



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

CSFA ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE MEETING

NOVEMBER 29, 2018

Wethersfield Fire Company #3

Meeting Minutes

Called to Order by President Carew @ 7:04 P.M.

Invocation by P.P. Wilkinson

Pledge of Allegiance led by President Carew

List of Invitees noted by President Carew

President introduced Legislative Comm Chair P.P. Lew Clark

President Carew introduced Rep. Pat Boyd, Co-Chairman of the Fire & EMS Caucus of the CT General Assembly and asked for his remarks. Rep. Boyd spoke to the following:

- State's Finances, Present Surplus, the possible projected State Budget Deficit in the next biennium.
- He also mentioned that approximately 30 **NEW** House Reps members were elected in the 2018 state election.
- He mentioned that the current caucus co-chair had not been returned for another term, but that Rep. Ben McGorty had stepped up to be the new Republican House caucus co-chair.
- He also gave a brief explanation of the new requirements of the rainy-day fund.

A Q & A session followed with Rep. Boyd.

President Carew asked all the attendees to self-introduce themselves.

CSFA Legislative Chair P.P. Lew Clark was introduced and made comments on what the CSFA and their Legislative Representative Leon Collins attempt to accomplish at the General Assembly on an ongoing basis. Chairman Clark then led an open discussion asking attending representatives to discuss any 2019 legislation. He started by asking CSFA Legislative Rep Leon Collins for a brief synopsis of the 2018 legislative session.

Leon Collins spoke about his successful actions to restore the operating funding for the regional fire schools for the 2018/2019 fiscal year. Funding for the firefighter's cancer fund was also restored. We were less successful with obtaining additional bond funding for regional fire school improvements and on PTSD legislation for firefighters.

Attendees were then called by Chairman Clark to address their issues in the following order:

UPFFA Legislative Director Rick Hart

- Spoke to the 2018 session – loss of PTSD legislation & restoration of firefighter cancer funding.
- Meeting with CCM for compromise language for PTSD legislation in the 2019 session.
- Hart was appointed to the Steering Committee for the Governor’s Transition Team.
- Spoke of possible follow-up on the Fire Apparatus Safety Bill passed in 2016. Possibly some non-compliance. Need for punitive action for non-compliance??

Commission on Fire Prevention & Control - Jeff Morrissette Fire Administrator

- Jeff spoke to Recruitment & Retention issues and referred some of those issues to Fred Dudek from the CT Fire Chiefs/IAFC Workforce Development Group. Fred shared the continuing activities of this Group for CT’s firefighters and fire companies.
- There was also a discussion held in relation to a question about volunteer fire departments being billed for background checks for new firefighters. Several differing remedies being used by some differing fire department were discussed.

CFDIA

- Funding for Regional Fire Schools
- Successful passage FF-1 requirements for all firefighters to become Interior Fire Fighter
- Continuing education for FS instructors

CFMA

- DEFENSE (Do not lose any current legislation in statute)
- Smoke Alarms for all structures (Remove 1978 date from current statute)
- Opposition to Mobile Refueling legislation
- Opposition to any expansion of current fireworks statutes
- Amend current statutes to allow FEIU and certified fire investigator police officers access to information from Insurance Companies

CT Fire Chiefs Assoc

- Regional Fire School Improvements Bonding
- Operations funding for Fire Schools

CCFCA

- Funding for Fire Schools to include CFA & Reg F/S, bonding & operations
- Staffing for CFA
- Defend and restore municipal aid
- PTSD & Behavioral Health legislation for firefighters
- Shore up and define sources for firefighter cancer bill funding
- Funding for OSET & regional PSAPs
- Re-address residential sprinkler legislation
- Required inspections by Fire Marshals
- Licensing for EMS providers
- Participation (seat at table) for any regionalization initiatives
- Advocate for a DESPP Commissioner with at least some connection to the fire service

UPFFA Rep Rick Hart asked for some opinions of proposals for training funding. He suggested a surcharge on homeowner's insurance policies. By Rick's estimation, a rough estimate of more than \$10,000 could be realized annually to fund training and additional equipment issues for all fire departments. A discussion was held with several differing opinions.

Chief Wall from Wallingford and a member of the Firefighters Memorial Committee brought up the deterioration of the firefighter's memorial for discussion. It was expected that members of the Memorial Committee might attend this meeting for a discussion.

- State funding to enable repairs to the Firefighters Memorial
- Bill for bond funds

Rep. Boyd was asked several questions for his opinion on this issue. No definitive answers were finalized on the issue.

P.P. Chuck Stankye made a motion, seconded by P.P. Steve Brown that we support all issues as discussed at this meeting for the 2019 legislative session, with an emphasis on Regional Fire School funding and PTSD legislation for firefighters as priority issues.

Motion to adjourn by P.P. Hilbert, seconded by P.P. Dumas

Benediction by P.P. Wilkinson

Adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

T. Schroll