



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Park Place Hotel
300 E. State Street, Traverse City, MI 49684
Friday, December 3, 2021
1:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jacob Steichen, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union
Brian Blomstrom, Vice Chair, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Terrance Blackmer, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Greg Janik, Michigan Municipal League
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Lynnae White, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society
Chad Tackett, Chairperson, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

Andrea Keown, Department Technician, Recording Secretary, Fire Fighter Training Division
Dan Hammerberg, Region 1 Coordinator, Fire Fighter Training Division
Robert Stokes, Region 2 Coordinator, Fire Fighter Training Division
Liam Carroll, Certification Specialist, Fire Fighter Training Division
Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Guy Hubbard, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association	Authority
Frank Post, Manistee Twp. Fire Department	Don Bigger, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Jesse Silva, Charlevoix Twp. Fire Department	Michael Yanz, Northeast Ingham Emergency Service Authority
Alan Styles, Dalton Twp. Fire Department	Greg Ball, Oak Township Fire Department
Sean Wethington, Big Rapids Department of Public Safety	Mark Fankhauser, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Dave Vogel, Big Rapids Department of Public Safety	David Purchase, Retired
Doug Bourgeois, Beaver Creek Fire Department	Larry Gambotto, Rochester Hills Fire Department
Joseph Miracle, Jr., Denton Twp. Fire Department	Charles Pichan, Detroit Fire Department
Charles Noonan, Troy Fire Department	Mark Cleveland, Egelston Township Fire Department
Marco Isome, Tri-Township Fire Department	
Don Drent, Northeast Ingham Emergency Service	

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom called the regular meeting to order at 1:15 pm. A moment of silence was observed for our fallen firefighters. Roll call was taken by recording secretary, Andrea Keown.

Chairperson Tackett – Absent	Councilperson Janik – Present
Vice Chairperson Blomstrom - Present	Councilperson Steichen – Present
Councilperson White – Absent	Councilperson Pettinger – Present
Councilperson Blackmer – Present	Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – Present

Present: 6; Absent: 2. A quorum was determined present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

21-12-01

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and seconded by **Councilperson Blackmer** to approve the December 3, 2021 regular meeting agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

21-12-02

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

October 12, 2021 Regular Meeting

MOTION CARRIED.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:

- a. **FY22 Course Summary:** A revised course summary handout was given to council providing an idea of how courses are going so far this year.

Fire Fighters Training Council General Rules: Fire Marshal Sehlmeier stated the Fire Fighters Training Council General Rules became effective on November 3, 2021. He thanked council for the time they put into finishing the administrative rule set. There are many updates that will need to be made due to the changes in the rules and Fire Marshal Sehlmeier asked for patience with the bureau while these processes are put into place.

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier also shared that the first Fire Instructor II Train-the-Trainer is scheduled for December 17, 2021. After the train-the-trainer occurs, Fire Instructor II courses can be entered in SMOKE. The earliest a Fire Instructor II class can start is February 1, 2022. Next, the bureau will work on Fire Officer III and getting the Pro Board ® process going.

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier updated council on the Fire Officer I & Fire Officer II courses and how the quality assurance process is handled. The bureau will select a random number and that number student on the roster will be chosen to have their work audited.

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier also discussed the [BFS-205 Training Certificate Application](#) that each student will have to sign to attest that they are not a convicted felon. Per Public Act 291, if you are a convicted felon, you cannot be certified in the state of Michigan.

- b. **Overview of the Grants:** A motion was made at the October 12, 2021 regular meeting to do mental health grants. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier went over the grant requirements for the behavioral and mental health grant applications that will be drawn later during the meeting. Those who are being considered have met the following requirements:
1. One (1) application per department for Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council (MFFTC) approved behavioral and mental health Q course list.
 2. Maintain NFIRS reporting for 12 consecutive months (October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021). Bureau staff verified the applicants using the NFIRS report run on November 29, 2021.

The drawing will determine the order in which the grants are distributed. The grants will be awarded after the first \$80,000 of unincumbered funds is returned to the counties after January 1, 2022.

- c. **County Training Funds:** The fire marshal spoke to a motion made and passed at the October 12, 2021 regular meeting related to funded county training courses cancelled in

a county after January 1, 2022. Moving forward, county funds from cancelled funded courses between January 1st and September 30th of a fiscal year can be used to fund other training in the same county. If the county is not going to schedule another funded course in the county, the funds shall be returned within 30 days of canceling a scheduled funded course.

- d. **MI Prevention Update:** There are two new videos on the website regarding caregivers and how firefighters interact with people with disabilities. MI Prevention has almost over 500 organizations or fire departments participating. If anyone needs [smoke alarms](#), please reach out to [Kymberly Pashkowsky](#).
- e. **Fatal Fires:** A total of 100 fatalities in 87 fires as of December 2, 2021 per the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society [website](#).
- f. **Future Wednesday Wrap-Up Dates/Times:** Wednesday Wrap-Ups will be on a break for the holidays and will resume on January 12, 2022. The bureau is always looking for topics to discuss, so if there are any suggestions, reach out to [Hollie Metts](#).
- g. **Thank you to Council:** Councilmember terms expire on January 31, 2022. If current council members want to seek reappointment, they will need to apply online. Current members may be asked to stay on the council as a hold over until appointments/reappointments can be made. Hollie Metts has already submitted the board vacancy report.

VI. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Councilperson Blomstrom shared with council that the Curriculum Committee will meet in the next 30 days to review the Firefighter I & II practical exam stations to make sure everything is up to date.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Elevator Rescue Course to Q Course:** Council discussed raising the amount of money available for the course with the new technology and leave the course in the curriculum.

21-12-03

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and supported by **Councilperson Pettinger** to move the elevator rescue class from \$440 to \$1,000 in SMOKE.

MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Proposed 2022 Meeting Schedule:** A draft schedule was given to council in their meeting packets

21-12-04

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to approve the 2022 Meeting Schedule as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

- b. **Sunset Educational Methodology (H03A):** This course was a prerequisite for the old Company Officer series. The Bureau of Fire Services is wishing to sunset the course and remove it from the approved MFFTC curriculum.

21-12-05

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to sunset the Educational Methodology Course.

MOTION CARRIED.

- c. **Adoption of F-0610, Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Fire Officer (NFA Course):** The Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association (MFSIA) is

hosting the NFA class in Greenville on January 15-16, 2022. MFSIA is asking that the course be adopted by the state so it can be entered into SMOKE and taught by Instructor II's who have successfully completed the course.

21-12-06

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson Janik** to adopt the F-0610, Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Fire Officer and enter it into SMOKE for Instructor II to teach, as well this course be recognized by the State of Michigan.

MOTION CARRIED.

d. Q Course Applications:

1. Technical Rescue, Rope Operations (**FMQ21-025**)
Contact: Scott Wilkinson / Phone: 269-539-8880
Email: swilkinson@vocertwp.com
2. Nozzleman Academy Part I (**FMQ21-026**)
Contact: Robert Przybylski / Phone: 810-360-9790
Email: rprzblyski3@gmail.com
3. Nozzleman Academy Part II (**FMQ21-027**)
Contact: Robert Przybylski / Phone: 810-360-9790
Email: rprzblyski3@gmail.com
4. Suicide Prevention In The Workplace (**FMQ21-028**)
Contact: Rick Best / Phone: 740-516-3497
Email: rickbestjr@gmail.com
5. Detroit RIC 1 (**FMQ21-029**)
Contact: Anthony Watts / Phone: 313-995-2840
Email: wattsa5209@detroitmi.gov
6. Stress First Aid Update Training (**FMQ21-030**)
Contact: Lea Wandling / Phone: 740-590-1170
Email: lwandling@frcmail.org
7. Stress First Aid - Full Course (2 day -Train the Trainer) (**FMQ21-031**)
Contact: Lea Wandling / Phone: 740-590-1170
Email: lwandling@frcmail.org
8. Rescue From Trees (**FMQ21-032**)
Contact: Philip Hall / Phone: 248-379-4906
Email: ffpdhall@hotmail.com
9. Rope Rescue and Confined Space Awareness (**FMQ21-033**)
Contact: Kenneth Betts / Phone: 313-461-9875
Email: kenbetts8541@gmail.com
10. RIC Basics (**FMQ21-034**)
Contact: Brandon Cory / Phone: 906-250-7822
Email: BCCORY2080@gmail.com
11. RIC Saving Our Own (**FMQ21-035**)
Contact: Brandon Cory / Phone: 906-250-7822
Email: BCCORY2080@gmail.com
12. The Functional Fire Company (**FMQ21-036**)
Contact: Shaun Hughes / Phone: 269-998-5993
Email: ccfd19@gmail.com

21-12-07

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and supported by **Councilperson Janik** to approve Q courses **FMQ21-030** and **FMQ21-031** update the current adopted stress first aid curriculum with confirmation from third party, National Fallen Fire Fighters Association allowing instructors to teach the course and update the course code from G04A to G04B in SMOKE.

MOTION CARRIED.

