



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Delta Township Fire Department, Station #1 Training Room
811 N. Canal Road, Lansing, MI 48917
Tuesday, October 18, 2022
1:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kevin Beeson, Michigan Townships Association
Brian Blomstrom, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Kurt Corradi, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
David Feichtner, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member
Kyle Svoboda, Vice Chairperson, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society
Joseph Schehr, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union
Robert Stokes, Chairperson, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Steve Richardson, Michigan State Firemen's Association

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

Macie Smith, Department Technician, Fire Fighter Training Division, Recording Secretary
Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal
Dan Hammerberg, Region 1 Training Chief, Fire Fighter Training Division
Aileen Pettinger, Region 2 Training Chief, Fire Fighter Training Division
Liam Carroll, Certification Chief, Fire Fighter Training Division
Jordyn Hanses, Student Assistant

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jim Stevenson, Warren Fire Department
Mark Cleveland, Egelston Township Fire Department
Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department
Larry Gamb, Rochester Hills Fire Department
Jack Johnson, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Bill Race, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Rob Ginther, Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety
Dennis Cotton, Oakland Community College

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Chairperson Stokes called the regular meeting to order at 1:30 pm. A moment of silence was observed for our fallen firefighters. Roll call was taken by recording secretary, Macie Smith. A quorum was determined present.

Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer shared Councilperson Richardson is attending a national training session for line of duty death funerals in Baltimore, Maryland and is unable to attend the council meeting today.

Chairperson Stokes congratulated Councilperson Corradi and Chief Cleveland (who was in the audience) for completing Eastern Michigan University's Staff and Command School. He also stated Councilperson Feichtner did a great job as the MC at the graduation.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

22-10-01

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Schehr** to approve the October 18, 2022 regular meeting agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

22-10-02

A **MOTION** was made by **Vice Chairperson Svoboda** and seconded by **Councilperson Corradi** to approve the August 9, 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IV. COMMUNICATIONS:

Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer:

- a) **Foam Training Rosters:** On October 15, 2022, with assistance from the Michigan Townships Association (MTA), the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) sent a follow up letter to the township supervisors of departments that have not submitted the required training rosters. (The rosters were due on July 1, 2022.) Since then, the Fire Marshal has received inquiries about the foam training rosters.
- b) **Leadership Change:** The Fire Marshal also received a notice regarding a change in leadership for the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs. Chief Menifee is now the president. Chief Roberts has retired and is now the past president.

V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:

- a) **BFS Staffing Updates:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer took the time to welcome and introduce Jordyn Hanses. A quick overview was given on Jordyn's duties as a student assistant. Jordyn is working with the Fire Marshal and Hollie Metts on tracking foam training rosters, NFIRS compliance, and fire department survey responses.
- b) **Fire Prevention Month Overview:** Governor Whitmer has proclaimed October 2022 Fire Prevention Month in Michigan. The Fire Marshal has been reading to elementary school aged students around the state. To date, eight of the 13 school visits have been completed. Two visits (in Detroit and Southfield) will be rescheduled for later this month.

due to a scheduling conflict (the Fire Marshal's site visit to the warehouse fire in Menominee). Also on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, Fire Marshal Sehlmeier participated in an annual event organized by Captain Cary Thompson to walk Royal Oak students to school with members of the Royal Oak Fire Department. And last, there was a joint press conference held with the National Fire Protection Association, the Phoenix Burn Society, and Domino's Pizza at the Flint Fire Department on Wednesday, October 12, 2022.

