



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, April 13th, 2021
1:30 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85683005590?pwd=akt2OGwzNWZlZXg0am1oeEYvOGVpZz09>

Password: **R2FEx**

Phone: (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
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 Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

Ann Searles, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Fire Services
Dan Hammerberg, Region 1 Coordinator, Fire Fighter Training Division
Robert Stokes, Region 2 Coordinator, Fire Fighter Training Division
Andrea Keown, Department Technician, Fire Fighter Training Division/Recording Secretary
Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal (virtual meeting moderator)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Adam Munro, Macomb Twp. Fire Department	Mark Cleveland, Egelston Twp. Fire Department
Bill Pawluk, Lansing Community College	Mike Mattern, Dearborn Fire Department
Dennis Richardson, Detroit Fire Department	Philip Duczynski, Novi Fire Department
Kurt Corradi, Bay City Fire Department	Robert Ginther, Beverly Hills Dept. Of Public Safety
Larry Gambotto, Rochester Hills Fire Department	
Liam Carroll, Schoolcraft College RTC	

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Before **Chairperson Tackett** called the regular meeting to order, he announced a roll call vote will be done for any motion put forth to council during this meeting and read a virtual meeting introduction advising of the procedures for the meeting, public comment, and the steps that would be taken if the meeting were disconnected. A moment of silence was also acknowledged.

Chairperson Tackett called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM, a roll call was taken.

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

21-04-01

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson White** to approve the April 13, 2021 regular meeting agenda, as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

21-04-02

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

February 9th, 2021 Regular Meeting

Councilperson Pettinger made mention of grammatical edits that were emailed to Andrea Keown to update the minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS:

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier: Was contacted regarding the passing of Chief Dave Duffield from the Otsego County Fire Department.

V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:

- a) **Certification Specialist Position Filled:** Fire marshal introduced Liam Carroll as the new Certification Specialist at the Bureau of Fire Services. Liam is coming from Schoolcraft College.
- b) **Revised Course Summary (Handouts):** Fire marshal provided council with handouts for FY21 to give an idea of how courses are going so far this year.
- c) **Fatal Fires:** As of April 13th, 2021, there have been 44 fatalities in 39 fires.
- d) **MI Prevention Update:** The disability project is almost complete with a 31 minute video that talks about how firefighters interact with those experiencing disabilities. The video also explains a new Disability Network program being rolled out where the state has 15 networks and there is a representative from MI Prevention for each zone in the event someone is in need of a bed shaker or a strobe, or any assistance, they can reach out to their representative.

Sonic Alert – Home Aware devices are available in limited quantity through MI Prevention. Organizations can work with MI Prevention to obtain these devices for people in their community. More information can be found at www.MIPrevention.org.
- e) **Fire Officer III Video Component:** BFS put out a memo for subject matter experts for a video component of the Fire Officer III curriculum. Deadline to apply is April 15th, 2021. Send an email to: LARA-BFS-SMOKE@michigan.gov. Include your name, department/agency, and chapter or topic.
- f) **NFA Course Call Memo:** Dan Hammerberg is sending out grant letters. Responses are due back to Dan by April 23rd, 2021 at 5:00 pm.
- g) **Draft FFTC Rules Update:** The public hearing was held on March 24th, 2021. The next step is a work session needs to be held so council can go over all submitted public comment, which is part of the JCAR process.
- h) **Wednesday Wrap-Up:** The next Wrap-Up is on Wednesday, April 21st, 2021 at 4:00 PM.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

- a) **Updated Course Codes for McNeil's Driver's Training Program (New Version):** Councilperson Blomstrom updated council that the curriculum committee has received the new test and is being reviewed and that the student manual has been completed. A copy was sent to Dave Purchase and the Fire Marshal. Based on the old questions and the new questions, a new version of the drivers training exam is possible. Councilperson Blomstrom is hopeful that he can bring it to council for a vote for the June meeting. Councilperson Blomstrom asked Fire Marshal Sehlmeier that since this is not a certification exam if instructors are going to be giving it or if it will be going online. Fire marshal stated the instructor will still continue to deliver the exam.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Payment to Training Coordinators During Instructor I:** Councilperson Blomstrom brought up concerns on how training coordinators that are teaching the old Instructor Orientation during Instructor I are being paid. Councilperson Blomstrom asked Fire Marshal Sehlmeier to put out a memo as to what needs to be done specifically for the payment to the training coordinators, so the fire service is on the same page. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier mentioned that in the coming months the IGAM will be getting updated to address this issue.
- b) **Payment of Prep Time for Multi-Week Courses (Course Codes E and H):** Councilperson Blomstrom asks council to look at Instructor I, Instructor II, and the Fire Officer classes instructor rates of pay to also incorporate prep time prior to the class to ensure that instructors are being

paid adequately for their service. Prep time prior to the course takes time outside of the 40 hours that are paid for the class. Using Instructor I as an example, building the paperwork, building the schedule, emailing students, setting up Navigate, and doing all the pre-course checking of the homework, take time outside of the 40 hours that are paid for the class. If there are 16 students in a class, it will run right through that 40 hour timeframe. When there were federal grant classes, it allowed for one (1) hour of prep time for every four (4) hours of instruction. Councilperson Blomstrom did not call for a motion but asks that council think of a possible formula to provide additional compensation for these classes for the instructors.

