

Fire/EMS Legislative Caucus

MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

10:00 AM IN ROOM 1E OF THE LOB

I. CONVENE MEETING

II. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

IV. REMARKS BY THE CHAIRS

V. MEMBER DISCUSSION

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. DISCUSSION OF TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM

Representative Boyd convened the meeting at 10:00 am and gave the floor over to Representative Ohler.

Representative Ohler called the current membership of the caucus and asked if there were any additions. It was announced that the caucus had a total of 42 members.

Representative Boyd stated the goals of the caucus. He then moved on to announce the four subcommittees that the caucus would be forming. These were 1) Education/Training 2) Fire Marshal/Regulations 3) EMS 4) Labor.

Representative Boyd announced the proposed subcommittee chairs.

Ben McGorty – Fire Marshal/Regs Subcommittee Chair

Liz Linehan – Labor Subcommittee Chair

Brian Ohler - Caucus Co-Chair, Education, and Training Subcommittee Chair

Pat Boyd – Caucus Co-Chair, EMS Subcommittee Chair

He then asked for a motion to accept the proposed chairs of each subcommittee.

The motion was made by Rep. Ohler and seconded by Rep. Devlin

The motion passed without objection.

Representative Boyd then asked if there were any comments or questions from the members.

Representative Abercrombie asked if the subcommittees would be chosen by the chairs or if the members would form the subcommittees on a volunteer basis.

Representative Boyd stated that the members could volunteer to serve on whichever subcommittee they found of interest.

Representative Boyd also clarified that the caucus would not be introducing legislation this session, but that there may be legislation the caucus would use its influence to support.

Representative Ohler offered an example that funding for the fire schools would be something the entire caucus could get behind.

Representative Boyd moved on to call on Gregory Allard to present.

Gregory Allard Chairman of the CT EMS Advisory Board provided an overview of what his organization does. He also discussed several legislative issues his organization was interested in for the 2018 session.

Representative Yaccarino asked some questions regarding background checks for EMS and the ability to purchase bulletproof vest online.

Representative Case reiterated Gregory's comments regarding the issues associated with transitioning from one non-emergency medical ride service to another.

Representative Abercrombie asked that presenters provide paper copies of testimony for future meetings, so she might be able to review testimony later.

Representative Ohler directed questions to Gregory Allard regarding the certification levels for EMS and the new national standards for advanced level EMS training.

Representative Boyd directed questions to Gregory Allard regarding whether there was a discrepancy in care between geographic areas and whether there was a need for uniformity between all the areas of the state.

Representative Boyd introduced the next speaker
Jeffery Morrisette: Fire Administrator of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, a division of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

Jeffery Morrisette provided an overview of the duties and operations of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control.

Representative Boyd asked if Jeffery Morrisette knew of any legislative recommendations coming from his department for the 2018 session.

Jeffery Morrisette provided another overview of the national fire education system, tying in CT's regional fire schools and the issue's that they face.

Representative Devlin directed a question to Jeffery Morrisette regarding whether there was a difference in standards between regional schools administered by boards compared to school's operated by municipal entities.

Representative Ohler directed several questions to Jeffery Morrisette regarding volunteer and professional firefighter training/recruitment.

Representative Byron directed some questions to Jeffery Morrisette regarding the training cost of State Fire Academy classes as well as the average term of service for graduates of the Fire Academy.

Representative Linehan provided some input regarding the community strategies for retaining volunteer firefighters.

Representative Boyd reiterated the issue of retention stating some recruits fail to even complete the regional fire school training.

Representative Winkler provided input on what his town provides in ways of benefits to their volunteer firefighters.

Representative Delnicki asked whether the issue training cost for firefighters that are recruited away by other departments was something the commission was looking to address.

Fire Chief Mark Scribner of Willimantic and Vice President of the Fire Chiefs Association provided an overview of the concerns of personnel poaching between professional fire departments.

Representative Boyd directed a question to Mark Scribner regarding how common it is for professional departments to recruit from volunteer departments.

Representative Boyd announced that due to the pending due date for proposed legislation on February 9th the next meeting will be pushed up to Tuesday, February 6th at 10 am.

Representative Boyd adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.