- c) **Fatal Fire Update:** To date, there have been a total of 94 deaths in 79 fires statewide. This is a 6% increase year-to-date based on the five-year average from 2017 to 2021. The Fire Marshal added the BFS received \$1 million in funding for FY23. This funding will be used to purchase smoke alarms to be distributed to fire departments around the state.
- d) **FY22 Course Summary:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier gave an overview of the course summary and clarified the payment process. He explained the State of Michigan pays the county within two weeks (or less) once all course paperwork is received and the course is closed out by the BFS Training Chiefs. Once the money has been received from the State, the counties then pay the instructors. There was additional discussion regarding invoices. Councilperson Blomstrom asked if invoices need to be submitted with other documentation. Region Training Chief Dan Hammerberg advised a copy of the invoice is needed if you are using county funds to buy equipment. If you are not using county funds to purchase equipment, you do not need to submit a copy of the invoice for Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council (MFFTC) courses. Q courses would require an invoice. Chairperson Stokes stressed the importance of closing out all courses properly to ensure a smooth and timely payment process for all involved.
- e) **Fire Officer III:** The BFS hosted the first train-the-trainer on August 22, 2022 and had 47 participants. The next train-the-trainer is scheduled for November 10, 2022. The deadline to apply is October 26, 2022 by 5:00 pm. The first Fire Officer III exam is scheduled on January 4, 2023. Certification Chief Liam Carroll is working on the exam questions and expects them to be ready for the Curriculum Committee's review in approximately 3 weeks.
- f) **Curriculum Committee Update:** A doodle poll was sent to the Curriculum Committee members to schedule a meeting to review the Fire Officer III exam questions. Members of the Curriculum Committee now include:
- Marty Erskine, Representing the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
 - Mark Cleveland, Representing the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
 - Brian Blomstrom, Representing the Michigan Fire Service Instructor Association
 - Ray Wlosinski, Representing the Michigan Fire Service Instructor Association
 - Lewis Kempf, Representing the Michigan Professional Firefighters Union
 - Ryan Michael Gierman, Representing the Michigan Professional Firefighters Union
 - Terry Blackmer, Representing the Michigan State Firemen's Association
 - Blane Howell, Representing the Michigan State Firemen's Association
 - Lynnae White, Representing the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society
 - Tom Hughes, Representing the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society

- Mike Burke, Representing the Michigan Townships Association
- Sean Canto, Representing the Michigan Municipal League

Councilperson Feichtner inquired about the process for appointing a chairperson for the Curriculum Committee. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier and Councilperson Blomstrom explained that past MFFTC Chairperson, Tim James, had appointed Councilperson Blomstrom to chair the committee.

A **proposed motion** was made by **Councilperson Feichtner** and seconded by **Councilperson Corradi** to elect a chairperson for the Curriculum Committee by vote. Discussion pursued on the Curriculum Committee’s chairperson position. Chairperson Stokes directed council to R29.401(e) which discusses the curriculum work group. This rule states the curriculum chairperson is appointed by the chairperson of the council. After discussion and clarification on the rules by Chairperson Stokes, Councilperson Feichtner’s **motion was withdrawn**.

The discussion continued as to whether Councilperson Blomstrom would continue to chair the Curriculum Committee and the continuity it brought between the council, the BFS and the work group. Chairperson Stokes asked the council for a vote.

22-10-03

A **MOTION** was made by **Vice Chairperson Svoboda** and seconded by **Councilperson Schehr** to have Brian Blomstrom remain as the chair of the Curriculum Committee. **Councilperson Blomstrom abstained. MOTION CARRIED.**

- g) **County Funding for FY23:** Three counties did not turn in their annual training needs survey and therefore, did not receive their county funding for FY23. Once the county surveys are received by the BFS, the funding will be distributed to those counties.
- h) **Overview of Returned Funding from 2017-2022:** A breakdown of the FY22 funding by the county was provided to the council members. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier further explained the following:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Returned</u>	<u>Money Designations</u>
2017	\$2,000,000.00	\$2,237.40	The funding was given to the BFS for the Fire Marshal to coordinate the distribution of those funds.
2018	\$2,000,000.00	\$24,949.76	The funding was used to purchase training mannequins for the counties.
2019	\$2,300,000.00	\$0.00	First, the council gave out grants and gave the Fire Marshal/BFS the discretion to spend any remaining funds.
2020	\$2,300,000.00	\$317,229.03	COVID did not allow for much to happen, even shutting down some courses.
2021	\$2,300,000.00	\$586.65	Mental health grants were given out to begin the year and then remainder came back to the BFS to spend.

