



Chair: Frank Heumann Vice-Chair: Marty Peterson Secretary/Treasurer: Ryan Mellor

Minutes of January 28, 2010

Members Present: Scott Adams, Steve Ball, Ryan Eckardt, Martha Ellis, Eldon Farnsworth, Ross Fowlks, Steve Lutz, David Larsen, Ryan Mellow, Ron Morris, Marty Peterson, Coy Porter, Greg Rynders, Lynn Schofield, Gaylord Scott, Jay Westergard, and Randy Willden

Phone: Scott Adams, Ted Black, Dave Spatafore, and Kevin Ward

Bureau Staff: Paul Patrick and Jenny Allred

Excused: Dawayne Coombs, Jim Judd, and Robert Stoker

1. Call to Order:

- a. Roll Call and Contact List Update

Frank Heumann welcomed those present and called the meeting to order. He asked everyone to sign the roll and update the contact list.

2. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Frank Heumann asked for a motion for the approval of the last meeting minutes.

Jay Westergard made a motion to approve the minutes of January 21, 2010. Lynn Schofield seconded the motion and voting was approved by all. There were no abstentions or negative votes.

3. Old Business:

- a. Nothing reported.

4. New Business:

- a. BEMS Updates

Paul Patrick discussed H.B. 253 Transfer of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services from the Department of Health to the Department of Public Safety Sponsored by Paul Ray. This bill has the similar language as last year with the exception of not moving the Medical Examiner and Preparedness. A concern is it moves half of EMS not all of it. A fiscal note needs to be added for moving costs. The second piece of legislation discussed was Representative Kraig Powell maybe

sponsoring a bill to reverse previous legislation that prohibited the use of Blue Emergency Lights on an Ambulance and Emergency Response Vehicle. In addition, Paul discussed the Utah Emergency Medical Services System Act Amendments legislation sponsored by Senator Stowell. This bill eliminates last year's rural classification for grants. This bill would allow the State Emergency Medical Services Committee to decide how to distribute the grants.

b. State Fire Code Adoption

Ron Morris reported that the State Fire Marshall's Office has been negotiating with the Home Builder's Association to get the fire code adopted. The Home Builder's Association added section 3 in the code that prevents all the local jurisdiction authority make any amendments. This is not palatable to any of the local jurisdictions. There is a meeting scheduled tomorrow to discuss this further.

Dave Spatafore stated there was no discussion with the Home Builder's Association to add Section 3 to the Utah Fire Code.

c. Utah Retirement Systems

Marty Peterson discussed the position statement from the Professional Firefighters of Utah (PFFU) concerning the pending legislation on retirement. "It is the official position of the Professional Firefighters of Utah that the existing Firefighters Pension System needs to remain intact without any of the currently proposed modifications to the Firefighter's System."

"The PFFU does support needed changes to URS administrative rules to eliminate any detrimental impacts caused by current post retirement employment provisions." His recommendation was to visit the PFFU web site: <http://www.pffu.org>.

- S.B. 42 Retirement Eligibility Modifications – Sponsor: Daniel R. Liljenquist
Marty Peterson reported that all indications are that this bill may not be moving forward during the 2010 Legislative session.
- S.B. 43 Post Retirement Employment Amendments – Sponsor: Daniel R. Liljenquist
Marty Peterson explained this bill reads that a current reemployed retiree would not lose their pension. The employee would still be able to collect a salary, pension, and an amount would be placed into the 401(k). However, this amount would be determined by the State Retirement System Board. New hired retirees (employees hired on or after 7/1/10) would not be able to collect their pension and no amount would be placed into a 401 (k) account, unless authorized by the governmental entity.
- S.B. 94 Supplemental Benefit Amendments for Noncontributory Public Employees – Sponsor: Daniel R. Liljenquist
Marty Peterson explained that this bill removes the 1.5% that is currently contributed to state employee's 401(k). The 1.5% would go towards the 2% contribution rate increase that is being requested by Utah Retirement System. Employees hired after July 1, 1986 will all be impacted by this change. The intent of the 1.5% savings is to offset some of the increase cost of the pension.
- H.B. 233 Retirement Office Amendments – Sponsor: Don L. Ipson

Marty Peterson stated that if an employee wishes to purchase service credits for time worked in another system. The amount of the purchase will be based on a formula and could also include social security.

Marty Peterson explained that Senator Liljenquist is working on a bill that would create an entirely new retirement system for new employees hired after July 1, 2011. This will be a defined contribution system that will take all the burden off the employer. This bill is not numbered.

Steve Lutz recommended sending out an email to firefighters to encourage people to take the high road because this is a complex issue.

d. Legislative Watch List

- H.B. 201 State Fire Marshal Modifications – Sponsor: Ronda Rudd Menlove
Ron Morris reported that this bill goes to committee tomorrow. There is push back on the bill. Representative Oda has concerns with this bill and Kevin Ward has been working with him.
- H.B. 202 Fireworks Amendments – Sponsor: Ronda Rudd Menlove
Ron Morris reported that this bill goes to the committee. He is working on an amendment of clarification for submission.

Coy Porter recommended adding the following bills to the watch list:

- 911 Amendments – Sponsor: Brad Dee
- Emergency Disaster Management Amendments – Sponsor: Curtis Oda
- Utah Emergency Medical Services Act Amendments – Sponsor: Stowell

Steve Lutz provided an update on the wildland fire amendments. The task force had another meeting yesterday. Tracy Dunford revised the original version that was distributed. They are still working on the formula the jurisdictions would have to pay to be part of the wildland suppression fund. They worked out a number of equity issues so nobody would not be penalized. There will be a window for the counties that haven't participated to get into the system. Suggestions were that the formula be in rule and leave the formula as it is but to have a cap. The state would be divided into countywide zones. If a county does not join, they will be 100% responsible for cost of the wildland fire in their jurisdiction.

e. Other

Greg Rynders gave a brief update on the Fire Caucus Planning meeting. He announced that Martha Eliss and Tony Espinosa to coordinate the fundraising. Ryan has tentatively reserved the date for next year as of February 14, 2011. The date will be put on the third house social calendar on Monday.

5. Board Member and District Representative Reports:

- a. Chair – Frank Heumann reminded every one of the Fire Caucus Planning meeting following this meeting.

- b. Vice-Chair – Marty Peterson discussed clarification on firefighter disability and physical fitness test. He announced that the PFF would have Legislative update meetings every Tuesday morning at the State Capital in the cafeteria.
- c. Treasurer – Ryan Mellor had nothing to report.
- d. District Representatives – Jay Westergard discussed the volunteer firefighter who died in the line of duty and death and disability benefit for the widow.

6. Good of the Order:

- a. Nothing to report.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2010, 9:00 a.m., Cannon Health Building, Conference Room 125.