



OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEETING MINUTES

Title: Recruiting & Retaining Public Employee Firefighter and Paramedic Task Force

Location: Starved Rock State Park Visitor Center | 2678 E. 873 Road | Oglesby, IL. 61348

Date: December 05, 2023 Time: 11:00 am

Present:

Chief Kent Adams | Mayor Mary Alexander Basta | Sue Czerwinski | Gina Degleffetti | Brenda Farlow | Joseph C. Holomy | Senator Patrick Joyce | Jim Keiken | Representative Mike Kelly | Jeff Maher | Don Moffitt | Nate Rice | Steve Shetsky | Regan Stockstell | Chuck Sullivan | Robert William Van Bebber

Not Present:

Senator Neil Anderson | Deborah Frank Feinen | Representative Jackie Haas

- I. Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Senator Joyce at 11:02 A.M.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.
- III. Minutes were approved with the necessary corrections.
 1. Task Force report deadline extension was approved by Legislation. OSFM to assist with the draft report preparation.
 2. Meeting will take place at Starved Rock State Park Visitor Center, Conference room.
 3. 11 regions have different rules. Springfield different EMS systems.
- IV. **Old Business**
 - A. Community college options
 - The length of the training program, will it include clinical and ride along.
 - In-person classes /online
 - Staffing issues.

- Career Fairs to engage minorities and other populations to diversify.
- Colleges in other States have a blended training program.

B. Cost of these challenges

- Rep. Kelly and Sen. Joyce met with Dave Gross from the Illinois Hospital Association and spoke with others via zoom concerning the challenges they would have.
- Members from the Hospital Association willing to come to next meeting to discuss.
- Discussion on Paramedicine-PARAM.CP/Program Expenditures handout.
- State budget could fund community colleges.
- Municipalities could possibly help through scholarships with restrictions.

C. Region Uniformity

- Discussion on State Statue giving the regions the latitude.
- A big difference in personal, care and protocol in different regions.

D. Other

- Bolingbrook - Camp EmpowHer, female fire fighters attend a camp for a week with girls who are interested in the profession.
- Peoria - This year started an apprenticeship program and hired three people between the ages of 18-21. They are not full time, can work no more than a max of 32 hours a week. Training offered is basic firefighter and EMT. One person is already testing for full force.
- Discussion on National registry testing and passing percentage.
- Discussion on the age range and pension.
- Recruitment, getting funds from the State for high schools to offer the EMT program.

V. **New Business**

- Expand the employee pool.
 - Firefighters from neighboring states.
- What are our hurdles for getting the funds for the program?
 - Who would sign off on the program and accreditation?
- Reduce eligibility criteria (certificates, age, education)
 - Getting the eligibility down to 19 years old.
 - A number of the locals are dropping some of the entrance requirements. Passing the written and agility test has been enough to get them in.
- Hospital Assoc. to be present at the next meeting.

- Senator Joyce asked Task Force members to send him questions the Hospital Assoc. members could answer at the next meeting pertaining to the regions and the challenges.
- Conversation on military being exempt from some testing.

VI. Public Comment: No public comments

VII. Next Meeting: January 16, 2023, |Location: AFFI | 927 Second Street | Springfield, IL. 62704 | Time: 11:00 am

VIII. Adjourned: 12:22PM