2022	\$2,300,000.00	\$115,587.00	Grants were given out at the beginning of the year. The counties kept the funding, and no funding was given back to the bureau.
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Fire Marshal Sehlmeier asked council to consider the returned funding as council continues to explore options to reallocate returned funding in FY23. The council will discuss further at the December 2, 2022 meeting.

- i) **Firework Safety Fees:** Council had asked Fire Marshal Sehlmeier to bring back information on 2017-2022 Firework Safety Fee collection totals.
- FY17: \$2 million collected/\$2 million to counties
 - FY18: \$1.6 million collected/\$2 million to counties
 - FY19: \$1.9 million collected/\$2.3 million to counties
 - FY20: \$3.4 million collected/\$2.3 million to counties
 - FY21: 3.6 million collected/\$2.3 million to counties
 - FY22: 3 million collected/\$2.3 million to counties
- j) **Computer-Based Testing Findings:** At the August meeting, council asked Fire Marshal Sehlmeier to research on-line testing for certification exams. So far, he has looked into the following companies: Acadis, Right Track Response Solutions, and Par Test. While he does not have specific quotes from the computer-based testing companies just yet, he estimates the general start-up costs to be approximately \$300,000 with legacy costs running anywhere from a couple hundred thousand per year to up to \$1 million per year. He shared that if computer-based testing were to be adopted he would need to request a budget increase. He also noted a common issue he's found is that with most companies there is a limit to the number of people allowed to test at a given time.
- k) **Fire Training Video:** This is a legislative requirement for all Michigan fire departments to show a 14-minute [video](#) on the health, handling, and proper use of Class B AFFF to their members. Fire departments were asked to complete the required training and submit a training roster to the BFS by July 1, 2022. To date, a total of 538 of the 1,100 Michigan fire departments have turned in training rosters. As mentioned during Communications, a follow-up letter was sent to the townships on October 15, 2022.
- l) **Fire Department Survey:** In addition to the fire training video, the Fire Marshal asks that all fire chiefs complete a short fire department [survey](#). To date, a total of 266 departments have responded. The information will be used to update SMOKE (training database), the Fire Service Directory, and to get a better understanding of the recruiting and retention challenges affecting Michigan fire departments. Fire Marshal and Chairperson Stokes encourage everyone to make sure their profile in SMOKE is accurate with their current email, address, phone number, position, etc.
- m) **NFIRS Non-Reporting Departments:** To date, a total of 134 departments have not reported at all this year.

n) **Legislative Updates:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier updated council on the following proposed legislation:

- Schools:
 - [House Bill 5561](#): Radio systems in K-12 schools
 - [House Bill 6319](#) – Fire Drills (Fire drills reduced by one, lock down drills increased by one)
 - [House Bill 5701](#) – School Barricade Devices
 - [House Bill 6331](#) – School Construction and Lockdowns
- Tanks:
 - [House Bill 6421](#) – Software/Reporting
 - [Senate Bill 1169](#) – New Tanks
- Fireworks:
 - [House Bill 5333](#) – Fireworks Bonds
 - [Senate Bill 5](#) – Fireworks
 - [Fireworks Package House Bill 4888-4892](#)
 - [House Bill 5063](#) & [Senate Bill 355](#) – Fireworks/Juneteenth
- Residential/Construction:
 - [House Bill 6304](#) – Automatic sprinklers in new builds/multi-family dwellings

o) **Wednesday Wrap-Up Dates/Times:** The next wrap up is scheduled for October 19, 2022 at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. There are three wrap up dates in November, which are November 2, 2022 at 4:00 pm, November 16, 2022 at 4:00 pm, and again on November 30, 2022 at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

VI. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Councilperson Blomstrom stated a doodle poll has been sent to the members to find a date and time to review the Fire Officer III exam.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

a) Q Course Applications

Fire Ground Communications/Opposing Fields of View (**FMQ22-015**)

Instructor: Justin Holmes / Phone: 616-788-9436

People Before Water (**FMQ22-018**)

Instructors: Justin Holmes / Phone: 616-788-9436

22-10-04

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Corradi** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to **approve** Q Course applications **FMQ22-015** and **FMQ22-018**.

