



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
State Fire Safety Board Meeting
Thursday, September 24, 2020
1:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting:

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92603104312?pwd=YXFJbkE1WC83MWxPNklqbkJ3Y2RqZz09>

Password: XUjh7c

Phone: (216) 706-7075 or (866) 390-1828

Conference Code: 394127

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Julie Bulson, Representing Hospital Administrators
Steven Densmore, Representing Fire Departments in the Lower Peninsula (technical difficulties, no audio)
Lindsey Haley, Representing Owners of Adult Foster Care Facilities
Randall Halstead, Liquefied Petroleum or Flammable Compressed Gas Industry (technical difficulties, joined 2:17 pm)
Kenneth Herbart, Chair, Representing Registered Architects
Tina Kerr, Representing School Board Administrators/Members
Andrew Marceau, Representing Fire Departments in the Lower Peninsula
Tavis Millerov, Representing Fire Departments in the Lower Peninsula
Jeramie Morris, Representing the Chemical Manufacturing Industry
Patrick Phelan, Representing the Professional Engineers
Dylan Rogers, Representing Places of Public Assemblage (joined at 1:56 pm)
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal/Director, Ex-Officio Member
Robert Williams, Representing the Building Trades

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Paul Korte, Representing the Nursing Home Industry
Kenneth Letts, Representing the Flammable Liquids Industry
Michael Powers, Representing the Licensed Electrical Contractors
Brian Talvensaari, Representing Fire Departments in the Upper Peninsula

OTHER BUREAU ATTENDEES:

Hollie Metts, LARA/BFS, Executive Secretary

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

None

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

The State Fire Safety Board meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. Chairman Kenneth Herbart lead all attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and read a virtual meeting introduction advising of the procedures for the meeting, public comment, and the steps that would be taken if the meeting were disconnected. Roll call was taken by executive secretary, Hollie Metts, and a quorum was determined present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

20-09-01

A **MOTION** was made by **Board Member Williams** and seconded by **Board Member Bulson** to approve the meeting agenda for September 24, 2020, as presented. A roll call vote was taken:

Board Member Bulson – Support
Board Member Densmore – None (technical difficulties)
Board Member Haley – Support
Board Member Halstead – None (technical difficulties)
Chairman Herbart – Support
Board Member Kerr – Support
Board Member Korte – Absent
Board Member Letts - Absent
Board Member Marceau – Support
Board Member Millerov – Support
Board Member Morris – Support
Board Member Phelan – Support
Board Member Powers – Absent
Board Member Rogers – Absent
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier - Support
Board Member Talvensaari - Absent
Board Member Williams – Support

Total Votes: Support 10, Opposed 0, Abstain 0, Absent 5, None 2. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

20-09-02

A **MOTION** was made by **Board Member Kerr** and seconded by **Board Member Bulson** to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2020 meeting, as presented. A roll call vote was taken:

Board Member Bulson – Support
Board Member Densmore – None (technical difficulties)
Board Member Haley – Support
Board Member Halstead – None (technical difficulties)
Chairman Herbart – Support
Board Member Kerr – Support
Board Member Korte – Absent
Board Member Letts - Absent
Board Member Marceau – Support
Board Member Millerov – Support
Board Member Morris – Support
Board Member Phelan – Support

Board Member Powers – Absent
Board Member Rogers – Absent
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier - Support
Board Member Talvensaari - Absent
Board Member Williams – Support

Total Votes: Support 10, Opposed 0, Abstain 0, Absent 5, None 2. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:

- a. Welcome new members and welcome back returning members! Fire Marshal Sehlmeier advised of the following:
 - i. A new appointee orientation is being developed. New appointees will be asked to participate once finalized.
 - ii. The LARA Appointee Handbook was recently updated and distributed to all board members.
 - iii. The Fire Marshal advised of the requirement for board members to use their State of Michigan email account for conducting official business due to security concerns.
- b. **Bureau Updates:**
 - i. The Bureau of Fire Services' (BFS) is in the process of moving to the Ottawa Building (located at 611 Ottawa Street, Lansing, Michigan). The move was originally delayed due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
 - ii. All bureau staff continue to telework and come into the office as needed. Staff are required to wear masks and complete a COVID screening form when entering the building. Staff will not return to in-office work until after the new year.
- c. **Postsecondary Appeal Update:** The Fire Marshal advised Concordia University has paid the fine.
- d. **School Guidance:** Together, the Michigan Department of Education and the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs are working to produce a joint guidance document for schools to assist them as they return to the classroom in the fall. The document also addresses the required drills (fire, tornado, security/lockdown) and how they can run the drills and follow social distancing requirements to make sure they know what to do if the alarm sounds to keep people safe. Hand sanitizer, which is highly flammable, is also addressed in the document and speaks to the quantity that can be used in certain areas.
- e. **Public Act 45 of 2020 (Temporary Door Locking):** The Fire Marshal advised this legislation recently passed and allows certain temporary door locking devices in schools. This legislation became effective on June 1, 2020. The temporary door locking devices must be inspected by the BFS and the Bureau of Construction Codes.
- f. **Fire Prevention Month:** The Fire Marshal shared that Governor Whitmer is expected to proclaim October 2020 as Fire Prevention Month in Michigan. The bureau will follow the NFPA's theme (cooking safety) during the first full week of October. For the remainder of the month, we will share fire safety messages from MI Prevention.

