



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, June 8, 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: R2FErx

Phone: (866) 390-1828

Conference Code: 394127

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Blomstrom, Vice Chair, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Alan Styles, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (joined at 1:55 pm)
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 (joined at 1:35 pm)
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chad Tackett, Chairperson, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

Ann Searles, Deputy Director
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/Recording Secretary

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bill Pawluk, Lansing Community College Regional Fire Training Center
David Feichtner, Springfield Township Fire Department
Dennis Cotton, Oakland Fire Training Institute/Oakland Community College
Greg Flynn, West Bloomfield Township Fire Department
John LeRoy, Bloomfield Township Fire Department
Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department
Larry Gambotto, Rochester Hills Fire Department
Mark Cleveland, Egelston Township Fire Department

Nick Sakon, Unionville Fire Department
Philip Duczyminski, Novi Fire Department
Robert Ginther, Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety
Robert Schmelzer, Washington Township Fire Department
Ryan Morin, Bloomfield Township Fire Department

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom called the regular meeting to order at 1:30 pm. A moment of silence was observed for our fallen firefighters. Vice Chairperson Blomstrom advised of the procedures for the virtual meeting, public comment, and the steps that would be taken if the meeting were disconnected. Roll call was taken by recording secretary, Hollie Metts.

Chairperson Tackett – Absent
Vice Chairperson Blomstrom - Present
Councilperson Styles – Absent (joined at 1:55 pm)
Councilperson White – Present
Councilperson Blackmer – Present
Councilperson Janik – Present
Councilperson Steichen – Present
Councilperson Pettinger – Absent (joined at 1:35 pm)
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – Present

Present: 6; Absent: 3. A quorum was determined present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

21-06-01

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and seconded by **Councilperson Janik** to approve the June 8, 2021 regular meeting agenda as presented. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier asked to add two National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) courses to the agenda under new business. **Councilperson Steichen and Councilperson Janik accepted the addition.** A roll call vote was taken to approve the meeting agenda as amended.

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

Total Votes: Support: 7; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 2. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

21-06-02

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

April 13, 2021 - Regular Meeting
April 28, 2021 - Special Meeting

Councilperson Pettinger stated she would email Hollie Metts and Andrea Keown her corrections for both minutes. Councilperson White added she sent corrections to Andrea the day prior however, it could not be confirmed during the meeting that the requested changes had been made. The motion was rescinded, and the April 13, 2021 regular meeting minutes and the April 28, 2021 special meeting minutes were carried over to the August 10, 2021 regular meeting agenda.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS:

Fire Marshal Sehmeyer spoke to Chairman Tackett, who sent his apologies to the council for missing the June 8th meeting. He shared the Tackett Family recently welcomed a new addition to their family and that he truly appreciated the kind words that many have sent since the arrival of their baby boy.

Councilperson White: None.

Councilperson Steichen: While he had no formal communications to share, Councilperson Steichen mentioned he had been working with several of the Behavioral and Mental Health sections in the northern region and felt there had been great communication and collaboration between them.

Councilperson Pettinger shared her only communications had been regarding the Behavior and Mental Health classes as well. She encouraged fire service members to take advantage of this free training and advised fire departments that were interested in hosting a behavioral and mental health class to contact the instructor and their Behavioral and Mental Health fiduciary.

Councilperson Janik recently attended one of Chief Styles behavioral and mental health classes. He thought it was a great class and noted there were a lot of young recruits there. He also encouraged fire service members to attend the behavior and mental health classes available to them.

Councilperson Blackmer had no formal communications to share.

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom: None.

V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:

- 1) **Revised Course Summary:** A revised course summary was given to council providing an update on FY21 courses through June 7, 2021. As requested by council, the course names had been added to the list.
- 2) **Draft Fire Fighters Training Council General Rules Update:** Fire Marshal Sehmeyer shared the JCAR Briefing Report had been completed by staff and submitted to the Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs (OPLA) for review. Once the report has been reviewed and approved by OPLA, the next step in the [process](#) is to send it to the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules.

