



# MICHIGAN FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION

## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**2/11/2022**

**Tri – Township Fire Department**

**104. Spruce St.**

**104 W. Spruce St. Charles, MI 48655**

### **Call to Order:**

Meeting called to order at 12:23 pm by President Bigger

### **Roll Call of Officers:**

President Bigger, VP Blomstrom, Treasurer Dean, Secretary VanHorn, East VP Wilson, South VP Wlosinski, North VP Parker, Members at Large Faughnan, Mickles, Carroll, Hubbard Past President Cousins. (We have a quorum.)

**Excused Absences:** UP VP Vaught, West VP Cleveland.

### **Guests:**

Eileen VanHorn, Linda Bigger, Caleb Browne, Marco Isome, Greg Ball, Jack Johnson, Jaime Faughnan

### **Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Approval of Agenda:** Parker / Dean - Passed

**Reading/Minutes of Previous Minutes Dec 3, 2021:** Cousins / Hubbard – Passed  
**Executive Board Meeting Minutes** (for viewing; no approval required)

**Guest Presentations (Preapproved, 5-minute time limit):** None

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Dean stated that we have \$36439.51 in the bank our Savings account has \$1797.40. Couple outstanding balances on the cards which comes from checking that are auto paid out of the checking account. Chris went through the January balance in the account \$71,998.07 The check has been processed and sent to the hotel. Chris and the Members at Large need to get together and finalize the audit for 2021. Please contact Chris to plan. Pres Bigger gave some history of the first bill of \$45,000,00 and got it down to \$33,890.23.

Discussion held. Motion to accept report. (Parker / Wlosinski) Passed

## Standing Committees

### Instructor of the Year (**Wilson/Wlosinski/Blomstrom**):

We had 5 names submitted and everything went well. Discussion held.

### Conference/Programs (**Bigger/Faughnan/Cleveland**):

Pres. Bigger Reported We have signed a new 2-year contract for the conference Nov 30<sup>th</sup> starts the 2022 & Nov 29<sup>th</sup> for the 2024 Conference. Don also reported that we were not happy with food situation and told the hotel people of our concerns and that needs to be taken care of and the fact they went 10% lower than 10% higher. Rooms are available.

### Articles and By-Laws (**Hubbard/Wilson/Blomstrom**):

No report. However, Hubbard reminded us that the bylaws need to be looked at mid-2023 and the year 2024 if there are any changes that time to change.

### Membership: (**VanHorn/Cleveland/Vaught**):

VanHorn reported that we have 420 current members that includes Lifetime members. There are members that fall off due to expiration and some that renew membership, this is continually changing. Membership is holding good.

### Public Relations and Conference Advertising (**Carroll/Parker/Mickles**)

### Education/Research/Development (**Cleveland/Hubbard/Mickles**)

No Report.

## Special Committees

### Deward Beeler Scholarship (**Parker/Dean/Vaught**)

NVP Parker stated nothing to report. Motion by North VP to raise the Scholarship to \$1000.00. Sponsorship by the Insurance companies, 2<sup>nd</sup> by MAL Hubbard starting this year's conference. Passed Discussion held.

### Joint Council (**Wlosinski/Carroll, /Pashkowski**)

South VP Wlosinski reported according to the minutes we covered the classes pretty much they have new officers; Shawn Abbey is President; Vice President is Dave McNally from VanBuren, and Secretary Mike Kennedy. Talked about Retention and Recruitment and the possible of tuition and provision for pay back. Discussion on covid presumption legislation It died in committee. The three classes are still on track however Covid dependent. Discussion held.

### Fire Fighter Training Council (**Blomstrom**)

Blomstrom had reported that the council receive that they would not have a quorum. On the agenda there were 5 Q courses to be looked at and those will be forwarded the next Council meeting for review and voted upon in April. Numerous emails now for people that didn't get their certifications done before November 3<sup>rd</sup> even though the report has been out for 36 months get it done because when the rules are out done everything is done. One person reached out to have rescinded a rule that you have to take Instructor I when he is an EMT IC. Basically, you must take the Instructor I to teach Instructor I know you have to be Instructor II. The Fire Fighter Training Council application is now open, they are hoping the opening seats are filled by April. Groups are going to be contacted by the State and Applicants need to apply online for background checks, however it is not aligned with a group you must pick your group. Eileen Pettinger is leaving Council she retired from the Saginaw Fire Dept. to become a State

Inspector and the State says she cannot do both jobs. LARA EGLE looking at the felony rule versus the law on getting an internal opinion. This is reference people attending classes even though they have a felony on the books. 4 new Training Coordinators in the State, Kurt Corradi, Rodney Brown, Tracy St. John, and Dan Reynolds to help around the State with a lot of classes that are going on. Check on the web site for the State for job openings. Mental Health Grants all have been given out all those that received an award the classes need to be done by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Rules are being implemented and all the forms are being changed or updated. Check the website for any change or updated forms. Instructor III is being done and Instructor II test is going to be reviewed at by the Curriculum Committee. CTC's have been notified about the rule changes Counties have to select their CTCs by April 1<sup>st</sup> instead of their boards and submit their paperwork to the Bureau. They have had some issues with this some counties have 41 FDs in their county and that's too many to vote so they say. The CTCs must figure this out. Discussion held. Every Fire Dept. should see the survey form come out after April 1<sup>st</sup> at which time the CTC that is elected must make this survey 1<sup>st</sup> priority according to the rules send it to the department and get back to the Bureau by the end of July. The State will be doing Orientation classes every 90 – 120 days to accommodate those coming in from reciprocity, this outside of instructor I. 3 Counties received no money this year from Fire works 2 did not submit so that money was turned back, 1 didn't check with CTC for his county and their department did not submit their NFRS for the year so the whole county did not receive money because the CTC wasn't doing his job. Discussion held.

