MINUTES
MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Lansing Community College – West Campus, Room W157
5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing, MI 48917
Tuesday, October 22, 2019
1:30 PM

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 Sehlmeyer, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal/Recording Secretary
Dan Hammerberg, Region 1 Coordinator

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bill Pawluk, Lansing Community College
Steve Dalton, Clinton Township Fire Department
Rob Ginther, Oakland Community College
Matt Majestic, Oakland Community College
Corey Miller, Berkley Department of Public Safety
Kurt Corradi, Bay City Department of Public Safety
Steven McKellar, Plainfield Township Fire Department
Ryan Tibbets, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety
Adam Carroll, Hartland Area Fire Department
Charles Pichan, Detroit Fire Department
Mark Cleveland, Muskegon County
Michael Yanz, NIESA
Dave Glotzbach, Muskegon Township
Robert Bryant, West Bloomfield Fire Department
Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department
Greg Mowbray, Brighton Area Fire Department
Brad Smith, Iron Sight International Security
Chad Hoskall, Iron Sight International Security
Eric Burghardt, Oshtemo Fire Department
Jack White, Shelby-Benona Fire Department
Mark Nicolai, Muskegon Charter Township Fire Department
Jeromy Robertson, VanBuren Tech

Scott Tobey, Emergency Response Solutions International
John Brophy

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

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

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

19-10-03
A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to approve the October 22, 2019 regular meeting agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

19-10-04
A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and seconded by **Councilperson Janik Blomstrom** to approve the following minutes as presented:

August 13, 2019 Special Meeting
August 13, 2019 Regular Meeting
August 13, 2019 Closed Session
September 5, 2019 Special Meeting
September 24, 2019 Special Meeting

MOTION CARRIED.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:

a) **Course Summary:** A revised course summary handout was provided to the council for review.

b) **Course Schedules:** Course schedule handouts for both the Jones & Bartlett and IFSTA curriculums were also provided to the council for review. The Fire Marshal explained that these schedules are intended to help instructors break down each of the chapters. Chairperson Tackett and Councilperson Blomstrom questioned the hours and felt there were some discrepancies between the schedules and curriculum. Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer stated the bureau will review and provide clarification at the December meeting.

c) **FY19 Funding Overview:** The Fire Marshal also provided a breakdown of FY19 funding for the council's review. He also asked the council to consider how returned funds will be spent in FY20.

d) **Town Hall Meetings:** Two town hall meetings were recently held in Hartland on October 2, 2019 and Roscommon on October 15, 2019. The next town hall meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2019 in Waterford.

e) **Fire Reporting:** The Fire Marshal shared that Rhonda Howard continues to work with 84 fire departments on NFIRS reports. Overall, the total number of non-reporting departments has decreased.

f) **Staffing Updates:** The Fire Marshal advised the bureau is working to fill several positions and encouraged those interested to watch the Civil Service website for job postings.
   i. Departmental Tech Position – Fire Fighter Training Division
   ii. Certification Specialist Position – Fire Fighter Training Division
   iii. Plan Review Vacancies – Marijuana Program and Program Services Division

g) **Council Recognition:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer recognized Councilperson White and Councilperson Janik for their work on the MI Prevention task force. He recognized Councilperson Pettinger for her work on both the MI Prevention task force and the Sound Off Program. He presented each of them with a challenge coin and shared that overall, fire fatalities are down approximately 18% from this time last year.

VI. CURRICULUM WORK GROUP REPORT:

Councilperson Blomstrom provided the council with copies of the Curriculum Work Group's minutes from the August 8, 2019 and the September 4, 2019 meetings for review and shared that they are standing by for the next job that needs to be done.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

a) **Increased Funding for Firefighter I and II Programs:** Councilperson Blomstrom asked that the bureau consider increasing the funding for Firefighter I and II programs as he feels the current funding does not always cover the costs for larger academies.

b) **Q Course Applications:**

1. **Rapid Intervention Crew – Awareness**
   Instructor: Holmes/Steeby / Phone: 269-998-2391 / Email: brassalarms@gmail.com

2. **Rapid Intervention Crew – Operations**
   Instructor: Holmes/Steeby / Phone: 269-998-2391 / Email: brassalarms@gmail.com

   19-10-05
   A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to approve the Rapid Intervention Crew - Awareness and Operations curriculums. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. **The Professional Volunteer Fire Department**
   Instructor: Thomas Merrill / Email: tamerrill63@aol.com

   19-10-06
   A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Blackmer** to approve the curriculum. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. **Pump Operator – Overcoming Real World Challenges**
   Instructor: Danny Evans, David Jackson, Robert Miller / Phone: 989-233-4518 / Email: devansfire@gmail.com

   19-10-07
   A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Blackmer** to approve the curriculum. **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. **Hazardous Material Technician (MI Train #1081543)**
   Instructor: Michigan State Police Instructors

   19-10-08
   A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Janik** to approve the curriculum. **Councilperson Blomstrom and Chairperson Tackett abstained. MOTION CARRIED.**

6. **Basement & Cellar Fire Suppression**
   Instructor: John Brophy / Phone: 201-407-8902 / Email: brophyjohnr@aol.com

7. **Workplace Bullying: Awareness for Today's Fire Service**
   Instructor: John Brophy / Phone: 201-407-8902 / Email: brophyjohnr@aol.com

8. **Workplace Bullying: Operational Considerations for the Company Fire Officer**
   Instructor: John Brophy / Phone: 201-407-8902 / Email: brophyjohnr@aol.com