- 3) **Behavioral and Mental Health Funding Update:** As of June 8th, a total of \$38,270 of behavior and mental health funds had been distributed to the districts statewide. Moving forward, the bureau will fund requests for behavior and mental health classes as they are received.
- 4) **NFFF Courses:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier provided an overview of the NFFF courses, Leadership So Everyone Goes Home and Attributes of Leading, that were added to the agenda under new business.
- 5) **Fire Officer III Video Component:** The Fire Marshal shared that a contract between the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and the recording company is currently pending. Once the contract has been finalized the bureau can move forward with the video component of this project.
- 6) **Fatal Fires:** As of June 8, 2021, there had been a total of 57 deaths in 53 residential fires. This is a 13% decrease in deaths and a 4% decrease in fires from this time last year. So far this year, male victims (67%) continue to be the trend with 29% of them reported as disabled.
- 7) **MI Prevention Updates:**
 - 1) The Fire Marshal shared that MI Prevention continues to work with the Disability Network of Michigan and that our firefighter and caregiver videos are nearing completion. Both videos focus on how to interact with individuals experiencing disabilities.
 - 2) Also, MI Prevention Program Manager Kymberly Pashkowsky has been working with our IT staff to update the MI Prevention [webpage](#). Fire Marshal Sehlmeier encouraged everyone to visit the updated webpage as there is a lot of great content available. Kymberly also posts content several times a week on MI Prevention's social medial platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn).
- 8) **Vacant Positions:** The following job postings are open until 5:00 pm on June 9, 2021.
 - 1) **State Administrative Manager (SAM) 15:** This position will oversee the Plan Review, Field Services, and Storage Tanks Divisions.
 - 2) **Department Technician 7-9:** This position will serve as the FOIA Coordinator for the bureau.
- 9) **Stakeholder Survey:** As part of a strategic planning process for the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS), a survey was sent out to BFS stakeholders and will remain open until 5:00 pm on June 10th.
- 10) **Wednesday Wrap-Up Dates in June:**
 - 1) June 16th at 4:00 pm
 - 2) June 30th at 4:00 pm
- 11) **HazMatIQ Above/Below the Line Update:** The Fire Marshal provided a visual update on the virtual HazMatIQ Above/Below the Line training and how far the reach was with participants statewide. He also congratulated Lt. Michele Sosinski with the Michigan State Police on her recent promotion. She is working with Capt. Kevin Sweeney as a first inspector in Emergency Management. Vice Chairperson Blomstrom added Lt. Sosinski's replacement is Wendy Galbreath.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

- a) **Updated Course Codes for McNeil's Driver Training Program (New Version):** Vice Chairperson Blomstrom shared the curriculum committee has completed their review of the new driver training program and the test questions have been submitted to the bureau to build the exam.

21-06-03

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson White** to update the McNeil's Driver Training curriculum and course code as needed. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier suggested the new curriculum become effective October 1, 2021. Other housekeeping issues discussed included sunseting the old curriculum and removing the old course materials from the 1 and 1 website managed by the [Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association](#) (MFSIA), running a train-the-trainer for current instructors, and obtaining the new course materials from Rick VanHorn with the MFSIA. Vice Chairperson Blomstrom also shared the instructor would be responsible for adding Michigan specific information from Public Act 300 to the PowerPoint. **Councilperson Pettinger and Councilperson White accepted the amendment to make the new driver training curriculum effective October 1, 2021.** Vice Chairperson Blomstrom clarified the motion on the floor is to move forward with the updated McNeil Driver Training program by implementing the new curriculum and updating the course code effective October 1, 2021. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Total Votes: Support: 8; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 1. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Q Course Applications:**

21-06-04

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and seconded by **Councilperson Janik** to approve the following curriculum as submitted:

1) Mental Performance - Virtual (FMQ21-014)

