



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Suburban Collection Showplace – Granite Conference Room
46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi, MI 48374
Tuesday, April 11, 2023
1:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kevin Beeson, Michigan Townships Association (joined at 1:40pm)
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
Joseph Schehr, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union
Robert Stokes, Chairperson, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal
Steve Richardson, Michigan State Firemen's Association
Kyle Svoboda, Vice Chairperson, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

Macie Smith, Department Technician, Fire Fighter Training Division, Recording Secretary
Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal
Aileen Pettinger, Region 2 Training Chief, Fire Fighter Training Division
Liam Carroll, Certification Chief, Fire Fighter Training Division
Mauricio Barrera, Public Assembly Fire Safety Inspector

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicholas George, Highland Township Fire Department
Cameron Pichan, Detroit Fire Department
Andrew Box, Ann Arbor Fire Department
Robert Jennison, Livonia Fire Department
Greg Janik, Saugatuck Township Fire District
Raymond Ahonen, Madison Heights Fire Department
Justin Graves, Southgate Fire Department
Jeff Niemann, Southgate Fire Department
Amy Goan, Milford Township Fire Department
Thomas Moore, Milford Township Fire Department
Chad Tackett, Texas Charter Township Fire Department
Wendy Galbreath, Michigan State Police, Hazmat Training Unit
Michael Galloner, Bangor Township Fire Department

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES
611 W. OTTAWA ST., 4TH FLOOR • P.O. BOX 30700 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/bfs • 517-241-8847

LARA is an equal opportunity employer/program.

Daryl Amrozowicz, Lee Township Fire Department
Adam Massingill, Auburn Hills Fire Department
Trevin Robinson, Auburn Hills Fire Department
Chris Koontz, Cadillac Fire Department
Adam Ottjepka, Cadillac Fire Department
Larry Gambotto II, Rochester Hills Fire Department
Aric Massingill, Adrian Fire Department
Bill Forbush, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation/Everyone Goes Home State Advocate
Robert Arbini, Chelsea Fire Authority
David McNally II, VanBuren Township Fire Department
Dawn M Carson, East Lansing Fire Department
Cody Dorland, Coleman Community Fire Department
Joseph Grutza, Retired
Don Drent, Northeast Igham Emergency Service Authority
Martin Erskin, Marshall Fire Department
Jeffry Latkowski, West Bloomfield Fire Department
Andy Bezenah, Retired
Chris Damvelt, Harrison Community Fire Department
John B Martin, Novi Fire Department
Jeff Johnson, Novi Fire Department
Greg Mowbray, Brighton Fire Authority
Mark Cleveland, Egelston Township Fire Department
Jamil Czubenko, Howell Fire Department
Steven McKellar, Plainfield Township Fire Department
David Pelton, Walker Fire Department
Samuel Peterson, Oakfield Township Fire Department
Shannon Witherell, Lowell Fire Department
Corwin Velzen, Lowell Fire Department
Robert Ginther, Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety
Steven Mojzuk, Courtland Fire Department
Glen Goodson, Detroit Fire Department
Thea Dornbush, Muskegon Township Fire Department
Patrick Parker, Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department
Matthew Bartalino, Birmingham Fire Department
Mike Keefe, Allendale Fire Department
Kurt Gernaat, Blendon Township Fire Department
Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department
Matt DeRousse, Bloomfield Township Fire Department
Michael Cousins, Thomas Township Fire Department
Greg Flynn, West Bloomfield Fire Department
Craig Miller, Chesterfield Fire Department

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Chairperson Stokes called the regular meeting to order at 1:29 pm. A moment of silence was observed for Ethan M. Quillen, Paw Paw Fire Department and Ricky A. Hill Jr, Flint Fire Department. Roll call was taken by recording secretary, Macie Smith. A quorum was present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

23-04-01

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Corradi** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to approve the April 11, 2023 regular meeting agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

