



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL
 OFFICE OF STATE FIRE ADMINISTRATION



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**MOTIONS OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING OF
 THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

Attendance:

Vice Chairman Kowalski, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. with the following members present Via Teams: Commissioners Abbott, Buonome, Hilbert, Norton, Ortiz, Perez, Stankye, Tompkins. Commissioner Wall logged in Via Teams at 2:07 p.m.

Staff members, Jeffrey J. Morrisette, State Fire Administrator; Kara Ouellette, Administrative Assistant; David A. Clark, Director of Certification; Guests present Via Teams: Paul Januszewski, Greg Priest, Ted Schroll, Rep. Pat Boyd, James Koser, Gary Ruggiero, Brian Hurst.

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Introduction of Guests

1. Approval of minutes

Tabled until March 26, 2024 Meeting

2. Committee Reports:

Tabled until March 26, 2024 Meeting

3. Unfinished Business:

4. New Business

- a) AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND TRANSFERRING VARIOUS FUNCTIONS TO A DIVISION OF FIRE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION AND REVISING THE POWERS AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL.

CFPC Special Meeting-20240311_140120-Meeting Recording

March 11, 2024,
 1h 45m 49s

Kevin Kowalski 0:03
 Special meeting?

Morrisette, Jeff J started transcription

Perez, William 0:04
 Training is.

Kevin Kowalski 0:04
 Uh, I don't know if you see on your screen who is here, but we have Commissioner Stankye, uh. William Abbott, who's the current state fire Marshall?

Rep. Pat Boyd 0:10
 That's it.

Kevin Kowalski 0:14
 Uh Jeff Morris and of course, Chief Perez.
 Uh. Fritz.
 Herbert.

Greg H. Priest joined the meeting

Kevin Kowalski 0:22

Ted Troll is a guest here.

Uh Chief Ortiz, myself, and we have some other guests that are currently here in, I think they're all in the in the room.
Greg, are you here?

Pete B. 0:38

PB Yeah, Greg Gregson.

Kevin Kowalski 0:38

KK The chief priest? Yeah.

Abbott, William 0:39

AW See his name.

Greg H. Priest 0:40

GP Yes, Commissioner, I am.
That is correct.

Kevin Kowalski 0:42

KK OK.
Thank you.
And we have other people but uh.

Pete B. 0:47

PB PJ from the Connecticut career chiefs.

Kevin Kowalski 0:51

KK Right.
OK.
I'm just gonna wait.

Pete B. 0:54

PB Perez is that.

Kevin Kowalski 0:55

KK Just another minute.

Pete B. 0:55

PB Is that a tree in the background?

Kevin Kowalski 0:58

KK Just gonna wait just another minute to make sure we are not missing anybody.
I'm waiting for Commissioner wall.
He's supposed to be on uh, see.
And then we can officially start the meeting.
Jeff, do you have the record on this?

Morrisette, Jeff J 1:18

MJ Uh, yes, I do.
It should.
It should have made a notice of that.

Kevin Kowalski 1:20

KK Thank you.
OK. Thanks.

Perez, William 1:22

PW That.

Kevin Kowalski 1:25

KK Dan, welcome again.

Perez, William 1:28

PW Jeremy, can you hear me?

Norton, Robert joined the meeting



KK Kevin Kowalski 1:30
Yeah, I sure can.

PW Perez, William 1:31
Like am I coming across?
OK, good. OK.

KK Kevin Kowalski 1:32
Yeah, it's perfect.
Perfect.
What is it called out there or what?

PW Perez, William 1:37
Ohh no, it's actually like 53 right now.
I got the sun hitting on me and we're gonna go do some when this is done.

KK Kevin Kowalski 1:42
I.

PW Perez, William 1:44
Just some hikes at the seashore.
See the elephant seals.

KK Kevin Kowalski 1:47
Very nice.

PW Perez, William 1:48
Umm.

KK Kevin Kowalski 1:51
Deep Perez is out in California.

PW Perez, William 1:53
Helpful.
Yeah, I'm gonna town called Inverness.

RB Rep. Pat Boyd 1:54
Well.

