



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 Twp. Fire Department - Station 1 Training Room
811 N. Canal Road, Lansing, MI 48917
Tuesday, February 14, 2023
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 Sehmeyer, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member
Joseph Schehr, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union
Robert Stokes, Chairperson, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal
Steve Richardson, Michigan State Firemen's Association

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kyle Svoboda, Vice Chairperson, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society

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:

Terry Blackmer, Port Huron Fire Department
Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department
Mark Cleveland, Egelston Township Fire Department
Jeromy Robertson, Van Buren Tech Regional Training Center
Nate House, Delta Twp. Fire Department
Mark Fankhauser, Grand Rapids Fire Department
Dave Dekorte, Dewitt Township Fire Department
Robert Ginther, Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety
Bill Forbush, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation/Everyone Goes Home State Advocate
Wendy Galbreath, Michigan State Police, Hazmat Training Unit
Jeffrey Latkowski, West Bloomfield Fire Department
John Cieslik, Rochester Fire Department

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 the tragic events that occurred at Michigan State University on February 13, 2023. Roll call was taken by recording secretary, Macie Smith. A quorum was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

23-02-01

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Feichtner** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to approve the February 14, 2023 regular meeting agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regarding the meeting attendance, Councilperson Blomstrom commented there were many others in attendance however, they may not have signed in.

23-02-02

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Richardson** and seconded by **Councilperson Schehr** to approve the December 2, 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IV. COMMUNICATIONS:

None

V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:

- a) **FY23 Course Summary:** Council was provided with an updated course summary in their meeting packet. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier gave an overview of the course summary. He noted the challenge codes were removed from the report and that there were a few Instructor II students who failed the practical exam. He further explained Instructor II students must be proficient in all categories to pass. Per the Rules, an Instructor II student who fails either the written or practical exam twice must retake the course.
- b) **Fire Instructor III:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared the bureau is currently developing the Fire Instructor III curriculum and is working on the JPRs. The bureau recently sent out a survey requesting input for topics that the Fire Instructor III students will use to develop a four-hour course. The survey will remain open until February 23, 2023.
- c) **NFIRS Non-Reporting Departments in 2022:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier advised there were 85 departments that did not submit fire reports in 2022. These non-reporting departments are not eligible to use Fireworks Safety Fees for training until they become compliant. To clarify, Councilperson Beeson asked if just the non-reporting department is ineligible or if the entire county is ineligible to use the funding. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier confirmed only the non-reporting department is ineligible. He further stated a list of the 2022 non-reporting departments would be shared with council.
- d) **County Training Committees:**
 - i. **Annual Elections:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier reminded all in attendance that County Training Committees (CTCs) shall hold an annual election to select a chairperson by April 1, 2023. Following the election, the CTC shall notify the bureau of the selected chairperson by submitting a BFS-240 form. He also noted the selected chairperson will serve a one-year term beginning April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024 and that the current CTC chairperson may be reelected. For more information, refer to the memo dated February 1, 2023.

- ii. **List of Allocated Funding:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared there were 24 counties that did not provide the bureau with a list of scheduled courses and allocated funding amounts as requested by January 15, 2023.
- e) **FY23 Courses Funded with Returned Fireworks Funds:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier advised that on January 1, 2023, all unencumbered fireworks safety funds were transferred back to the MFFTC's account. To date, the bureau has used the returned unencumbered funding (\$61,355) to fund a total of 18 courses (13 certification for \$51,005 and 5 mental health courses for \$10,350) as directed by council (Motion #22-12-05). A breakdown of the FY23 courses funded with returned fireworks funds was provided to council in their meeting packet.
- f) **SMOKE Enhancements:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that staff continue to work on improvements in the SMOKE system. The most recent SMOKE enhancements include an exam eligible letter for Fire Officer I-III students and an electronic application process for Certified Instructor II. Course closure/finalization reminders to course managers are expected to go live soon.
- g) **Upcoming Youth Firesetter Courses:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared there are two youth firesetter (YFS) courses scheduled in April: 1) YFS Intervention Specialist on April 19-20, 2023 and 2) YFS Program Manager on April 25-26, 2023. Both courses will be held in Waterford, MI and must have 15 students signed up 45 days in advance to run the course. If the courses are not filled, we will lose the funding and the courses will be cancelled due to lack of participation.
- h) **Fatal Fire Update:** As of February 9, 2023, there were 18 fire deaths in 18 fires. This is a 0% decrease in deaths and a 19% increase in fires based on the 2017-2022 average.
- i) **Introduce Bill Forbush:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier introduced Bill Forbush, Michigan State Lead Advocate for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) Everyone Goes Home (EGH) program.

VI. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Councilperson Blomstrom shared the Curriculum Committee met on February 9, 2023 to update the Instructor I and Instructor II exams.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Q Course Applications:

RIC for the Rural Department (**FMQ22-027**)
Instructor: Brandon Cory / Phone: 906-250-7822

23-02-03

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Corradi** and seconded by **Councilperson Schehr** to **approve** Q Course application **FMQ22-027. MOTION CARRIED.**

- b. **Computer-Based Testing:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier stated the bureau continues to look at options. With most platforms we have found, to get the testing option, we would have to purchase the learning management platform as well. The bureau also is also looking into the possibility of doing online testing through SMOKE.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Revisions to the 2023 MFFTC Meeting Schedule:** Councilperson Corradi noted the next Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council (MFFTC) regular meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2023, which is the same day as the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC) Conference.