23-04-02

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Feichtner** and seconded by **Councilperson Schehr** to approve the February 14, 2023 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 that various dates and locations have been set up through July 2023 solely dedicated to Retest Dates. Anyone who needs to take a retest on any written exam can register to take the exam at any of these locations on those dates.
- b) **Fire Instructor III:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that the Fire Instructor III survey closed on February 23, 2023. The bureau received over 60 topic suggestions to use for the Fire Instructor III course. During the Fire Instructor III course students will be required to create a four hour course on a topic they have selected from a list that will be provided.
- c) **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 (\$68,597.95) to fund a total of 20 courses (15 certification for \$58,247.95 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.
- d) **Clarification re: Instructor I & Instructor II Practical Exam Retests:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier would like to clarify that the maximum number of students allowed to test for an Instructor I or Instructor II course would be 16 students. If a course only has 15 students, then one retest student would be allowed in. Instructor I and Instructor II students can take retests on an exam date for either course. Therefore, an Instructor I can retest at an Instructor II exam and vice versa.
- e) **County Training Committees:**
 - i. **Annual Elections:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that all County Training Committees (CTCs) annual election to select a chairperson were due on April 1, 2023. He also noted the selected chairperson will serve a one-year term beginning April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024. The Bureau has not received a CTC Data Form (BFS-240) back from every county. These counties who have not reported the CTC chairperson will not receive the Annual Training Needs Survey that must be completed by June 15th. If the survey is not completed, that county will not be eligible for FY24 funding.
- f) **SMOKE Enhancements:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that staff continue to work on improvements in the SMOKE system. The most recent SMOKE enhancements include fixes for the exam eligible letter for Fire Officer I-III retest students, a notification to the student that

grades have been uploaded to SMOKE and the ability for the SMOKE system to stop Challengers. Course closure/finalization reminders to course managers are going live this coming weekend April 15, 2023.

- g) **Fatal Fire Update:** As of April 11, 2023, there were 43 fire deaths in 40 fires. This is a 0% decrease in deaths and a 19% increase in fires based on the 2017-2022 average. Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer introduced Mauricio Barrera as the new Public Assembly Fire Safety Inspector.
- h) **NFIRS Non-Reporting Departments:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer advised there were 201 departments that did not submit fire reports in the 1st Quarter of 2023 (Jan-March). These non-reporting departments are not eligible to use Fireworks Safety Fees for training until they become compliant.
- i) **Last Comment:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer closed with letting council know to add “Courage to be Safe” to the curriculum it would require a Legislative update to Act 291. “Courage to be Safe” is not viewed as in-service, so it cannot be tied to a certification course without a change in Legislation.

VI. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Councilperson Blomstrom shared no meetings scheduled at this time.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

a. ICS 300 & 400:

- a. **ICS 300 & 400 Discussion:** To take courses at a national level a student must have a FEMA Certificate which can only come from FEMA Representative. Michigan State Police would be the FEMA Representative in Michigan. Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer shared there may be an opportunity for students to register online through the National Fire Academy. ICS 300 & 400 Discussion will remain under Old Business for the June 13, 2023 meeting.

b. “Courage to be Safe”:

- a. **Courage To Be Safe (CTBS) Overview:** Bill Forbush, NFFF EGH Michigan State Lead Advocate, acknowledged he is aware that without legislative change “Courage to Be Safe” cannot be mandated to be added to Fire Fighter I. Further information was shared on the Life Safety Initiatives. He is asking that the different Fire Groups get behind the initiative to have a change in Legislation that would allow council to add “Course to be Safe” to the Fire Fighter I curriculum.

- c. **Computer-Based Testing:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer stated the bureau continues to look at options. The bureau continues to look into the possibility of doing online testing through SMOKE. Fire Marshall Sehlmeyer asked that Computer-Based Testing be removed from Old Business, and he will report out under the State Fire Marshal’s Report.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Q Course Applications:

ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) **(FMQ23-017)**
Instructor: Lisa Clavier and Denise Shea / Phone: 231-675-5047
Live Fire Instruction **(FMQ23-018)**
Instructor: Curtis Walters / Phone: 231-313-6293
23-04-03

A **MOTION** was made by **Vice Chairperson Svoboda** and seconded by **Councilperson Corradi** to **table** Q Course applications **FMQ23-017 and FMQ23-018 until the next meeting on June 13** due to incomplete applications. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Fire Behavior and Fire Dynamics: Understanding Fire, Ventilation, and the Structure to Operate Safer and Smarter **(FMQ23-016)**

Instructors: Brad Drury / Phone: 517-290-0297

Risk-Based Response to Battery Emergencies **(FMQ23-019)**

Instructor: Hazard3 Staff / Phone: 248-238-8509

23-04-04

A **MOTION** was made by **Vice Chairperson Svoboda** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to **approve** Q Course applications **FMQ23-016 and FMQ23-019. MOTION CARRIED.**

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

X. COUNCIL COMMENT:

- **Councilperson Feichtner** asked that 'Discussion on how we review the Current Library of Q-Courses' be added to the agenda for the next Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council Meeting.
- **Councilperson Corradi** would like to thank Chief Menifee and Linda for accommodating the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council Meeting at the Midwest Fire Rescue Expo.
- **Chairperson Stokes** asked that everyone in attendance at the meeting to please make sure to sign the Guest Sign-In sheet before leaving.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

23-04-05

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Richardson** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to **adjourn** the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm.

APPROVED: MFFTC Regular Meeting 6/13/23 (Motion #23-06-02)