



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

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

Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
9:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

<https://zoom.us/j/93976256158?pwd=ajl2Zi90NjdPQ1NRTDJaTjF2b29Hdz09>

Password: **3zma6s**

Phone: (216) 706-7075

Or (866) 390-1828 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 394127

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chad Tackett, Chairperson, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs  
Brian Blomstrom, Vice Chair, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association  
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 Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Alan Styles, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs

**BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:**

Andrea Keown, Department Technician, Fire Fighter Training Division/Recording Secretary  
Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal (virtual meeting moderator)  
Dan Hammerberg, Region 1 Coordinator, Fire Fighter Training Division  
Ann Searles, Deputy Director, Bureau of Fire Services

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Liz Arasim, Regulatory Affairs Officer, Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs	
Adam Carroll, Hartland Twp. Fire Department	Department
Greg Flynn, West Bloomfield Fire Department	Mike Cousins, Thomas Twp. Fire Department
Jack White, Shelby-Benona Fire Department	Muskegon Fire Instructors
John Kramer, Monitor Twp. Fire Department	Nick Miller, Hamburg Twp. Fire Department
John Leroy, Bloomfield Twp. Fire Department	Robert Bryant, West Bloomfield Fire Department
Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department	Robert Ginther, Beverly Hills Public Safety
Mark Cleveland, Egelston Twp. Fire Department	Robert Smith, Dexter Area Fire Department
Mark Lawry, West Bloomfield Fire Department	
Matthew Covey, Waterford Twp. Fire Department	
Michael Gregorich, Marquette Twp. Fire	

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES

611 OTTAWA ST., 4TH FLOOR • P.O. BOX 30700 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

[www.michigan.gov/bfs](http://www.michigan.gov/bfs) • 517-241-8847

LARA is an equal opportunity employer/program.

## **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 9:02 A.M. Roll call was taken

Chairperson Tackett – present  
Councilperson Blomstrom – present  
Councilperson Styles – absent  
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:**

### **20-07-01**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson White** and seconded by **Councilperson Janik** to approve the July 9th, 2020 special meeting agenda, as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

Eight votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **III. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Chairperson Tackett:** Mentioned that everyone on council has received the June 23<sup>rd</sup> letter from the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC). This is the format that it was supposed to be talked about, the issue last time jumped the gun a bit. Chairperson Tackett expressed that he was a little

appalled by the actions of the council last time. If anyone has any further questions about the letter, feel free to reach out to MAFC to discuss.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Fire Fighter Training Council General Rules Update:** A revised draft of the Fire Fighter Training Council General Rules (dated June 25th, 2020) was provided to the council in their meeting packets and projected for all attendees to view during the work session. FFD Department Technician, Andrea Keown made changes to the working draft document per the discussion. The meeting resumed with council working through the draft document making changes to grammar and adding clarifying language throughout. Also adding Pro Board and IFSAC language to Definitions section.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Greg Flynn, West Bloomfield Fire Department:** Feedback for the committee. Has been engaged in the rules process from the beginning, he and other chiefs have been proactive and constructive however, feels committee meetings are not very inviting, feels confrontational and stressful. Also feels committee is not open to outside thoughts or opinions. Encourages council to review previous meetings to see their interaction with others. At every meeting there are participants watching the process and how the council shapes the fire service. Grateful for your service and grateful for what you do. We are not here to fight or compete, we should be focused on moving forward.

**Adam Carroll, Hartland Twp. Fire Department:** I echo Chief Flynn's comments and felt last meetings reaction by council was emotional and misguided. This was not new information. Same stuff since before march, distilled down and in a different format. Choosing to classify it as new and be offended by the delivery method, all the while avoiding any discussion on the substance of the material was what it was received as by viewers. The trend seems to be continuing.

**Matthew Covey, Waterford Twp. Fire Department:** Thank you Chief Flynn for speaking on making the fire service better. Agree 100% with Chief Flynn. Let's work to make this better. Please understand that the fire chiefs support the hard work and dedication each of you have given to the process. Stay safe and healthy.

#### **VI. COUNCIL COMMENT:**

**Councilperson Tackett:** A lot of people thought it was malicious to send the letter at the time it was sent. It was not meant to be malicious; the timing was not ideal. The content of the letter is no different that the last letter sent from MAFC. Will be sure to send a formal copy to the fire marshal.

**Councilperson Blomstrom:** Good work session. Thanks to Lynnae for how meticulous you are. Thank you Greg Flynn for the comments. You have made some good points. There is some collaboration going on, however we are trying to do what is best for the whole fire service in the entire state. We cannot take everything from a document and implement it.

**Councilperson White:** Thanks to everyone on the call. Council has taken a lot of what was in the MAFC letter into consideration. Expressed that council is trying to get the rules done and is unsure of what else council needs to do to help others feel included in the process. Encourages input, however we can't change everything and have to be fair to the fire service as a whole. Conveyed that she has been on a few other rules processes, and this one has a multitude of organizations that come in to play with these rules.

**Councilperson Blackmer:** Fine work today. Unsure of how we have got to the point of so much finger-pointing. We need to make sure this document represents the entire fire service not just one organization.

**Councilperson Janik:** Grateful for the work everyone has been doing and appreciates the comments given. Believes everyone needs to remember who they represent and put egos aside, not be adversarial and make this work.

**Councilperson Steichen:** Feels pride in what we have been able to do thus far. Sounds like we are all on the same page. Appreciates the fire marshal making sure everyone has a voice and is

included. Thanks for participating and we'll see you next meeting.

**Councilperson Pettinger:** Appreciates public comments. Agrees with Chief Flynn that there has been some confrontation on both sides. We have been working very hard to get the rules and we need to work together.

**Fire Marshal Sehmeyer:** Thanks everyone for the opportunity to be part of this process. Thanks Chief Flynn for sharing his thoughts. We will continue to keep working to get these rules finished. Council has addressed a majority of the point in the MAFC letter. We need to move forward and get these rules done. Please reach out if there is anything anyone wants to talk about.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

**20-07-02**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to adjourn the special meeting/work session.

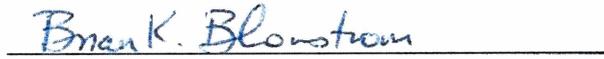
A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes  
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes  
Councilperson Styles – absent  
Councilperson White –yes  
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 12:13 PM.

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson Tackett

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember