



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, August 10th, 2021
1:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Blomstrom, Vice Chair, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Lynnae White, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society
Terrance Blackmer, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Greg Janik, Michigan Municipal League
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chad Tackett, Chairperson, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Jacob Steichen, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal
Alan Styles, 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:

James Edwards, Detroit Fire Department	Larry Gambotto, Rochester Hills Fire Department
Kurt Corradi, Bay City Department of Public Safety	Mark Cleveland, Egelston Township Fire Department
Robert Jennison, Livonis Fire Department	Robert Ginther, Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety
Doug Bourgeois, Beaver Creek Fire Department	
John Cieslik, Rochester Fire Department	

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom called the regular meeting to order at 1:33 pm. A moment of silence was observed for our fallen firefighters. Roll call was taken by recording secretary, Andrea Keown.

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

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – Present

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

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

21-08-01

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blackmer** and seconded by **Councilperson Janik** to approve the August 10, 2021 regular meeting agenda as presented. Vice Chairperson Blomstrom asked to add course evaluations under new business. **Councilperson Blackmer and Councilperson Janik accepted the addition.** A vote was taken to approve the meeting agenda as amended.

MOTION CARRIED.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

21-08-02

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

April 13, 2021 Regular Meeting
April 28, 2021 Special Meeting
June 8, 2021 Regular Meeting

MOTION CARRIED.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS:

None

V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:

- a. **Revised Course Summary:** A revised course summary handout was given to council providing an update on courses. There are two listings on the report for Fire Officer I because the bureau updated the course code, E01C, which is the course itself. Once a student has met all the JPR's, they may take the exam, which is the new O61A certification code for Fire Officer I.
- b. **Training Coordinator "Kick Off" Visit to Every Fire Academy:** A [memo](#) went out on GovDelivery on July 16, 2021 advising that beginning October 1, 2021, all registered classes, a training coordinator will attend the first day/night of class for all Firefighter I/II/I&II courses on behalf of the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS). The purpose of these visits is for the training coordinator to provide the students with a better understanding of the BFS and the training coordinator's role, as well as clarify the relationship between the students and their course manager. During this visit, the training coordinator will meet with the course manager and students and present the student orientation module. The student orientation module explains BFS/MFFTC requirements for the students. It also provides an overview of the various resources available to the students, such as SMOKE, ADA Accommodations, the MI Prevention app, and GovDelivery.
- c. **Instructor Orientation/Invoicing:** The issue has been resolved internally among staff and training coordinators. The BFS contract training coordinator bills directly through the bureau, and it does not come out of the course funds.
- d. **Q/A Process for Fire Officer I:** The bureau has been pulling one random student from each fire officer course and auditing the JPR work for each course to ensure that all JPR's are being met for certification. Anytime there is a Q/A, the bureau will follow up with the instructor to give and receive feedback.

- e. **Behavioral and Mental Health Funding Update:** As of August 9, 2021, \$106,720.00 has been used for mental and behavioral courses throughout the state. If anyone can host a course before September 30, 2021, please reach out to the bureau. Any interest in upcoming courses can be found on [GovDelivery](#).
- f. **Draft FFTC Rules Update:** The JCAR Briefing Report has been submitted to MOAHR.
- g. **Reciprocity Update for NFPA 1033 Basic Fire Investigation:** If fire service members are seeking reciprocity, you must fill out a [BFS-258](#), Request for Reciprocity Application. The bureau updated the application to include fire investigator.
- h. **ProBoard Letter of Intent:** The bureau has submitted our letter of intent. The next step is an assessment that will be filled out by the bureau.
- i. **Annual Training Needs Survey Reminder:** Surveys were due to the CTC on August 1, 2021. CTCs should submit county training needs surveys back to the bureau (LARA-BFS-Smoke@michigan.gov) by September 1, 2021.
- j. **Fire Officer III Video Component Update:** We have found funding and LARA is still working out the logistics with the vendor, so the contract is pending. Everyone who will appear in the video is a fire chief from Michigan.
- k. **MI Prevention Update: Total:** As of 8/9/2021, there have been 76 fire deaths in 67 fires. For those that have the [MI Prevention app](#) on your phone, it's just a matter of looking on your phone to obtain the most up to date statistics. Governor Whitmer proclaimed August as [Youth Firesetter Prevention Month](#). The Disability Project is moving along, the caregiver video is completed, and the firefighter video is in progress.
- l. **Job Postings:** There are currently four (4) Limited Term Fire Safety Inspector positions open. The job posting is available on the State of Michigan's Civil Service website. To view the posting, visit: www.governmentjobs.com/careers/Michigan. The postings are open until 5:00pm on August 10, 2021.
- m. **MFSIA Conference:** Reminder to council to RSVP to MFSIA with the dates you will be attending the conference in December. The council meeting will be held on Friday, December 3, 2021, at 1:00 pm.
- n. **August Wednesday Wrap-Up Dates/Times:** August 11th at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm and another on August 25th at 4:00 pm. The bureau is always looking for topics to discuss, so if there are any suggestions, reach out to Hollie Metts at mettsh@michigan.gov.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Updated Course Codes for McNeil's Driver Training Program (New Version):** Vice Chairperson Blomstrom shared the course codes for the updated course have been added into SMOKE. There will be a few webinars to update the instructors on the new curriculum coming out from McNeil that will be posted on GovDelivery.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Instructor II Course:** The bureau is currently working on the Instructor II course and is shooting for an October 1, 2021 to have it finalized. The bureau is embracing online learning, where more work can get done and the student isn't spending 40 hours in one place.
- b. **FY22 Funding:** \$2.3 million is budgeted. Everyone is still getting \$17,500, however due to the census and demographic shifts, there will be some counties that will get above the \$17,500. This is after the \$80,000.00 that is being designated for the Joint Council Expo (MOTION #21-02-05).

