a skill or is being evaluated on a test can remove facemasks as long as people in immediate area have facemasks on.

b) **BFS Updates** The fire marshal shared that the entire Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) office is currently working from home. In addition to working from home, every State employee has a temporary layoff day; half is furloughed Monday and the other half on Friday. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier and Deputy Director Searles do not participate in layoff days but participate in pay reduction program.

c) **Revised Course Summary as of 6/8/2020:** The revised Course Summary was ran on Monday and has been posted on the Training Division webpage. 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. If anyone has any questions on anything, please reach out to Dan Hammerberg or Fire Marshal Sehlmeier.

d) **Report on Online Instructor Orientation:** Dan Hammerberg and I tried out an online orientation last week, limited it to 16 students because we wanted it to be more interactive.

e) **Update regarding Fire Officer I Exam:** The Curriculum Committee will meet on Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup> to go over the Fire Officer I exam.

f) **ProBoard:** Have a meeting coming up at the end of the week. Talking about how to move forward on the draft rules with Pro Board certification. Trying to work on a process with Pro Board that allows students who did not take Pro Board course to have an opportunity to get certification by portfolio review.

g) **Zoom Trial Course Incident Safety Officer (ISO):** The Brighton and Howell Fire Departments reached out and sought approval to do a trial ISO course via Zoom Meeting. Brighton laid out

all the activities and how this would be done. Feedback would be given to the fire marshal upon completion of the trial course. Course was approved on the basis that virtual courses are going to become more prevalent.

- h) 2020 Fatal Fires:** Currently the state of Michigan have had 65 fire fatalities. To put in to perspective, last year Michigan had 109 fatalities statewide. The month of April was especially tough with 17 fire fatalities. Major contributors of these fatalities have been people with disabilities and smoking. The fire marshal was able to secured \$250,000 from the State of Michigan by September 30, 2020 for smoke alarms and other products to wake up groups with disabilities including training for fire departments on how to target and how they can communicate with the network throughout the state.

The Bureau of Fire Services put in for a FEMA (AFG) grant for fire prevention for a 2 year program across the state that will bring \$1.5 million to the state.

## **VI. CURRICULUM WORK GROUP REPORT:**

**Councilperson Blomstrom** shared that the curriculum work group will be meeting tomorrow (6/10/2020) to assess the Fire Officer I exam. Councilperson Blomstrom also noted that he will be absent from the meeting but Councilperson Pettinger will be presiding over the meeting.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) Virtual Fire Fighter I & II Course:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier, Dan Hammerberg, and Jon Stone of Stanton Fire Department brought forth the idea of teaching the Fire Fighter I & II course through a virtual learning platform. All of the lecture would use the J&B Premier Platform. Would need 16, eight (8) hour days to do all the practical items. The only way the virtual course can be done is breaking the course into 15 hands on modules. Every two (2) weeks the participant would be required to call the course manager on Zoom to check in. Practical days would use a 5:1 instructor/student ratio. A total of 60 participants would be in the first virtual trial, each 20 person group would have a course manager. Each person signed up would pick their course manager. There would be a lead instructor and four (4) instructors who take care of the modules. Looking to do this in the Western Upper Peninsula. This group is not looking for any funding. It will be funded by County funds in the Upper Peninsula. Council discussed the need for this type of course offering, especially in the wake of Covid-19.

### **20-06-07**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and supported by **Councilperson Pettinger** to allow a trial run of a virtual Fire Fighter I & II learning platform for up to 80 students broken into four (4) sessions with the idea to use at a County level. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Eight votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **20-06-08**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Tackett** and supported by **Councilperson Janik** to allow a trial run of a virtual Fire Fighter I & II learning platform with the idea to use during the 2020 Fall semester at the RTC college level. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Seven votes yes, one abstention. **MOTION CARRIED**

- b) Fire Expo as part of Joint Council:** Michigan Joint Fire Service Council (MJFSC) is seeing a lot of redundancy with the same speakers being brought in to present at different fire service events and attendance numbers being down at these events. MJFSC has been working on a solution to consolidate this into one large event while also saving money and time. MJFSC is seeking permission to use firework funds to create an “FDIC International like” experience for the Michigan Fire Services by hosting a fire expo in 2021. The trial run will be held at the Novi Showplace at the end of March. Going forward they are open to any ideas on where to take the expo, be it different locations throughout the state. Looking to potentially add classes and training while at the expo. Discussion was had between council members regarding the funds and where it would be come from and how it will be returned.