- VI. **Fatal Fires:** To date, a total of 87 fire fatalities have been recorded this year.
- VII. **MI Prevention Update:** September 25 – September 27, 2020, MI Prevention will be conducting a smoke alarm blitz on Drummond Island.

VIII. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

- a. **Public Act 45 of 2020 (Temporary Door Locking):** Covered during the State Fire Marshal's report.
- b. **House Bill 4792 (Fueling):** The Fire Marshal shared that this bill regarding unattended fueling has passed the House and will be reviewed by the Senate.
- c. **House Bill 4717 (Gas cans):** The Fire Marshal shared that this topic has come up and is more of a topic for the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy than it is for LARA.

IX. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

X. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Update on Bureau of Fire Services' move:** Covered during the State Fire Marshal's report.
- b. **Discussion Regarding Vice Chair Position (Replacement for Sabin):** Board members interested in the vice chair position shall submit their names to Hollie Metts (mettsh@michigan.gov) by October 1, 2020. The board will take a vote at the next meeting on October 15, 2020.
- c. **Fire Inspector Equivalencies:** The board discussed whether to accept ProBoard Fire Inspector I and IFSAC Fire Inspector I as an equivalency to the NFPA Fire Inspector I requirement. A roll call vote was taken.

Board Member Bulson – Support
Board Member Densmore – None (technical difficulties)
Board Member Haley – Support
Board Member Halstead – None (technical difficulties)
Chairman Herbart – Support
Board Member Kerr – Support
Board Member Korte – Absent
Board Member Letts - Absent
Board Member Marceau – Support
Board Member Millerov – Support
Board Member Morris – Support
Board Member Phelan – Support
Board Member Powers – Absent
Board Member Rogers – Absent
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier - Support
Board Member Talvensaari - Absent
Board Member Williams – Support

Total Votes: Support 10, Opposed 0, Abstain 0, Absent 5, None 2. **MOTION CARRIED.**

d. Fireworks Appeals:

- i. Citation #20-00060:** Chairman Herbart called the fireworks appeal to order at 2:15 p.m. The board was asked to either uphold or deny the matter based solely on the administrative record created by the state fire marshal's office.

Board Member Bulson – Uphold
Board Member Densmore – None (technical difficulties)
Board Member Haley – Uphold
Board Member Halstead – Uphold
Chairman Herbart – Uphold
Board Member Kerr – Uphold
Board Member Korte – Absent
Board Member Letts - Absent
Board Member Marceau – Uphold
Board Member Millerov - Uphold
Board Member Morris – Uphold
Board Member Phelan – Uphold
Board Member Powers – Absent
Board Member Rogers – Uphold
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier - Abstain
Board Member Talvensaari - Absent
Board Member Williams – Uphold

Total Votes: Uphold 11, Deny 0, Abstain 1, Absent 4, None 1. The board ruled to uphold the bureau's decision. The appeal adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

- ii. Citation #20-00068:** Chairman Herbart called the fireworks appeal to order at 2:26 p.m. The board was asked to either uphold or deny the matter based solely on the administrative record created by the state fire marshal's office.

Board Member Bulson – Uphold
Board Member Densmore – None (technical difficulties)
Board Member Haley – Uphold
Board Member Halstead – Uphold
Chairman Herbart – Uphold
Board Member Kerr – Uphold
Board Member Korte – Absent
Board Member Letts - Absent
Board Member Marceau – Uphold
Board Member Millerov - Uphold
Board Member Morris – Uphold
Board Member Phelan – Uphold
Board Member Powers – Absent
Board Member Rogers – Uphold
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier - Abstain
Board Member Talvensaari - Absent
Board Member Williams – Uphold

Total Votes: Uphold 11, Deny 0, Abstain 1, Absent 4, None 1. The board ruled to uphold the bureau's decision. The appeal adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

XI. STATE FIRE SAFETY BOARD COMMENT:

- Chairman Herbart thanked all board members in attendance and advised Hollie would update the next meeting invite for October 15, 2020.

XII. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:

20-09-03

A **MOTION** was made by **Board Member Williams** and seconded by **Board Member Morris** to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was taken:

Board Member Bulson – Support
Board Member Densmore – None (technical difficulties)
Board Member Haley – Absent
Board Member Halstead – Support
Chairman Herbart – Support
Board Member Kerr – Support
Board Member Korte – Absent
Board Member Letts - Absent
Board Member Marceau – Support
Board Member Millerov – Support
Board Member Morris – Support
Board Member Phelan – Support
Board Member Powers – Absent
Board Member Rogers – Support
Fire Marshal Sehmeyer - Support
Board Member Talvensaari - Absent
Board Member Williams – Support

Total Votes: Support 11, Opposed 0, Abstain 0, Absent 5, No response 1. **MOTION CARRIED.**
The meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm on October 15, 2020 and will be held virtually via Zoom meeting.

APPROVED: December 3, 2020 Regular Meeting (motion #20-12-2).