



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  
811 N. Canal Road, Lansing, MI 48917  
Tuesday, August 9, 2022  
1:30 pm

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Robert Stokes, Chairperson, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal  
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  
Steve Richardson, Michigan State Firemen's Association  
Kevin Sehmeyer, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member  
Joseph Schehr, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union  
Kyle Svoboda, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

William Race, Grand Rapids Fire Department  
Bryan Butcher, Wyoming Fire Department  
Jim Stevenson, Warren Fire Department  
Mark Fankhauser, Grand Rapids Fire Department  
Kevin Thompson, Comstock Fire Department  
Brandon Hausbeck, Saginaw Fire Department  
Mark Cleveland, Egelston Township Fire Department  
Christopher VanLoo, Saginaw Township Fire Department  
Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department  
Dennis Cotton, Oakland Community College  
Tim Baker, Lansing Community College  
Douglas Gildner, Schoolcraft College  
John Cieslik, Rochester Fire Department

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:**

Chairperson Stokes called the regular meeting to order at 1:31 pm. A moment of silence was observed for our fallen firefighters. Roll call was taken by recording secretary, Hollie Metts. A quorum was determined present.

**II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**22-08-01**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Richardson** to approve the August 9, 2022 regular meeting agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**22-08-02**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Schehr** and seconded by **Councilperson Corradi** to approve the June 14, 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**IV. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Fire Marshal Sehmeyer** received an inquiry from Chief Carroll regarding the Fire Officer III Train-the-Trainer qualifications. Specifically, how the current requirements were set. Fire Marshal Sehmeyer explained the qualifications were set based on processes by the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS).

**V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:**

- a) **Council Appointments:** As part of LARA's process to onboard new board members, Fire Marshal Sehmeyer and Hollie Metts traveled around the state to meet with every new council member. During new business, council will vote on a vice chairperson to serve a two-year term. Following the meeting, pictures will be taken of the council members and will be posted on the BFS website along with their contact information and the fire group they represent.
- b) **Staffing Updates:**
  - i. **Macie Smith, Department Technician:** Fire Marshal Sehmeyer took the time to welcome and introduce Macie Smith. A quick overview was given of the tasks that the technician position completes. This will be a training process over the next few months with Macie taking over as secretary for the council. Macie is a returning member of the BFS and was previously a student assistant and then a general office assistant.
- c) **FY22 Course Summary:** Fire Marshal Sehmeyer gave an overview of the course summary. Council was provided a handout in their packet (dated 8/8/2022). Please note: a firework funded course must have at least 8 students to run.
- d) **Fire Officer III:** BFS is in the process of developing the Fire Officer III curriculum, which will be available after October 1, 2022. The train-the-trainer is scheduled for Monday, August 22, 2022. The deadline to submit documents to apply for this course is Wednesday, August 10, 2022. Those applications will be reviewed, and applicants will be notified by Friday, August 12, 2022 as to whether they are accepted into the train-the-trainer. This information was shared in a memo that was sent out to all the fire groups. Please note: all future memos that are sent out by the BFS will be sent to council and the organizations they represent.
- e) **Curriculum Committee Membership:** The Curriculum Committee will work on the Fire Officer III exam in September. BFS sent a letter to all fire service groups to confirm their

representatives on the committee. As of today, there is still one group the BFS is waiting for a response from.

- f) **Fire Training Video:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier advised 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. To date, 480 fire departments have completed this training. The goal is to get to 1,100 fire departments to complete the training. There was some concern from fire departments as to whether all departments must complete the training. The Fire Marshal asked everyone to reference Rule 29.407 which discusses “in service” training programs. The training video was sent to every department in April 2022 and was given the deadline of July 1, 2022 to complete. For those departments that did not complete the training or provide a training roster, the BFS will follow up with their township supervisor or city manager with another letter requesting compliance.
- g) **Fire Department Survey:** The Fire Marshal also asks that all fire chiefs complete a short fire department [survey](#). To date, a total of 295 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 always make sure in SMOKE there is a current email, address, position, etc.
- h) **JC5 Fire Training:** The training was held in Lansing in March, Lapeer in April, and Gaylord in May. The training in Lansing was well attended (approximately 130 people). Hands-on Training was also well received for all three locations; however, due to low registration some of the lecture classes were cancelled in both Lapeer and Gaylord. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier gave an overview of the JC5 Fire Training survey results. Council was provided a handout in their packet and a copy of the results were put onto the MFFTC SharePoint.
- i) **County Training Committees:** The annual training surveys were due by June 15, 2022 and are required to receive FY23 county funding. There are still 11 counties who have not completed the training. The counties who have not completed the training are Alcona, Alger, Hillsdale, Houghton, Iron, Isabella, Lenawee, Luce, Mackinac, Ontonagon, and Shiawassee.
- j) **FY23 Funding:** Council was provided a handout in their packet and the Fire Marshal Sehlmeier gave an overview. The document had a full list showing the counties that still have money left for this fiscal year. Council would like to see an updated list next meeting to reevaluate the counties who are not using as much of the money as they should be.
- k) **NFIRS Non-Reporting Departments:** 152 departments that have not reported at all this year.
- l) **Legislative Updates:**
  - i. [Senate Bill 991](#): Involves the replacement of underground storage tanks. This bill has Passed.
  - ii. [House Bill 5561](#): Involves radio systems in K-12 schools. If passed, this bill will require schools to install a repeater and antenna system in every school district in Michigan. This bill has not had a decision made yet.
- m) **Fatal Fire Update:** To date, there have been a total of 83 deaths in 68 fires statewide. This is a 10% increase year to date based on 5-year average between 2017-2021. There is a Fire Prevention Month Kit being created that will be released the last week of September. The Fire Marshal added the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs recently was budgeted funding (one-time funding) of \$1 million dollars for BFS to purchase smoke alarms. Also, in the FY23 budget is funding of \$270,000 towards public assemblage.