- c) New Wildland Courses:** Dan Hammerberg proposed two (2) new Wildland courses that were provided in the meeting packet and were requested by a couple of Wildland U.S. Forest Service instructors. One is the S-200 Initial Attack Incident Commander and the other is FI-110 Wildland Fire Observations and Origin Scene Protection for First Responders. The S-200 class is a 19 hour class and the FI-110 is a 6 hour class. Both would be on the regular curriculum catalog under an "L" Course Code and would only be able to be taught by either Michigan DNR Fire Instructors or US Forest Service Instructors who are authorized to teach it by the National Wildland Coordinating Group.

21-04-03

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and seconded by **Councilperson White** to approve the new Wildland courses:

A roll call vote was taken.

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- d) Q Course Applications:**

1) Fire Investigation Training Practical Application Intermediate (FMQ21-009)

Instructor: Captain Dennis Richardson

Phone: (313) 596-2946

Email: richardsond@detroitmi.gov

21-04-04

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and supported by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to approve **FMQ21-009** submitted by Dennis Richardson.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2) Yellow Rose Campaign (FMQ21-010)

Instructor: Adam Munro
Phone: (810) 531-0922
Email: info@michiefs.org

21-04-05

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and supported by **Councilperson Janik** to approve **FMQ21-010** submitted by Adam Munro.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3) Growing up in the Fire Service (FMQ21-011)

Instructor: Shaun Abbey
Phone: (616) 299-5474
Email: shaunabbey@sbcglobal.net

21-04-06

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and supported by **Councilperson Steichen** to approve **FMQ21-011** submitted by Shaun Abbey.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4) MayDay! Mayday! (FMQ21-012)

Instructor: Regina Essex
Phone: (616) 209-2781
Email: ginaessex@gmail.com

21-04-07

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and supported by **Councilperson Styles** to approve **FMQ21-012** submitted by Gina Essex.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes

Councilperson Blomstrom – yes
Councilperson Styles – yes
Councilperson White –yes
Councilperson Blackmer – yes
Councilperson Janik – yes
Councilperson Steichen – yes
Councilperson Pettinger – yes
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier - yes

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5) Suicide RIT Training (FMQ21-013)

Instructor: Dearborn Firefighters Local 412 Peer Support Team

Phone: (313) 600-4947

Email: michaelmattern229@gmail.com

21-04-08

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and supported by **Councilperson Styles** to approve **FMQ21-013** submitted by Michael Mattern.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Before public comment **Fire Marshal Sehlmeier** mentioned that council needs to discuss how to disperse money that is being spent on mental health. There are two (2) regional areas, or four (4) counties, that did not claim their money, so the Bureau has that money plus there is money being returned for courses being cancelled. Fire marshal is looking for guidance from council on how should this money be redistributed. If a region returned money does council give them money again, to have them turn it back or as council moves forward, as long as the county continues to spend the money on mental and behavioral health courses, they continue to get money. Council discussed that money shouldn't continue to be given to counties that do not use it. Only counties that actively are doing something with mental and behavioral health are eligible to receive additional funds.

21-04-09

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Styles** to use the remaining funds for mental health and redistribute those funds to eligible counties that are in need of funds that have already spent all of their first allocation to use towards additional mental health courses.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes
Councilperson Styles – yes
Councilperson White –yes
Councilperson Blackmer – yes

Councilperson Janik – yes
Councilperson Steichen – yes
Councilperson Pettinger – yes
Fire Marshal Sehmeyer - yes

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Liam Carroll, Schoolcraft College RTC: As my last official comment from the outside world, it's been a blast to sit out here. When I first came to the first training council meeting many years ago, I was in awe with the mountainous work that was done there. I'm truly impressed by the way the amount of work actually gets done. The Training Council, Bureau of Fire Services, and the fire fighters of the state of Michigan, the fire chiefs of the state of Michigan do a wonderful job of making sure the citizens are well protected. From a person who has been educating students for the past 5 years here and 15 years prior elsewhere, I'm happy to know that I'm sending fire fighters into a great occupation and a great career with people that are represented in these meetings here. I look forward to working with most of you in the very near future. Thank you all very much.

X. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Chairperson Tackett: Just to echo from what Kevin said. We just went back down to a level 2 on our ops plan, so no visitors, no in-person meetings, that kind of thing. I'm sure it's going to be a yoyo for the next few months, but hopefully we can continue the virtual ones because they have helped out quite a bit. I don't really have anything else I'd like to add, I think everyone else kind of hit good topics and good discussion points. I know it's not on the agenda, but I do want to give time for Andrea, Hollie, Robert and Dan, if you guys have anything you'd like to share or add, feel free. I appreciate everyone's hard work, council and BFS included.