MOTION CARRIED.

b) Computer-Based Testing: Covered during the State Fire Marshal's report.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

a) NFA Incident Command for Highrise Operations Train-the-Trainer: Fire Marshal Sehlmeier clarified that in the past, this was actually a council approved National Fire Academy (NFA) course that had been sunsetted due to the "A" series not being updated. Now, the Fire Marshal is asking to add this course back into an approved

MFFTC NFA offering with a “B” code as the next updated edition of this course. The code for this new course would be L09B. Chairperson Stokes shared the NFA Incident Command for Highrise Operations course was given in Detroit and was found to be very beneficial. There was a lot of interest both in Detroit and from regional partners outside of Detroit that attended the course.

22-10-05

A **MOTION** was made by **Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer** and seconded by **Vice Chairperson Svoboda** to **add NFA Incident Command for Highrise Operations (L09B) back into the curriculum** at the BFS through the MFFTC. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Next, Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer discussed who could teach the updated L09B course that was adopted. In the past, anyone who taught L09A had attended a train-the-trainer that ran back in 2003. Under the current rules, Instructor II instructors can teach anything they have taken, so if they took this course then they could also teach the course. If an individual was an Instructor I certified before November 3, 2021 and has taken **NFA Incident Command for Highrise Operations**, they can also teach the course.

b) Q Course Applications:

Company Officer Academy (**FMQ22-021**)

Instructor: James Stevenson / Phone: 586-202-1987

22-10-06

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Schehr** and seconded by **Vice Chairperson Svoboda** to **approve Q Course application FMQ22-021. MOTION CARRIED.**

OCC Live Fire Search and Rescue (**FMQ22-022**)

Instructors: Philip Hall / Phone: 248-379-4906

22-10-07

A **MOTION** was made by **Vice Chairperson Svoboda** and seconded by **Councilperson Corradi** to **approve Q Course applications FMQ22-022. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mountain Rescue Workshop (**FMQ22-023**)

Instructor: Michael DeCraene / Phone: 313-363-1377

Personal Skills Rescue Workshop (**FMQ22-024**)

Instructors: Michael DeCraene / Phone: 313-363-1377

Team Skills Rescue Workshop (**FMQ22-025**)

Instructor: Michael DeCraene / Phone: 313-363-1377

22-10-08

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Feichtner** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to **table Q Course applications FMQ22-023, FMQ22-024, and FMQ22-025 until the next meeting** on December 2, 2022 due to no course syllabuses. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Responding to Gasoline Tanker Emergencies (**FMQ22-026**)

Instructor: James Stevenson / Phone: 586-202-1987

22-10-09

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Corradi** to **approve Q Course application FMQ22-026. MOTION CARRIED.**

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

X. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilperson Blomstrom recommends everyone confirm their reservation with the Park Place Hotel in Traverse City for the MFSIA Conference. He added additional room blocks have been made available for anyone interested in attending.

Fire Marshal Sehmeyer noted the start time of the next meeting is 1:00 pm to align with the conference schedule, not 1:30 pm.

Chairperson Stokes reminded all council members and members of the public that agenda items for the December 2, 2022 regular meeting are due by November 18, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

22-10-10

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Feichtner** and seconded by **Councilperson Schehr** to **adjourn** the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 3:31 pm.

APPROVED: MFFTC Regular Meeting 12/2/22 (Motion #22-12-02)