He proposed moving the April 11, 2023 MFFTC meeting to Novi to be held in conjunction with the MAFC Conference. If council agrees to relocate, he confirmed the MAFC can accommodate the meeting and would make changes to the conference schedule to avoid conflicts.

23-02-04

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Corradi** and seconded by **Councilperson Feichtner** to relocate the April 11, 2023 MFFTC regular meeting to the MAFC Conference in Novi, MI. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Fire Marshal Sehmeyer noted due to a scheduling conflict at the Delta Twp. Fire Department, the MFFTC regular meeting on August 8, 2023 must also be relocated. Fire Marshal Sehmeyer has discussed with Chairperson Stokes the possibility of moving the meeting to Detroit. If council agrees, Chairperson Stokes confirmed that they could accommodate the meeting.

23-02-05

A **MOTION** was made by **Fire Marshal Sehmeyer** and seconded by **Chairperson Stokes** to relocate the August 8, 2023 MFFTC regular meeting to the Detroit Public Safety Headquarters in Detroit, MI. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- b. **ICS 300 & 400 Discussion:** Council discussed some issues with ICS 300 and 400. Specifically, confusion with the registration process (some students are only registering in SMOKE instead of also registering in MI-Train) and the limited number of instructors eligible to teach (there are currently 11 fire instructors, per FEMA's instructor list). The possibility of letting the Michigan State Police Emergency Management Homeland Security Division take over management of ICS 300 & 400 was mentioned to streamline registration and oversight of instructors. Discussion to be continued at the April 11, 2023 meeting.
- c. **Courage To Be Safe (CTBS) Overview:** Bill Forbush, NFFF EGH Michigan State Lead Advocate, addressed council and provided a packet for review. He shared some background information on the NFFF and further discussed the CTBS program specifically focusing on the first Life Safety Initiative, Cultural Change. With an average of 119 line of duty deaths per year, he stated a cultural change is needed in the fire service and suggested adding the CTBS program (in-person program preferred) as a requirement for any Firefighter I course in Michigan. Council discussed the proposal. Councilperson Blomstrom referenced Section 29.369 of the Fire Fighters Training Council Act, which discusses how an individual obtains a Firefighter I & II certification. He questioned whether a specific course could be required for firefighter certifications. Fire Marshal Sehmeyer referenced R29.407 of the Fire Fighters Training Council General Rules, which discusses in-service training programs. Councilperson Blomstrom requested the Fire Marshal seek a legal option on the matter before council moves forward with a decision.
- d. **Q Course Applications:**
 - 1. Trunk Functions School (**FMQ23-001**), Instructor: Robert Blasetti, Phone: 239-810-1176
 - 2. The Impact of Mental Health and Psychological Disorders on First Responders (**FMQ23-002**), Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Zoltowski-Siardia, Phone: 248-763-8633
 - 3. First Responders and Implicit Bias (**FMQ23-003**), Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Zoltowski-Siardia, Phone: 248-763-8633
 - 4. Lines Over Ladders (**FMQ23-004**), Instructor: Robert Blasetti, Phone: 239-810-1176
 - 5. Great Lakes H.O.T. (**FMQ23-005**), Instructor: Sean Duffy, Phone: 813-380-1433
 - 6. Alternative Fuel Vehicle Response (**FMQ23-006**), Instructor: Robert Blasetti, Phone: 239-810-1176

7. Trench Rescue Awareness (**FMQ23-007**), Instructor: John Cieslik, Phone: 248-854-1170
8. SCBA Refresher (**FMQ23-008**), Instructor: John Cieslik, Phone: 248-767-4270
9. Field Training Officer/Mentorship Program (**FMQ23-009**), Instructor: Nathan House, Phone: 989-714-8211
10. Blood Borne Pathogens (**FMQ23-010**), Instructor: John Cieslik, Phone: 248-767-4270
11. Strategies and Tactics for Effective Leadership (**FMQ23-011**), Instructor: Kevin S. Brame, Phone: 951-283-0498
12. De-Escalation and Critical Decision-Making for Fire and Rescue Personnel (**FMQ23-012**), Instructor: Bryan Pizzuti, Phone: 248-417-2563
13. New Blood-Infusion of Legacy (**FMQ23-013**), Instructor: Jeromy Robertson, Phone: 517-204-3294
14. OCC Crew and Self Rescue (**FMQ23-014**), Instructor: Nathaniel Herr, Phone: 248-232-4580
15. Active Shooter-Hostile Event Response and Management (**FMQ23-015**), Instructor: Adam Massingill, Phone: 734-265-7036

23-02-06

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Richardson** to **approve** Q Course applications **FMQ23-001 through FMQ23-015**. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

X. COUNCIL COMMENT:

- **Councilperson Feichtner** shared the MAFC is working with Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union to develop a mental health program that will expand on day two of any fire academy class. A proposal will be brought to council when completed.
- **Councilperson Blomstrom:**
 - Inquired about the NFA course call. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier replied he could expect the course call to be done in March.
 - Also inquired about the process to request changes to curriculum. He noted some instructors would like to see a change in class size for Instructor I. Fire Marshal Sehlmeier replied they should submit a detailed letter explaining their concerns to the bureau for review and consideration.
- **Chairperson Stokes** commented on the recent tragic events that took place at Michigan State University. He encouraged everyone to be mindful and empathetic to the students, their families, and the first responders involved in the incident. He further stressed the importance of preparing our first responders for active assailant incidents.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

23-02-07

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Schehr** to **adjourn** the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 2:59 pm.

APPROVED: MFFTC Regular Meeting 4/11/23 (Motion #23-04-02)