Councilperson Blomstrom: Thank you for a good meeting today. Again I hope we continue to do this on Zoom moving forward. It does assist with us having the public see what we are doing on a meeting to meeting basis. That's all I have for today.

Councilperson Styles: Aileen thank you for attending, it was a pleasure to have you in the class. I'm proud to say I've got 22 more to go, that have been scheduled as it is right now. There has been an overwhelming response to meet with people after one of my recent ones. It's almost humbling but it's also scary because we've let it get this far. So let's continue the mission and I hope you all enjoy your summer and I'll see you when I see you.

Councilperson White: Ditto what everyone else has said about the mental health of firefighters. I just want to say it was really nice to have a non-stressful meeting for once in how many years, since we've started the rules. It was a great meeting. Welcome Liam.

Councilperson Blackmer: I think the mental health thing is important. We had an EMS worker commit suicide over here within the last couple weeks. It sent shock waves through everybody that had a chance to know this young lady. It's happening more than what we realize, so whatever we can do to try to attack that and try to push back. Right now it's just as dangerous to our fire fighters as anything fire related. Whatever we can do to help assist that and keep moving that idea ahead I think is huge. Just bringing it out in the open in this forum, I think is a big deal and it's one of those things for years no one wanted to talk about or discuss and if we can bring it out as leaders in the fire service and let people know that it's okay to discuss these issues instead of holding on to them, maybe we can start to make some progress, I think we have, but we're all going to have to keep working together to keep making a difference. Other than that, I hope everyone has a wonderful afternoon.

Councilperson Janik: Congratulation Liam for joining BFS and being part of the team, I really look forward to working with you. It's interesting when you look at the Q Courses that have been brought on this agenda, 4 out of the 5 by nature, are what this council has been emphasizing in 2021. It's

really interesting to look at it from a data or quantitative perspective. The awareness created by the council, which was done originally by Aileen and just look what it has generated as far as courses that have come across our table. I think that's pretty interesting. That's what I had to share. Thank you.

Councilperson Steichen: Wants to recognize the BFS staff and congratulations Liam for joining that team. It seems like it's been a long time coming but you guys got the team together, now you can really get down to work. I do want to encourage folks out there looking to use the behavioral health money, CISM Intervention Certification Course is a good way to use it. I just took one here locally and our behavioral health unit we had it last week. It was a 24 hour course. The instructors Sue Alben (sp?) and Scott Norris have been doing it for about 30 years. I encourage everyone to look into that class, it is a Q Course. Thank you for your time and thank you for attending.

Councilperson Pettinger: Congrats to Liam, welcome to the BFS team. I also wanted to say that I attended Councilmember Chief Styles HAYO Class, that is outstanding and thank you for sharing such a powerful class. If any of you guys have not taken it, I highly encourage it. I appreciate him sharing it with us. I also would like to commend the rest of council; I think we approved some great classes today and there are a lot of options on the whole list to help the rest of the fire service. I know I'm going to be taking some of these classes. I just think that we're making some progress and it's good to see it.

Fire Marshal Sehmeyer: To kind of echo off what everybody is saying, folks are reaching out to our office, they are excited about having the opportunity to go to a lot of these mental health classes. The topic is definitely timely, and I think back in January, council did a great thing when they decided to earmark these funds this way. I hope that as we move forward that all 83 counties see where this is relevant. I've been hearing a lot of good things about these courses. It's good to see that the money is being well spent. I would like to echo also that I'm excited to have Liam come on the team and I think that BFS is rounded out and we're ready to get to work and get things done. I still think there is a lot of talent throughout the state, to give you an example the Fire Officer III videos, I'm going to throw that out again, please think about it, if there is a topic that's on there, please reach out. These videos are meant to compliment Fire Officer III and drive home the curriculum and what needs to be done. Let's keep 2021 going strong. We're moving in a great direction. We need to get a work session scheduled. I would like to do this virtually since it allows the rest of the fire service to see it. One of the things I am a little nervous about if the Zoom meetings go away is that the rooms that we have available in Lansing are not going to allow for a whole lot of seating and we still have a lot of fire departments that aren't opening their buildings up. So we could get to a point that if we go back to in person meetings that we might only have a capacity in a room that we can only fit 20 people in, and council take up about a dozen of those seats, so we wouldn't be able to have a lot of folks there to participate. I think these Zoom meetings have been a good thing that the fire service has been engaged. Stay safe everyone. Thank you.

d) ADJOURNMENT:

21-04-10

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and seconded by **Councilperson Styles** to adjourn the meeting.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes
Councilperson Styles – yes
Councilperson White – yes
Councilperson Blackmer – yes
Councilperson Janik – yes
Councilperson Steichen – yes
Councilperson Pettinger – yes

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – yes

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 3:14 PM.

MINUTES APPROVED: August 8th, 2021 Regular Meeting. Motion 21-08-02