Instructor: Eamonn Burke, Phone: (617) 416-2195, Email: Eamonn@o2x.com

2) Sleep and Fatigue Management - Virtual (FMQ21-015)

Instructor: Eamonn Burke, Phone: (617) 416-2195, Email: Eamonn@o2x.com

3) High Stress Jobs Resilience - Virtual (FMQ21-016)

Instructor: Eamonn Burke, Phone: (617) 416-2195, Email: Eamonn@o2x.com

4) Bandwidth and Stress Management - Virtual (FMQ21-017)

Instructor: Eamonn Burke, Phone: (617) 416-2195, Email: Eamonn@o2x.com

Councilperson Steichen shared he was happy to see the above listed courses come through for approval and feels they will be a good addition to the Q-Course Catalog. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Total Votes: Support: 8; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 1. **MOTION CARRIED.**

b) NFFF Courses: Fire Marshal Sehlmeier would like to add the following NFFF Courses to the course catalog. Both courses will be assigned a G course code.

- 1) Leadership So Everyone Goes Home**
- 2) Attributes of Leading**

21-06-05

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Styles** and seconded by **Councilperson White** to approve the NFFF courses Leadership So Everyone Goes Home and Attributes of Leading. Both courses will be added to the course catalog and assigned a G course code. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Total Votes: Support: 8; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 1. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Feichtner, Springfield Township Fire Department: Regarding the stakeholder survey, Chief Feichtner asked the Fire Marshal if there is anything in particular that he is looking for that would help support the Fire Fighter Training Division and the mission of the bureau moving forward. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier responded that is exactly what he is looking for and if there is anything that stakeholders feel could be expanded or improved upon within the bureau, this survey is their opportunity to share their thoughts.

X. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilperson Blackmer thought the meeting went well and is glad that things have somewhat slowed down.

Councilperson Janik thanked the Fire Marshal and staff for adding the legend to the course summary.

Councilperson Styles asked everyone to be safe and have a great 4th of July.

Councilperson Pettinger stressed that fire service members should attend the behavioral and mental health classes. Also, on July 14-16, 2021, the Saginaw Fire Department will be hosting Suicide RIT taught by the Dearborn Peer Support team. Additional details will be shared with a flyer on GovDelivery.

Councilperson Steichen echoed Councilperson Pettinger that everyone should get out there and take advantage of the behavioral and mental health training opportunities. In talking with people, he feels there is a stigma around behavioral and mental health, and that many people think they are doing alright and don't need these classes. He shared these are exactly the people we want to attend behavioral and mental health classes, so they know what to watch for in their brothers and sisters to better help each other.

Councilperson White did not have anything to add in addition to the comments that had already been made and wished everyone a happy 4th of July.

Fire Marshal Sehmeyer reminded everyone that the BFS regulates the sale of consumer-grade fireworks in Michigan. He asked that if they notice illegal sales taking place, such as selling fireworks out of a vehicle, internet sales, or unlicensed tents popping up, to please contact the bureau. He wished everyone a happy 4th of July and thanked everyone for their feedback on the stakeholder survey.

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom asked Fire Marshal Sehmeyer if the bureau could share information with the locals regarding fireworks, such as the Fireworks Hotline and other things to watch for. Other than that, Vice Chairperson Blomstrom thought it was a quick meeting and while he had not received anything formal, he had heard good feedback on the draft rules. And last, he shared that he thought this might be our last Zoom meeting. He looks forward to seeing everyone again in person at the August meeting if that is an option.

d) ADJOURNMENT:

21-06-06

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and seconded by **Councilperson White** to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – Absent
Vice Chairperson Blomstrom - Support
Councilperson Styles – Support
Councilperson White – Support
Councilperson Blackmer – Support
Councilperson Janik – Support
Councilperson Steichen – Support

Councilperson Pettinger – Support
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – Support

Total Votes: Support: 8; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 1. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm.

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