



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

SHELLY EDGERTON  
DIRECTOR

**MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL  
PROPOSED**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

3101 Technology Blvd., Suite H

Lansing, MI 48910

April 11, 2017

1:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Timothy James, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs, **Chairperson**  
Brian Blomstrom, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association, **Vice Chairperson**  
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union  
Karen Towne, Acting State Fire Marshal (SFM)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Joel Hondorp, Michigan Municipal League/Michigan Twps. Assoc.  
Terrence Blackmer, Michigan State Firemen's Association  
Chad Tackett, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs

**BFS STAFF PRESENT**

Ann Searles, Deputy Director  
Cathy Carson, Recording Secretary  
TJ Richardson, Region 2 Coordinator  
Dan Hammerberg, Region 1 Coordinator

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Michael Kaloz, Lansing Community College (LCC)  
Mark Cleveland, Egelston Twp. Fire Department  
Liam Carroll, Schoolcraft Region Training Center (RTC)  
Bill Parrin, LCC  
Liam, Carroll, Schoolcraft RTC  
Bill Pawluk, LCC  
Martin Erskine, Battle Creek FD  
Jim Cousino, North Central Michigan College  
Andy Steeby, Wayne Community College  
Jeremy Robertson, Van Buren Tech Center  
Robert Gunther  
Pete Zamora, LCC  
Lee Finlayson, Grand Rapids Fire Department (GRFD)  
Mark Fankhauser, GRFD

Karl Holder, Rochester Hills Fire Department  
Ken Chestnut, Oakland Community College (OCC)  
Nick Miller, Hamburg FD  
Charles Pichan, Detroit FD  
Thomas Tyler, Detroit FD RTC  
Mark Cleveland, Egleston FD  
Thea Dornbush, Gerald Ford International Airport  
Philp Duczyminski, Novi FD  
David Glotzbach, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC)  
Dennis Cotton, OCC  
Bob Labioda, LCC  
Ken Van Hall, Delta Twp. FD  
Robert Copp, South West Michigan College  
Ronald Tennant Sr. GRFD  
Adam Carroll, Hartland Area Fire  
Jim Porcello, Delta Twp. FD  
Brian Ball, Delta Twp. FD

**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.

**2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Pettinger and seconded by Vice Chairperson Blomstrom to approve the meeting agenda for April 11, 2017. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES**

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Pettinger and seconded by Councilmember Bloomstrom to approve the February 14, 2017, meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chief Erskine, of the Battle Creek Fire Department sent his training officers through the Beta testing for Instructor II and received great reviews.

Lieutenant Charles Pecan of the Detroit Fire Department questions if the Fire Fighter Training Council is aware of the issues in Wayne County regarding scheduling of courses. He was assigned to 20 courses and was not informed. He has no documentation regarding these training courses. Acting SFM Towne will be looking into this issue.

Chief Ron Tennett, of the Grand Rapids Fire Department, would like to reintroduce the Traffic Incident Management Training back into the curriculum. This is a major problem as there have been several accidents with two fatalities. He would like to recommend that the 4 hour National Traffic Incident Management Program be reconsidered back into the curriculums for fire fighter academies. The goal is nationwide constancy with deployment of traffic control and incident management of principles and practices.

Dave Glotzbach, of the Muskegon Township Fire Department and Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC), states that the Council approved the VFIS Traffic Incident Management curriculum. They will be conducting a Train the Trainer on May 11, 2017. He participated in the Instructor II program and he believes the program was written to the curriculum and standards. Looking across the state and all of the certifications that are offered to find how they can provide reciprocity from other states. They often refer to ProBoard certifications. These designations come from determining that all standards have been met through the professional qualifications from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). He would like the Council to consider moving forward to look at all the curriculums that are offered, now that they are looking at the professional qualifications from NFPA and teaching to those standards.

## **5. STATE FIRE MARSHAL REPORT**

Acting SFM Towne, reported that she is currently reviewing several items for the Bureau, specifically the annual report, which is overdue. National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is being researched for statistics for to obtain solid information to promote the fire service, and fire safety in Michigan which will include the fire related deaths in Michigan. 84% of the fire departments are reporting to NFIRS, however we will be pushing for more fire departments to report so that we can have better statistics. These statistics are what could be used at the fire services to promote public fire safety education and promote legislation to move the fire service forward.

Acting SFM Towne states she has been looking at everything that has been going on within the Bureau to keep the wheel turning. Due to her status as Acting SFM all of the work being done is considered prep work for the permanent SFM.

### Fireworks

Funding for the Fireworks program has been projected out to fiscal year 2017, 2018 and 2019. Looking at potentially over five million dollars in revenues. As discussed with Council for training expenditures, a positive balance should be kept in the account to maintain consistency.

### Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Grant Program (HMEP)

HMEP is the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Grant. This grant is managed by the Michigan Emergency Management and Homeland Security Hazmat Training Center. The grant amount is \$40,000. The Hazmat Training Center of Michigan receives about \$500,000 for Hazmat training for this program, however, 76% of those dollars are distributed the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

The balance will go to the State Police for the Hazmat Training Center, and then the Fire Fighter Training grant. A copy of the FY2016 Expenditures Guide has been distributed, showing Section 4, the allowable training expenditures. The Council has historically covered the cost of instructors and training materials. The original written grant was opened up to other courses. In 2005 and 2006 the grant amount was \$60,000. With any federal grant the Council can request to add courses as they become approved. Any courses that are allowed reimbursement under the HMEP Grant should continue to be approved by the Council before being submitted to HAZMAT for approval as a reimbursed course. There are currently 20 courses that would qualify for reimbursement. We are awaiting final letter of approval for the grant. The tentative approval includes FFI- Hazmat Ops, FFI & II-Hazmat Ops, Hazmat First Responder, Cargo Tank Training, Advanced ICS for Operations, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue Awareness and Operations, Trench Rescue Technician, Flammable Liquids, Liquid Propane Gas Emergencies, Hazmat First Responder Offensive, Anhydrous Ammonia Operations, Airport Live Fire Training, Confined Space Awareness Non-Entry, Trench Awareness Non-Entry, Confined Space Rescue Operations, Trench Rescue Operations, Trench Rescue Advance Technician and NMIS ICS 300-400. If there are courses the Council approves and would like to seek Grant reimbursement for, they would need to contact the SFM or the Business Manager and either one would submit to the Hazmat Training Center a copy of the approved curriculum and a formal request.

The federal government has contacted all of the states with notification that this grant will be cut by 50 percent next year.

There is currently an available balance of \$30, 842 of unallocated HMEP funds.

#### NFIRS

Based on NFIRS there have been a total of 28,712 reported fires. This information will be part of the annual report.

### **6. COMMITTEE REPORT – Vice Chairperson Blomstrom**

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom reviewed the Council meeting minutes from March 10, 2017. Looking at the status of National Fire Academy (NFA) courses, input regarding these nine courses should be submitted by April 1, 2017. The Council continues to go through what is on the course catalog for updating and is finally down to 5 classes. There was a request to obtain two textbooks for Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) and Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) and establish a RIC Review Group to look at RIC textbooks for adoption.

Discussion regarding Fire Officer I, II, III and IV was held. Input was to divide back out break up company officer I and II and go back to a separate Fire Officer I, II, III and IV. Preliminary discussion was held to have equivalencies and reciprocity to complete Michigan courses and, along with passing ProBoard exam, it would be the equivalency mark and the student would automatically be able to obtain their fire officer certification. The Council is still working on the courses and the outline.

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Vehicle Extrication Course/Levels

Vice Chair Bloomstrom states that based on the amount of new information per John Kramer's suggestion that having the FFI and FFII classes be a prerequisite class (12 hours) with the classes being Level 2 (Intermediate - 32 hours) and Level 3 (Advanced - 32 hours). The Intermediate level is chapters 1-5 and the advanced level is chapters 6-12. The textbook is International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) Principles of Vehicle Extrication, Third Edition.

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Pettinger and seconded by Acting SFM Towne to adopt the IFSTA book, IFSTA Principles of Vehicle Extrication, Third Edition Course and have Intermediate and Advanced level segments, in addition each student must have obtained a Firefighter I or Firefighter II certification prior to attending the course.

**MOTION REINDED TABLED UNTIL JUNE 2017 MEETING.**

B. Northern Michigan Regional Training Center - Petoskey

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Pettinger and seconded by Acting SFM Towne to approve the recommendation for the Northern Michigan Regional Training Center, Petoskey location only. **MOTION CARRIED.**

C. Van Buren Technology Center

A **MOTION** was made by Councilmember Pettinger and seconded Vice Chair Blomstrom to table the recommendation until the June 2017 meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

D. Fire Instructor II Beta Program

Chief Mark Cleveland presented an overview of the of the Fire Instructor II course with a survey summary evaluated by the students that completed the course. Chief Cleveland will compile a complete report that includes the financial information and present this information during the Michigan Fire Fighter Training Council (MFFTC) meeting scheduled for June 13, 2017.

E. Lansing Community College – Live Fire Training Course

LCC will be holding a Live Fire Training course May 10-12, 2017 at no charge. The MFFTC has been invited to observe, evaluate and offer feedback for this course currently being developed.

Non-Smoke County Training Fund Application

NFPA 1033 - Sweet Sixteen FM 17-0194

A **MOTION** was made by Vice Chair Bloomstrom and seconded by Acting SFM Towne to approve the application with the provisions that a percentage of the funding be reduced

with an audit of the course roster of certified law enforcement attendee's. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**9. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Acting SFM Towne stated that the requirements for the conflict of interest in the Instructors agreement became a paper process so the department will be looking at adding this piece to SMOKE to be automated so that the County Training Coordinators will be able to pull the necessary information.

Councilmember Pettinger stated that she appreciates everyone's patience and she also appreciates public comments at the beginning of the meeting. Councilmember Pettinger thanked Acting SFM Towne for the information received in the report she presented.

Councilmember Bloomstrom stated that he agreed with Councilmember Pettinger and he appreciated all of the information received today. Councilmember Bloomstrom stated that he appreciates the work at the Curriculum Committee level of working on the Fire Officer I, II, III and IV levels. There are a lot of politics involved and he understands that there have been different ventures to come forward and looking at the Fire Officer I, II, III and IV levels to the point of how can organizations make money. The Curriculum Committee is not looking at any of those political issues. The committee is looking at a way to standardize the Fire Officer I, II, III and IV programs by bringing equivalencies so that if there are other programs out there everyone can have equal participation.

Chairperson James thanked everyone for their participation and stated how important it is to have input. There are issues that need to be addressed and he will be working with SMF Towne.

**10. ADJOURMENT**

A **MOTION** was made by Vice Chair Bloomstrom and seconded by Councilmember Pettinger to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

**June 13, 2017 @ 1:30 p.m.**

Location:

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

**APPROVED:**

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Timothy James  
Chairperson

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Councilmember