



# *OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHAL*

---

## **MEETING MINUTES**

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

Location: OSFM | 1035 Stevenson Drive | Springfield, IL 62704

Date: March 5, 2024                      Time: 11:00 A.M.

---

### Present:

Chief Kent Adams | Sue Czerwinski | Mayor Deborah Frank Feinen | Joseph C. Holomy | Senator Patrick Joyce | Jim Keiken | Representative Mike Kelly | Jeff Maher | Don Moffitt | Chief Nate Rice | Steve Shetsky | Regan Stockstell | Chuck Sullivan | Robert Van Bebber | Representative Jackie Haas

### Not Present:

Senator Neil Anderson | Mayor Mary Alexander Basta | Gina Degleffetti | Chief Brenda Farlow

---

- I. Meeting was called to order by Co-Chairs Senator Joyce and Representative Kelly at 11:00 AM.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.
- III. Minutes were approved.
- IV. Old Business**
  - A. Age eligibility (18 years old)
    - Consensus
      - Task Force Agrees with 18 years old eligibility.
      - Pensions, agree upon with requirements.
  - B. Lateral Hiring
    - Discussion:
      - Some groups would be for it, some would be against it.  
If someone stays for 2 years and leaves, that municipality has spent a lot of resources on that trainee.

- Out of State Hires – Not all States have the same test/training.
- The only thing required are the credentials from NFPA, but you must challenge the Illinois State exam.
- No state statute exists that you must be certified.
- OSHA does check training records to be able to be a firefighter.
- Certification is a local issue, but it's not required by law.
- Example: Illinois Police training is different than other States.
- Is there a baseline on training? Each State would follow the NFPA baseline.
- Today, local government has control over what they accept.
- Can there be a standard of training created with ILM and OSFM?
- Training is not mandated; it is optional to municipalities.

#### C. Expanding the employee pool

- Testing for out of State firefighters
- Testing for members of the military
- Discussion:
  - Legislative standpoint – it already exist, Collective Bargaining Agreement.
  - Like the police, we need a training standard for everyone. Can we ask the police department what they do for out of state transfer? Federal OSHA will help.
  - Local government has the control.
  - Testing, an option but not mandate.
- Military – Equivalencies discussed.
- Paramedic Equivalencies discussed.
- National Testing for instructors, training standard would be needed.

#### D. Current Task Force Status (extension)

- Correction letter
- Possibly legislation

#### E. Community Colleges:

- Regional Testing component, pursue for the State of Illinois.
  - For example, if you test in one region, you are put on a list for another region.
  - Simplifies the process, take this into consideration when testing and hiring.
- Funding will be requested (curriculum)
  - Map Grants
  - Approximate cost of program, \$10,000 per student.
- Approval of classes

- Discussion:
  - Problem when not meeting the National Standard
  - Do we ask that instructors be nationally certified?
  - There is an issue with the passing rate because the instructors are not certified.
  - If instructors are not nationally certified, we need to ask that they also pass the exam.
  - Some instructors are grandfathered in.
  - The classes are not for the test questions to be taught but to have students be critical thinkers.

**V. New Business**

- A. Guest speaker, Michael Flanagan
  - Finnish Government Power Point Presentation
    - All information is from the Finnish Government power point.
  - Discussion/ Questions from the Task Force on the Presentation.
    - What is the difference between this and the MABAS agreement? They get called within 60-90 seconds.
    - We need to be more efficiency for our firefighters.
    - Volunteer departments in Illinois, lead to government mandate and efficiency.
    - Each department if separately governed. Form of government?
      - Power point is thought provoking. Good or bad idea?
      - It is possible, but it's a lot to do.
      - Better service for constituents is the end goal.
      - A large demographic area is Walton Valley in Oregon. Consolidations get factual information from them.
      - You need to take into account response time, save lives and property.
      - No increase in staffing, is their goal.

**VI. Public Comment**

None

**VII. Next meeting date(s), time(s), and location(s)?**

Task Force will convene at the call of the Co-Chairs.

Email will be sent out if the Task Force need(s) to meet again.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 PM.