



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Lansing Community College – West Campus
5708 Cornerstone Drive, Room W157
Lansing, MI 48917

Tuesday, October 12, 2021
1:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chad Tackett, Chairperson, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Jacob Steichen, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal
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
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union

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:

Stephanie Zottowski, Spectrum Training	Philip Duczyminsk, Novi Fire Department
Kurt Corradi, Bay City Department of Public Safety	Charles Pichan, Detroit Fire Department
Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department	Tom Baker, Lansing Community College
Jason Morin, JACC Fire & EMS Academy	Mark Cleveland, Egelston Township Fire Department
Judith Malinowski, City of Novi	Robert Ginther, Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety
Aric Massingill, Adrian City Fire Department	
Scott Wilkinson, Covert Township Fire Department	
Adam Talarek, Michigan State Police	

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Chairperson Tackett called the regular meeting to order at 1:32 pm. A moment of silence was observed for our fallen firefighters. Roll call was taken by recording secretary, Andrea Keown.

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

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

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

21-10-01

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Steichen** to approve the October 12, 2021 regular meeting agenda as presented. A vote was taken to approve the meeting agenda.

MOTION CARRIED.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

21-10-02

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

August 10, 2021 Regular Meeting

MOTION CARRIED.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS:

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that he was contacted by Tim Baker from Lansing Community College about a student who aided in a car accident and helped ensure the safety of the person involved. Ms. Hamel was present for the meeting and given a challenge coin by the fire marshal.

V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:

- a. **FY21 and FY22 Course Summaries:** A revised course summary handout was given to council providing an idea of how courses are going so far this year.
- b. **FY21 Behavioral and Mental Health Funding Update:** As of October 11, 2021, an estimate of \$127,000.00 has been disbursed to Michigan counties.
- c. **FY22 Funding Distribution Update:**
 1. Allocated funds distributed to 69 counties (14 did not receive funding)
 2. FY22 Training Needs Surveys Outstanding: 13 Counties
 3. Dan followed up on 10/12/21 requesting the outstanding surveys
 4. NFIRS Non-Compliance: 1 County (Sanilac)
- d. **SMOKE Enhancements:** Those who finish their Instructor I course can now go into their SMOKE profile and start their probationary process as well as their certified Instructor I process once their mentoring hours have been completed. This will free up time that the bureau spends on the applications and allow us to focus on other areas.
- e. **Joint Council Expo:** There are three opportunities in Spring 2022 to attend the Expo. The first being March 12 & 13, 2022 in Lansing at Lansing Community College. April 15 & 16 will be in Lapeer and May 5 & 6 2022 in Gaylord. Many of the instructors also presented or have presented at FDIC in the past.
- f. **Draft FFTC Rules Update:** The draft rules have been submitted to JCAR for approval. JCAR now needs to introduce the rules and once introduced they will move on to 15 session days. It is the bureau's hope that this happens in the next few days so we can get the 15 days in by the holidays.
- g. **Exam Updates:** The Fire Instructor I and Fire Officer I updates have been completed and reviewed by the Curriculum Committee. The drivers training exams have been updated to reflect the new curriculum.
- h. **MI Prevention Update:** Governor Whitmer has [proclaimed](#) the entire month of October as "Fire Prevention Month" and the official theme from NFPA is "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety". There

have already been a lot of open houses throughout the state and if you need information, there are helpful resources and videos at MIPrevention.org. 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 [Kymerly Pashkowsky](#).

- i. **Fatal Fires:** As of 10/7/2021, there have been 86 fire deaths in 74 fires. For those that have the [MI Prevention](#) quick link on your phone, it's just a matter of looking on your phone to obtain the most up to date statistics.
- j. **Future Wednesday Wrap-Up Dates/Times:**
 - October 20th at 4:00 pm
 - November 3rd at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm
 - November 17th at 4:00 pm
 - December 1st at 4:00 and 7:00 pm

The bureau is always looking for topics to discuss, so if there are any suggestions, reach out to [Hollie Metts](#).

VI. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Councilperson Blomstrom provided the council with an update regarding the yearly 25% updating of the Officer I and Instructor I exams, and how the bureau chose the questions and made the process more efficient for future updates.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Q Course Application - Fusion Liaison Officer Basic Level (FMQ21-019):** Adam Talarek clarified to council how this Q Course will be beneficial to and utilized by the fire service. The program is already funded by federal grants that will cover most costs of this Q course. The goal is that firefighters can get a certificate in SMOKE instead of utilizing Q course funds.

21-10-03

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and supported by **Councilperson Janik** to approve FMQ21-019 Fusion Liaison Officer Basic Level submitted by Adam Talarek.
MOTION CARRIED.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **FY22 Fireworks Funds:** Council discussed how unencumbered and returned funds will be dispersed and what method will be put into place on how to spend the funds.

21-10-04

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and seconded by **Councilperson Blackmer** that after the return of \$80,000 of fireworks funding back to the applicable 26 counties, the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) shall direct firework training monies available after January 1, 2022, on requests for behavioral and mental health Q Courses until May 1, 2022; after which, any remaining fireworks funds will be spent on BFS certification classes for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The initial behavioral and mental health Q Course requests will be given a numbered priority, based on a random number generator on December 1, 2021, and announced at the December 3rd MFFTC meeting. Individual fire departments may submit requests for an eligible training until December 1, 2021.

MOTION CARRIED.

- b. **Elevator Rescue Course:** **Councilperson Blomstrom** would like to move the course to a Q Course in order to alleviate issues that instructors are having with covering the cost of the

course. Councilperson Blomstrom would like to move the Elevator Rescue Course to a Q course number, so a person can apply and use their money towards it once they figure out how much it would cost to run the course. The bureau will look into this change and add it to old business for next meeting.

- c. **Instructor I Mentor Hours at High School Fire Academies:** Jason Morin from Jackson Area Career Center (JACC) explained that with the increasing number of Instructor I students, that he is getting approached by people asking if they can do their mentor hours at the academy. When school districts enter into a student teaching type of agreement either through a university or trade school, there has to be a formal letter of request that the district attorney and the board can approve. There are guidelines and board policies already in place through the county school district. Mr. Morin received a letter asking that the fire academy be opened up for mentoring hours that cover Jackson County. Mr. Morin is requesting a letter of request that states the Instructor Is who need mentor hours can make use of the JACC Fire Academy to achieve that. Fire Marshal Sehmeyer acknowledged that the BFS can get a letter for Mr. Morin for the district attorney and board.
- d. **FY22 Fund Allocation:** Robert Ginther from Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety, requested council consideration that if a course that was funded during the State of Michigan fiscal year but did not begin until after January 1 is canceled, that any funding encumbered by that course be redistributed to any upcoming courses in the order of priority that the funds were designated by the CTC prior to December 31, but there were not enough funds assigned to the county to encumber towards. Council discussed and decided no motion is needed at this time due to Motion **21-10-04** above.

e. **Q Course Applications:**

1) **Unmanned Vehicle Public Safety Ground School (FMQ21-020)**

Instructor: Kyle Svoboda

Phone: 616-520-1532 / Email: svobodak@plainfieldmi.org

21-10-05

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and supported by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to approve FMQ21-020 Unmanned Vehicle Public Safety Ground School submitted by Kyle Svoboda. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2) **Successful Interactions with the Special Needs Population and Communication Strategies (FMQ21-021)**

Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Zoltowski

Phone: 248-763-8633 / Email: spectrumtrainingsolutionsllc@gmail.com

Dr. Zoltowski spoke to council about her course and how it is beneficial to the fire service.

21-10-06

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and supported by **Councilperson Janik** to approve FMQ21-021 Successful Interactions with the Special Needs Population and Communication Strategies submitted by Dr. Stephanie Zoltowski. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3) **Firefighter Human Performance Workshop (FMQ21-022)**

Instructor: Maureen Stoecklein

Phone: 734-751-2730 / Email: runtri13@gmail.com

21-10-07

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and supported by **Councilperson Janik** to approve FMQ21-022 Firefighter Human Performance Workshop submitted by Maureen Stoecklein. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4) Electric Vehicle Response (FMQ21-023)

Instructor: Patrick Durham

Phone: 248-550-6135 / Email: Stachedtraining@gmail.com

21-10-08

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and supported by **Councilperson Blackmer** to approve FMQ21-023 Electric Car Response submitted by Patrick Durham. **MOTION CARRIED.**

5) Resilience and Self-Care for First Responders (FMQ21-024)

Instructor: Judith Malinowski, LLP

Phone: 734-748-1381 / Email: judithmalinowski@yahoo.com

Ms. Malinowski spoke to council about her course and how it is beneficial to the fire service.

21-10-09

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and supported by **Councilperson Janik** to approve FMQ21-024 Resilience and Self-Care for First Responders submitted by Judith Malinowski, LLP. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Adam Talarek, Michigan State Police: Spoke about his current Bomb Making materials Q course that is on November 4, 2021. The class is already about half full if people are looking to register.

X. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilperson Blackmer: None

Councilperson Steichen: Thanks everyone for coming, looking forward to seeing everyone in Traverse City in December.

Councilperson Janik: None.

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom: Thanked Rob Ginther for bringing up the allocation for FY22 funds. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the MFSIA conference the first week December.

Fire Marshal Sehmeyer: Thanked everyone for coming and is hopeful that people will continue putting in Q courses so we can spend all our money on training courses.

Chairperson Tackett: Appreciates everyone's time.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

21-10-10

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Janik** to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

APPROVED: December 3rd, 2021 Regular Meeting. Motion 21-12-02