



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, June 13, 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 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  
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  
Mauricio Barrera, Public Assembly Fire Safety Inspector

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Cameron Pichan, Detroit Fire Department  
Robert Ginther, Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety  
Joshua Mosher, Midland Fire Department  
Andy Bezenah, B&B LFT  
Martin Erskine, Marshall Fire Department  
Todd Bradley, B&B LFT  
Jacob Washburn, Fredonia Township Fire Department / Calhoun County Training Committee  
Tim Baker, Lansing Community College  
Joshua Fouchia, Shelby Township Fire Department / Macomb City County Training Committee  
Larry Gambotto, Rochester Hills Fire Department

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES  
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## **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, Macie Smith. A quorum was present.

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

### **23-06-01**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Svoboda** and seconded by **Councilperson Richardson** to approve the June 13, 2023 regular meeting agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

### **23-06-02**

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

## **IV. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Fire Marshal Sehlmeier** received an inquiry regarding the FY23 funding for Allegan County. Allegan County cancelled a NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I course on March 24, 2023. On April 5, 2023, the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) Fire Fighter Training Division (FFTD) pulled back the funding for this course in the amount of \$2,686.85. SMOKE sends a notification when a transfer of funding is completed. The 30-day deadline for Allegan County to reallocate the funds was April 23, 2023. On May 4, 2023 and on May 11, 2023, the Allegan County Secretary and Treasurer reached out to the FFTD requesting the funding be returned. Since the 30-day deadline established by the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council (MFFTC) in December 2022 had passed, the funds were not returned.

## **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.
- b) **Exam Totals (March – June):** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier informed council that from March 1, 2023 to June 12, 2023 the FFTD has graded a total of 347 exams and sent out a total of 218 exam packets. All exams were graded on average within .8 days of receiving the exam packet in the bureau office. He would like to thank all Training Coordinators for their hard work administering exams.
- c) **\*Change\* ADA Readers for ALL Certification Exams:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier reported that after a lot of research and discussion, the BFS has determined that all certification exams stated in Public Act 291 may allow for a reader. To receive a reader a student must apply and be approved for a reader by completing a BFS-856 Accommodation Request form.
- d) **Training Coordinator Updates:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that there are three Training Coordinators who have decided to step down. Those three Training Coordinators are Kurt Corradi, Bob Grabinski, and Rick VanHorn. Fire Marshal

Sehlmeyer would like to thank each one of them for all their hard work and dedication over the years. The bureau also has three new Training Coordinators that have been onboarded. The new Training Coordinators are Randy Case, Jim Stevenson, and Bob Hoffman. Moving forward, because of the changes in Training Coordinators, it is advised that all course managers review the map on the BFS website to determine who your Training Coordinator will be for certification exams in your area.

- e) **Fire Instructor III:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer reported the FFTD continues to develop the Fire Instructor III curriculum with an anticipated launch date of October 1, 2023.
- f) **FY23 Courses Funded with Returned Fireworks Funds:** A breakdown of the FY23 courses funded with returned fireworks funds was provided to council in their meeting packet. Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer advised that on January 1, 2023, all unencumbered fireworks safety funds were transferred back to the MFFTC account. To date, the bureau has used the returned unencumbered funding (\$99,649.93) to fund a total of 31 courses (21 certification for \$78,199.93 and 10 mental health courses for \$21,450.00) as directed by council (Motion #22-12-05). If anyone would like to request funding for a course, please reach out to Hollie Metts at [mettsh@michigan.gov](mailto:mettsh@michigan.gov).
- g) **SMOKE Enhancements:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer shared that staff continues to work on improvements in the SMOKE system. For the first time ever, the bureau now has the availability to send out emails through the SMOKE system to every user. Additionally SMOKE now sends out an email reminder to course managers for course closure/finalization at 15 days, 30 days, and 45 days. Another recent SMOKE enhancement gives BFS the ability to send out an email notification to both the course students and the course manager as soon as the exams are graded and uploaded into the SMOKE system.
- h) **NFIRS Non-Reporting Departments:** Council was provided with an updated list of non-reporting departments in their meeting packet. Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer advised there are 140 departments that have not submit any fire reports so far during the 2023 calendar year. These non-reporting departments are not eligible to use Fireworks Safety Fees for training until they become compliant. Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer shared that NFIRS will be going away and will be replaced with a cloud-based system being developed by UL Solutions.
- i) **Reminder for CTCs:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer would like to remind all Country Training Committees that the Annual Training Needs Surveys are due by June 15th. Every county must submit the survey to receive FY24 funding.
- j) **Fatal Fire Update:** As of June 13, 2023, there were 59 fire deaths in 56 fires. This is a 4% decrease in deaths and a 7% increase in fires based on the 2017-2022 average.
- k) **Introducing Mauricio Barrera, Public Assembly Inspector:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeyer introduced Mauricio Barrera again as the new Public Assembly Fire Safety Inspector for those who were unable to attend the MFFTC Meeting in Novi, MI in April 2023.

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

Councilperson Blomstrom reported that there are no meetings scheduled at this time.