- n) **Wednesday Wrap-Up Dates/Times:** The next wrap up is on August 10, 2022 at 4:00 pm along with 7:00 pm, and again on August 24, 2022 at 4:00 pm.
- o) **Bureau Website:** All departments in the State of Michigan have moved to a new web platform. All links on the BFS [website](#) have been corrected and should now work properly. Also, the Council membership page has been updated with council members names, organizations, terms, and state email address already. If something on the website is found to not work, please contact the Bureau right away so that we may correct that.

## **VI. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

Councilperson Blomstrom asked for the bureau to let him know when the test banks are ready to go and then a date for the work session can be selected.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Vice Chairperson Vote:** Chairperson Stokes asked for those who are interested in the Vice Chairperson position to please speak up. Councilmen Svoboda and Blomstrom chose to run for the Vice Chairperson position. Chairperson Stokes then called for all members of council to write their choice onto the index card found in their meeting folders. The count was taken for this vote with Councilperson Blomstrom receiving 2 votes and Councilperson Svoboda receiving 7 votes. The new Vice Chairperson for the next 2 years will be Councilperson Kyle Svoboda.

- b. **FY23 Funding:**

- 22-08-03**

- A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Beeson** and seconded by **Vice Chairperson Svoboda** to approve the FY23 funding. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- c. **Computer-Based Certification Testing:** Councilperson Blomstrom is getting quite a bit of feedback from across the state asking if computer-based certification testing will be coming back as an option. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier stated there is potentially an opportunity here to use a brand-new computer-based testing system and not the current system. The main questions for a new computer-based testing system are what the cost is and how would it be funded. Potentially, the fireworks reserve to fund could be used to fund computer-based testing. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier has done some research and has found there are systems out there, but it would require the individual to bring their own device and use a lockdown system on the computer to not allow outside search during the exam. Council would like the Fire Marshal to do further research to find multiple platforms and how much each would cost.

- 22-08-04**

- A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Corradi** and seconded by **Councilperson Schehr** to have the Fire Marshal research all Learning Management Systems (LMS/Exam Systems and their costs for computer-based testing to bring back to the next meeting in October 2022. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- d. **Q Course Applications:**

- 1. **Aggressive Command Supports Aggressive Firefighting (FMQ22-016)**  
Instructor: Justin Holmes and Nick Martin  
Phone: 616-788-9436
  - 2. **1<sup>st</sup> Alarm Strategy & Tactics (FMQ22-017)**  
Instructors: Justin Holmes and Nick Martin  
Phone: 616-788-9436 and 610-637-8315

3. Live Fire Training (**FMQ22-020**)  
Instructor: Brandon Hausbeck  
Phone: 989-274-7285

**22-08-05**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Corradi** to **approve** Q Course applications **FMQ22-016, FMQ22-017 and FMQ22-020**. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Fire Ground Communication – Opposing Fields of View (**FMQ22-015**)  
Instructors: Justin Holmes and Curt Isackson  
Phone: 616-788-9436 and 850-393-0581

5. People Before Water (**FMQ22-018**)  
Instructors: Justin Holmes and Curt Isackson  
Phone: 616-788-9436 and 850-393-0581

**22-08-06**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Feichtner** and seconded by **Councilperson Richardson** to **table Q Course applications FMQ22-015 and FMQ22-018 until next meeting** due to no course syllabuses. These courses will be reviewed again at the next meeting October 18, 2022. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Mark Fankhauser, Grand Rapids Fire Department:** Commended council for the appointment of the vice chairperson and thanked council for all the work they do for the State. Wanted to reiterate how important it is that all fire departments in the State of Michigan are equally deserving of an appropriate level of quality and competent training. He believes council needs to ensure the funding is equally distributed throughout every county appropriately and commends the council for looking into the breakdown of funding for each county. He also brought forth the concern if Pro Board authorizes the use of any LMS System being looked at to effectively use their test in the new system.

**X. COUNCIL COMMENT:**

**Chairperson Stokes:** stated it is a joy to be back in the arena amongst the other constituents he had an opportunity to work with. He is excited about this opportunity to serve.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:**

**22-08-07**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Svoboda** and seconded by **Councilperson Feichtner** to **adjourn** the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm.

**APPROVED:** MFFTC Regular Meeting 10/18/22 (Motion #22-10-02)