Curriculum Committee (Wlosinski/Blomstrom)

South VP Wlosinski reported that they meet doing the read through and correcting some of the wording on the practical tests not a whole lot of changes just language. Another meeting coming up to review the Instructor II test and get that moving. Liam has gone through all test so on a 3-year rotation the tests will be changed on questions. Discussion held

Coalition (Bigger/Blomstrom)

Pres. Bigger report that Melissa came to the Inspectors conference and presented a class on how to prepare people to testify. He was thinking to ask Melissa to present at our conference. Discussion held.

MFSIA Website (NEW): VanHorn/Carroll/Dean

Rick reported on issues brought up at the conference to work on. With this I ask them for a proposal Insite quote to migrate all our computer material in the cloud so we can access it anywhere at any time and have high security and protect our material. The quote is for \$2565.99. This would give us better security and allow easily files and material. Also, Don sent me a contact for better conference management, I have not contacted yet. Motion to spend up to \$3000.00 for the new program setup for migration to allow selected others to allow access the MFSIA data base. (Cousins/Dean) Passed

Public Assemblage Ad Hoc (Cleveland /Cousins)

No report

**Reports/Communications**

**Upper Peninsula Vice President**

No Report

**Vaught**

**West Vice President**

No Report

**Cleveland**

**East Vice President**

No report

**Wilson****South Vice President**

Somebody from my area up at the conference wanting to know what is going to happen in the future. Ray was happy that we are taking strides to better the organization

**Wlosinski****North Vice President**

Seems that there is a two-to-three-week delay on getting classes approved through the State. We had testing coming out and was told there is no one to do them. Computer testing is still not going on yet.

**Parker****Treasurer**

No report

**Dean****Secretary**

No report

**VanHorn****Executive Vice-President**

So, we have done 4 McNeil updates and we sent a second check to McNeil for all four classes. Any more updates we do we will handle our selves and keep it a fair deal there still will be a \$50.00 charge. Brian does have a request out there for another class, need about 10 people to make it profitable. Brian will get the date online as when it is a go. Our NFA class went well we ended up with 16 participants. The instructor from Seattle was an outstanding. Students showed up and Winter Inn was full, had to move people down to the American Inn and they cut us a deal for the instructors in town, School didn't charge us for anything and thanks to Don (1800 Board-Up) for providing Jimmy Johns to care of lunch one day. Feed back from students is keep doing every year. That's our 5<sup>th</sup> one we have done. The course call is coming up again and we will have to figure out what we want. Discussion Held.

**Blomstrom****President**

Every one pay Jamie for lunch.  
Promoting the organization at conferences He thinks a great idea of that. We should cover the cost for hotels and that. We need to come up with a consensus of doing that. We showed come with a list of the main conferences. Are we all on board to cover cost of going to those conferences? Discussion held.

**Bigger****Old Business**

**Vegas Night fund raiser for Great Lakes Burn Camp raised \$2795.00  
(Presentation Picture of the check for Burn Camp)**

**New Business**

President Bigger stated we received 12 emails for the created open spot on the board. Pres. Bigger wants to recommend appointee to fill remainder of the term for the open Member At Large Position - Jamie Faughnan.

Motion to put Jamie Faughnan into the Member at Large I to finish out the term ending 2023.  
(Wlosinski/Hubbard) Passed.

### Next Meeting Location.

April 8, 2022

Lunch 11:00 am

Meeting 12:00

Winter Inn

100 N. Lafayette St.

Greenville, MI 48838

### Good of the Order

Mike Cousins - what he wanted to bring up he has been a proud member since 1998, and as of Don taking over the Presidency, I've been doing the elections every and he s a little disturb at this year's election process. Us as an association and us as a board in our by-laws it says that we follow the International Society of Fire Instructors doctrine in terms of the Ethics and Code of Conduct, and I think it might be good for us all to refresh ourselves on what that means. In particular, "I will conduct myself in a manner that will bring credit to the Fire Service Profession. My standards of behavior will reflect good taste, courtesy, consideration and respect for the rights and privileges of fellow instructors and of students and board members. The way of the process went down was distasteful. It showed a lack of respect for one another. The document of this association has everybody sign it. We need a checks and balance of our selves to sign as a **Board Member** this form to remind us of the importance. Our actions also need to reflect positive. What this means is not bashing other Board members, talking about them, conniving, and making any ill will, He feels that the nominations come from the group and not all from the just the Board. We could have done the elections a little bit differently or more tasteful. I feel that the document be sent to all the Board Members, and we sign so we are a check and balance of ourselves. I thought it was just me, however hearing from other people and side bar conversions really wasn't what this Board is for the last several years. Mike thinks it good in keeping in check of that. Question do we have a source to make sure that the people do have the 3 years as a member? Rick has documented this information. Discussion Held.

Everybody that had a comment for good of the order were in consensus of Mike said.

Don made comment that he hopes we all are straight forward and bring issues of each Board member. The comment that was brought up is that the President is the one to curb issues like this in the future and to correct the issues that we had at the 2021 conference or have a Sargent of Arms person.

Tri-Twp Building is always open for meetings.

### Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Parker / Blomstrom). Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 2:48 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Secretary Rick VanHorn*