21-12-08

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and supported by **Councilperson Blackmer** to approve Q courses **FMQ21-025** through **FMQ21-029** and **FMQ21-032** through **FMQ21-036** numbered 1 through 5 and 8 through 12.

MOTION CARRIED.

- e. **FY22 MFFTC Grant Draw:** Andrea Keown and Hollie Metts drew numbers to determine the order of grant recipients. The grants are awarded as follows:
1. Marlette Fire Department Resilience and Self Care for First Responders for the requested amount of \$500.00.
 2. Blair Township Emergency Services Growing Up In The Fire Service for the requested amount of \$850.00.
 3. Dutton Fire Department Growing Up In The Fire Service for the requested amount of \$750.00.
 4. Saugatuck Township Fire Department Emotional Wellness and Career Survival for the requested amount of \$2,950.00.
 5. Shelby Township Fire Department Emotional Wellness and Career Survival for the requested amount of \$1,200.00.
 6. City of Lapeer Fire & Rescue Hey Are You Ok? (HAYO) for the requested amount of \$600.00.
 7. Glen Lake Fire Department Hey Are You Ok? (HAYO) for the requested amount of \$1,950.00.
 8. Bronson Fire Department Leadership & Resiliency for the requested amount of \$2,350.00.
 9. Marquette Fire Department Peer Support / Mental Wellness for the requested amount of \$4,600.00.
 10. Chesterfield Twp. Fire Department Suicide RIT for the requested amount of \$1,500.00.
 11. Alpena Fire Department Suicide RIT for the requested amount of \$2,800.00.
 12. Comstock Fire Department Leadership & Resiliency for the requested amount of \$5,000.00.
 13. Cutlerville Fire Department Growing Up In The Fire Service for the requested amount of \$750.00.
 14. Paradise Emergency Services Growing Up In The Fire Service for the requested amount of \$850.00.
 15. Rochester Hills Fire Department Suicide RIT for the requested amount of \$850.00.
 16. Addison Fire & EMS Suicide RIT for the requested amount of \$850.00.
 17. Coldwater Fire Department Hey Are You Ok? (HAYO) for the requested amount of \$750.00.
 18. South Lyon Fire Department Successful Interactions w/ Special Needs Population \$1,600.00.

19. St. Joseph Township Fire Department Hey Are You Ok? (HAYO) \$750.00.
20. Spring Lake Township Fire Department Growing Up In The Fire Service for the requested amount of \$750.00.
21. Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety Emotional Wellness and Career Survival for the requested amount of \$2,000.00.

Total Grants Awarded \$34,245.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marco Isome, Tri-Township Fire Department: Asked for clarification in the rules regarding the legality of having a felony and being certified by the MFFTC. Asked if it should be up to the authority having jurisdiction whether or not it should be allowed.

Mike Yanz, Northeast Ingham Emergency Service Authority: Shared his concern that BFS is not processing reciprocity requests as fast as he believes the process should take.

Mark Cleveland, Egelston Township Fire Department: Asked about reciprocity and the process to get individuals hired.

Don Biger, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association: Thanked the council for coming up to the conference and invited them to stay for the banquet later in the evening.

Doug Bourgeois, Beaver Creek Fire Department: Thanks to Dan and Robert. Thanked the State for looking into Pro Board ® and IFSAC certification.

X. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilperson Blackmer: Good to see everyone. It's good to be back and seeing everyone again. Good meeting and thanks everyone for making it out.

Councilperson Steichen: Thanks to the Instructors for having us out. Thanks to BFS staff and council people for all their hard work the past 4 years. Thanks everyone for all their hard work.

Councilperson Pettinger: Thank you to the instructors for inviting us up. Thank you to BFS and the fire marshal. Thank you to all the council members for their hard work. Thanks to everyone for their input and hard work. Wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Councilperson Janik: Thanks to the Bureau of Fire Services and Fire Marshal Sehlmeier and his staff. This has been one of the most challenging councils to be on, but it has been a privilege and see a lot of great things have happened. Thank you for being here.

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom: Thank you for being up here for the conference and attending the council meeting. Council appreciates the people who attend the meetings and attending the conference as well. There have been a lot of ups and downs in the council, but they all have worked together to do what is best for the fire service. It's great to see the Rules out now and now we can move forward. Looks forward to continuing to work with council members.

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier: Thanks to Don and the group, you take great care of our staff. This is a lot of work, but it is great to come and interact with everyone. Thank you and we look forward to seeing everyone at the banquet.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

21-12-09

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson Blackmer** to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED**. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

APPROVED: MFFTC Regular Meeting 6/14/22 (Motion #22-06-02)