#### **20-06-09**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and supported by **Councilperson Tackett** to support Joint Fire Council’s endeavor to host a conference in 2020 for all fire service members utilizing 2021 funds with the understanding that the initial \$80,000.00 issued will be returned to funds after January 1<sup>st</sup>. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Eight votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- c) Adoption of updated NFA FI:FR Curriculum:** The NFA has disseminated the new Fire Investigation: First Responder (FI:FR) course. The one currently on file has been decommissioned by the NFA and is outdated. The new text is titled the same, with the only difference being the updated material and made it a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Councilperson Blomstrom and Dan Hammerberg are looking to update the course code to “C01D” and the remaining courses will be taught with the updated curriculum.

#### **20-06-10**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and supported by **Councilperson Styles** to update to the new Fire Investigation: First Responders 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition textbook printed in March 2020 and update the course code to “C01D”.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – yes  
Councilperson White –absent  
Councilperson Blackmer – yes

Councilperson Janik – yes  
Councilperson Steichen – yes  
Councilperson Pettinger – yes  
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – yes

Eight votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**d) Q Course Applications:**

**1. South Oakland Fire Association Personal Escape Systems and Bailout**

**20-06-11**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to adopt Q Course Application, FMQ20-015. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Eight votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Liam Carroll, Schoolcraft College RTC:** Thank you for the opportunity and support for the virtual learning programs. Would be a great avenue for the future.

**Adam Carroll, Hartland Township Fire Department:** Agrees with Liam about the virtual learning and looking forward to seeing that develop. Also supports the MJFSC fire expo opportunity. Inquired on whether or not the Curriculum Committee meeting is an open forum. For the record...Liam and Adam are not related.

**Rob Ginther, Beverly Hills Public Safety:** Submitted a letter regarding two (2) Q Course applications, wanting to update previous course names. Asking if he should email Dan Hammerberg directly or if he needs to submit new Q Course applications to be put on the next agenda. Fire marshal advised Rob to email him with the name change and it will be updated by BFS.

**Mike Keefe, Allendale Fire Department:** Questions regarding fees and NFIRS compliance and testing. If a department were falling short are students allowed to take the test? Are course managers allowed to go back and fix? Fire Marshal informed that the course manager should make sure that everyone if NFIRS compliant at the time of testing.

**X. COUNCIL COMMENT:**

**Councilperson Tackett:** None.

**Councilperson Blomstrom:** Good meeting today, sorry for the amount of questions. I like the fire expo idea but I get nervous making decisions outside of the 83 counties. I don't want to set precedent. Hopefully the Expo goes off well.

**Councilperson Styles:** Not too much to say, continue to work the way we have been, and everyone stay safe out there.

**Councilperson Blackmer:** Long day today, we got a lot done. Likes the Expo idea but we have to be careful, going forward to not get into the conference business.

**Councilperson Janik:** Council was productive today. Had some necessary discussions today. The

fire expo was the thing to support. Glad the council was really on their mark today. Thank you!

**Councilperson Steichen:** Good meeting today, healthy discussion. Thanks Ryan for the input, appreciates everyone that has provided input. Looks forward to the next meeting.

**Councilperson Pettinger:** Appreciate the audiences patience with the conference conversation but I think it came to a good result. That's what I think this council is all about. Each of us representing our organizations and looking out for the fire services as a whole, I feel we accomplished that today. Thank you.

**Fire Marshal Sehmeyer:** Echoes the comments made, we got through a lot, was a long day. Likes how council works together and solves problems. Would like to reemphasize the importance of being NFIRS compliant, before testing time is the perfect time to get this done. Ultimately it is in the law and needs to be done. Thank you everyone for the work you have been doing and thank you Brian and the curriculum committee for the work you will be doing tomorrow on Fire Officer I. To the staff at the Bureau of Fire Services, there is a hiring freeze on, there is less of us, there is more to do, you impress me daily with all the work you do to make the fire service better, and to the council who is definitely working hard, so thank you.

d) **ADJOURNMENT:**


**20-06-12**

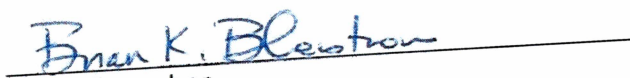
A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

- Chairperson Tackett – yes
- Councilperson Blomstrom – yes
- Councilperson Styles – yes
- Councilperson White –absent
- Councilperson Blackmer – yes
- Councilperson Janik – yes
- Councilperson Steichen – yes
- Councilperson Pettinger – yes
- Fire Marshal Sehmeyer – yes

Eight votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
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Chairperson Tackett

  
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Councilmember