21-08-03

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** seconded by **Councilperson White** to approve the dispersement of \$2.3 million dollars for FY22 starting with a minimum of \$17,500 to the 83 counties for use by the fire departments in that county that are in good standing with NFIRS reporting for 12 consecutive months on October 1, 2021. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- c. **Update textbook for Firefighting Strategies and Tactics (L04A) to the new edition:** Vice Chairperson Blomstrom shared he received an email from an instructor who teaches Firefighting Strategies and Tactics (L04A) who is interested in moving to the 4th Edition of the textbook and asked that it be brought to Council for the update.

21-08-04

MOTION by **Councilperson Blackmer** seconded by **Councilperson Janik** to update textbook for Firefighting Strategies and Tactics (L04A) to the new edition titled Structural Firefighting: Strategy and Tactics, 4th Edition, (ISBN: 9781284180299) starting October 1, 2021. **MOTION CARRIED.**

d. **Q Course Applications**

1) **Search Management (FMQ21-018)**

Instructor: Elizabeth Reimink / Phone: 616-886-1547 / Email: liz_reimink@yahoo.com

21-08-05

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and supported by **Councilperson Pettinger** to approve FMQ21-018 Search Management submitted by Dennis Richardson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2) **Fusion Liaison Officer Basic Level (FMQ21-019)**

Instructor: Adam Talarek / Phone: 989-326-7595 / Email: talarekt1@michigan.gov

Council discussed the relevance of this potential Q Course to the fire service. It was determined that more information is needed in order to approve this course.

21-08-06

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Pettinger** and supported by **Councilperson White** to **table this Q Course application until the next meeting** and move to old business. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- e. **Course Evaluations:** There have been instructors that reached out to Vice Chairperson Blomstrom regarding course evaluations and almost not getting paid because they did not submit them because they did not have any to pass out. Dan Hammerberg clarified that the [BFS-929 Student Course Evaluation](#) form can be found on the [Fire Fighter Training Division](#) website under "Forms".

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

X. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilperson Blackmer: Glad to see everyone, said that it is good to be back in person.

Fire Marshal Sehmeyer: Thanked everyone for coming out today.

Councilperson Pettinger: Emphasized how important mental health classes are. Suggests Suicide RIT if you have a chance to take this course.

Councilperson White: Stated that it is great to be back in person and thanked everyone for their time.

Councilperson Janik: Thanked the members of the audience for their attendance and thanked the Fire Marshal and the team for everything they have done and are doing for the firefighters and is thankful the meetings are back in person.

Vice Chairperson Blomstrom: Thanked everyone for their time and continuing to move the fire service forward. Looking forward to October and all the new course offerings.

d) **ADJOURNMENT:**

21-08-07

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and seconded by **Councilperson White** to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 2:32 pm.

MINUTES APPROVED: October 12th, 2021 Regular Meeting. Motion 21-10-02