## VII. OLD BUSINESS:

### a. **Q Course Applications tabled from the April MFFTC Meeting:**

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

#### **23-06-03**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Svoboda** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to **remove** Q Course applications **FMQ23-017** and **FMQ23-018** from being tabled for further discussion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **23-06-04**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Schehr** and seconded by **Councilperson Corradi** to **approve** Q Course application **FMQ23-017**. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **23-06-05**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Svoboda** and seconded by **Councilperson Schehr** to **dismiss** Q Course application **FMQ23-018** due to a lack of requested documentation being submitted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### b. **ICS 300 & 400:** Fire Marshal Sehmeyer shared that as of today there is no update.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Q Course Catalog Update:** Council was provided with a spreadsheet in their packet with a list of courses from the Q-Course Catalog that have not been ran in the past five years. The FFFD staff has put in over 70 hours of staff time into creating this spreadsheet for council. Discussion was had regarding what to do with the courses that have not ran at all in the past five years. It was determined to remove these courses from the Q-Course Catalog. A new BFS-201 Q-Course Application form will need to be submitted to put the course back onto the catalog.

#### **23-06-06**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Schehr** and seconded by **Councilperson Feichtner** to **remove** the following Q-Courses from the Q-Course Catalog: **Q04B, Q05I, Q06A, Q07A, Q09A, Q12A, Q13E, Q13G, Q17A, Q18A, Q21A, Q22I, Q24A, Q26A, Q29A, Q30A, Q31A, Q32A, Q34A, Q35A, Q39A, Q49A, Q50A, Q52D, Q57B, Q57H, Q57J, Q59A, Q62B, Q62C, Q63A, Q64B, Q66A, Q66P**. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Council Member Feichtner asked that a 'Q Course Catalog Update' be added to the agenda under Old Business for the next MFFTC Meeting on August 8, 2023. This will be to discuss how to move forward with removing Q-Courses that have not run in a certain amount of time.

- b. **Revisions to the 2023 MFFTC Meeting Schedule:** Discussion was had regarding all MFFTC meetings being held at a central location or move to different locations each meeting. If council chooses to continue with meetings at different locations should, each group represented on council be given the chance to host a MFFTC

meeting at their conference should the schedule allow it. Council decided to take time to go back to each of the represented groups to determine if the groups have interest in hosting a meeting at their conference and if the conference time/location would allow for them to do so. It was asked that 'MFFTC Meeting Locations' be added to the agenda under Old Business for the next MFFTC meeting on August 8, 2023.

**c. Q Course Applications:**

**LCC Basic Irons (FMQ23-020)**

Instructors: Lansing Community College Regional Training Center Staff  
Phone: 517-483-5227

**Mitigating New Vehicle Technology Extrications and Electric Vehicle Fire Challenges (FMQ23-022)**

Instructor: Aaron Heller  
Phone: 609-743-0166

**Managing Rural Water Supply (FMQ23-023)**

Instructors: Ted Lilley and Eric Abbott  
Phone: 248-830-8893 (Ted) or 906-364-5316 (Eric)

**Fire Ground Decision Making: Fire Behavior and Thermal Imaging 2 Hour Course (FMQ23-024)**

Instructor: Andrew Bezenah  
Phone: 248-521-5453

**Fire Ground Decision Making: Fire Behavior and Thermal Imaging 4 Hour Course (FMQ23-025)**

Instructor: Andrew Bezenah  
Phone: 248-521-5453

**Fire Ground Decision Making: Fire Behavior and Thermal Imaging 8 Hour Course (FMQ23-026)**

Instructor: Andrew Bezenah  
Phone: 248-521-5453

**Fire Ground Decision Making: Fire Behavior and Thermal Imaging 16 Hour Course (FMQ23-027)**

Instructor: Andrew Bezenah  
Phone: 248-521-5453

Councilperson Schehr expressed a need for discussion in relationship to Q Course application FMQ23-021. Further discussion will be had after motion 23-06-07. .

**23-06-07**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Feichtner** and seconded by **Councilperson Schehr** to **approve** Q Course applications **FMQ23-020, and FMQ23-022 through FMQ23-027. MOTION CARRIED.**

Further discussion was held regarding Q Course application FMQ23-021. Council called on the applicant, Robert Ginther, for further explanation about the Fire/Rescue 1 Academy Learning Management System (LMS).

Fire/Rescue 1 Academy **(FMQ23-021)**

Instructors: Fire/Rescue 1 Academy

Phone: 248-721-0758

**23-06-08**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Blomstrom** and seconded by **Councilperson Svoboda** to **approve** Q Course application **FMQ23-021**. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Chief Martin Erskine** asks that all represented organizations to verify their conferences are open to the public and that more than just their members can attend a MFFTC meeting when hosted by a fire organization. He shared that he attended the MFFTC meeting hosted at the Chiefs Conference this past April in Novi and that the meeting was was open for the public to attend, not just chiefs.

**X. COUNCIL COMMENT:**

**Councilperson Corradi** would like to thank Liam Carroll and the BFS for all the hard work on the SMOKE enhancements. As an instructor himself, he shared the enhancements have saved him a great deal of time. Also, would like to thank the bureau for the 70 hours put into the Q-Course spreadsheet.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:**

**23-06-09**

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Feichtner** and seconded by **Councilperson Schehr** to **adjourn** the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.

**APPROVED:** MFFTC Regular Meeting 8/8/23 (Motion 23-08-02)