9. **Workplace Bullying: Strategic Approaches for the Chief Fire Officer**
   Instructor: John Brophy / Phone: 201-407-8902 / Email: brophyjohnr@aol.com

   19-10-09
   A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and seconded by **Councilperson Blackmer** to approve the following curriculums:

   Basement and Cellar Fire Suppression
   Workplace Bullying: Awareness for Today's Fire Service
   Workplace Bullying: Operational Considerations for the Company Fire Officer
   Workplace Bullying: Strategic Approaches for the Chief Fire Officer

   Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer and Councilperson Blomstrom oppose as the applications were submitted in the wrong form. **MOTION PASSES.**

10. **Defense and Tactics for Fire and EMS Responders**
    Instructor: John Prosch, Chad Moskall, and Brad Smith / Phone: 734-652-5096 / Email: forrestgff@mail.com

    19-10-10
    A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to approve the curriculum. **MOTION CARRIED.**

11. Rope Rescue Tech Level/Operations Level
Instructor: John Prosch, Chad Moskall, and Brad Smith / Phone: 734-652-5096 / Email: forrestgff@mail.com

19-10-11
A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to approve the curriculum. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Scott Tobey, Emergency Response Solutions International shared that the first draft of the MUSAR program is completed and ready for testing. Initially the course would be free as the course is refined. He expects to submit a Q Course application in December.

Dave Glotzbach, Muskegon Township applauds the council's desire for consistency and to approve quality training programs. However, instead of disapproving a course based on an incorrect application, he suggests the bureau establish a vetting process to confirm that Q Course applications are submitted on the appropriate form, or that the council approve such applications contingent on resubmittal on the correct form.

Mike Yanz, NIESA shared that he needs to encumber funds but also needs to know how the rules will impact curriculum. The Fire Marshal cautioned folks from running classes that are being updated in the rules as some may not be needed after the rules are completed.

Steve Dalton, Clinton Township Fire Department inquired about the fire officer program. Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer explained that the old classes are no longer supported, and he anticipates that by the time the new rules go into effect the new curriculum will be in place. Mr. Dalton also inquired about the instructor orientation programs. Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer explained that about 4-5 instructor orientations are done each year.

Mark Cleveland, Muskegon County thanked the Fire Marshal for funding two classes that ran at the end of September using returned funds. He also advised of an FDIC class with 6 seats remaining.

Matt Majestic, Oakland Community College inquired about instructor requirements and the criteria or benchmark used to approve new curriculum. He added that he feels Oakland Community College has a quality training program and wants to see other quality programs approved.

Steven McKellar, Plainfield Township Fire Department stated he supports Councilperson Blomstrom's request to increase funding for Firefighter I and II programs.

Bill Pawluk, Lansing Community College stated regarding the course schedules that he feels that the State of Michigan is dropping the standard and trying to cover more job sheets with less time. He argues that many students are not proficient and would benefit from additional training hours.

Rob Ginther, Oakland Community College compared the number of training hours between the police and fire academies. He questioned whether the fire service is staying relevant at a level of professionalism.

Jack White, Shelby-Benona Fire Department expressed his concerns with raising the number of training hours. He shared that he has a hard time with recruitment, retention and training as candidates don't have time for 240 hours on top of their other obligations (job, family, etc.).

John Brophy stated as in any other academic pursuit there is going to be some responsibility on the student.

Dan Hammerberg, Region 1 Coordinator asked that everyone throw out their old saved forms and use the most current versions, which are posted on the bureau website (www.michigan.gov/bfs).

Adam Carroll, Hartland Area Fire Department cautioned folks against fully funding fire academies using fireworks funding as fireworks funds weren't always available and that fireworks continue to be an unpopular topic in some areas.

Charles Pichan, Detroit Fire Department agrees that fireworks funding was not meant to be the sole source of funding but instead was intended to supplement training costs.

X. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer: Appreciates the feedback and thought today's public comment was some of the best. While he agrees with raising the bar, he shared that the council must consider all the different fire departments statewide.

Councilperson Blackmer: Thanked Chief White for his comments and shared that most of the calls he receives are from fire departments similar in size to Chief White's department. He believes the council must find a middle ground. He also feels Chief Carroll is correct and that the fire service can't expect fireworks funding to cover all training costs.

Councilperson Styles: Thanked everyone for attending and encouraged everyone to reach out to their council representative(s).

Councilperson Blomstrom: Agreed that there was good discussion during public comment. He also agreed with Councilperson Blackmer regarding the fireworks funding. He added that his request to increase the fee cap in SMOKE is to meet current costs. He is not looking to turn students away but rather offset costs to continue to teach.

Councilperson Janik: Said that he is grateful for the audience attendance and participation. He encouraged both Bill Pawluk and Matt Majestic to keep up the good work and added that he sympathizes with Chief White.

Councilperson Steichen: Thanked everyone for attending the meeting and encouraged everyone to attend a town hall meeting if they are able.

Councilperson Pettinger: Thanked everyone for their patience, especially with the rules, and shared that she appreciates the feedback from the audience.

Councilperson White: Thanked everyone for attending the meeting and said that she agrees with Matt Majestic's comments regarding the benchmark for Q Course applications.

Chairperson Tackett: Thanked everyone for the comments and for attending the meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

19-10-12
A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Blackmer** to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chairperson Tackett

Aileen Pettinger
Councilmember