PW Perez, William 1:56
Right on point.
Right on the edge of point raised.
Seashore.

AW Abbott, William 2:02
I have a couple of buildings for you, Chief.

FH Frank Hilbert 2:05
Nice.

KK Kevin Kowalski 2:05
Yeah.

PW Perez, William 2:08
I'm sure you do.
Which one?
Which one? Go quick.
What are you got?

AW Abbott, William 2:16
Hockey.

PW Perez, William 2:19
OK.

AW **Abbott, William** 2:19
And, UM, I PB baby.

PW **Perez, William** 2:19
Yeah, that's easy.

AW **Abbott, William** 2:24
No one other one, I think.

PW **Perez, William** 2:25
Thought we I thought we did a PB already.

AW **Abbott, William** 2:26
Yeah, not the IP B the other one out that way.
Something else on Discovery Drive.

PW **Perez, William** 2:31
Yeah.
Discovery drive.

FH **Frank Hilbert** 2:35
Just.

AW **Abbott, William** 2:37
And have to look again.

KK **Kevin Kowalski** 2:37
It appears we have 7 Commissioners currently waiting for one more. Uh.

PW **Perez, William** 2:43
Yep.

KK **Kevin Kowalski** 2:46
As they come up here, I don't believe we're gonna be taking any action as far as votes at this point at a special meeting, but I would like to have as many Commissioners as possible.
Uh.

MJ **Morrisette, Jeff J** 3:01
Yeah, I'm counting at least eight.
There may be more.

KK **Kevin Kowalski** 3:04
But you want OK and let thank you, Jeff.

MJ **Morrisette, Jeff J** 3:05
Yep.
Yeah, we have a quorum.

KK **Kevin Kowalski** 3:08
Well, thank you again.
Thank you for joining us on the zoom for this important meeting.
It's an informational meeting, but it is actually casted as a special meeting of the Commission and it'll be listed as such.
You will be.
We will be recording it and the transcription will be continued.
Uh, the notice was sent out March 11th of March 11th meeting.
So we're covered for that.
I'll call the order for a Pledge of Allegiance.
Pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God,
Indivisible, Liberty, justice for all.

RO **R. Ortiz** 3:48
What's the time click?

PW **Perez, William** 3:49
Yeah.

R. Ortiz 3:51

RO What you guys, one nation under God and.

Frank Hilbert 3:51

FH I'd like it's translating what version under God, Indivisible Justin.

Ted Schroll 3:53

TS It was.

Perez, William 3:55

PW Let me just as far.

Ted Schroll 3:56

TS And.

Kevin Kowalski 3:59

KK Thank you.

We like to introduce the guests that we have here, umm, and if we could do.

Representing a boy who is the Co chair of public safety is joining us here as a guest to give a lesson and perhaps some insight as to the this reorganization.

We have some other uh members that are considered guests at this point.

Chief priest Uh Paul Janiszewski chief and who else do we?

Who else do I have?

Do I miss anybody here?

Morrisette, Jeff J 4:43

MJ As he, tad, I see Dave Clark from the staff.

Kevin Kowalski 4:45

KK Or in fact, but staff, yeah.

Morrisette, Jeff J 4:50

MJ There may be others.

Kevin Kowalski 4:50

KK OK, I'll give it anyone an opportunity to speak at this point for public.

Anyone wish to speak at this point from the public or from the guests group?

Rep. Pat Boyd 5:07

RB I like, Commissioner, I would just say I didn't appreciate the invite as we've talked about before, this is a pretty open, transparent process and I appreciate the chance to be able to talk with you guys in this.

And I'm sure as your agenda goes on, we can jump further into this topic.

So thank you for the invite.

Kevin Kowalski 5:28

KK Thank you, Sir.

Anyone else?

OK, having heard none, we'll move on.

We are going to table the March 26 minutes and table.

The committee reports also without objection.

Frank Hilbert 5:47

FH What some more?

Kevin Kowalski 5:48

KK Hearing none.

OK, we'll move.

Unfinished business.

There was none at this point pertaining and again for a special meeting.

Perez, William 5:57

PW Good.

Kevin Kowalski 5:59

KK It's very confined as to what we can discuss.

So the special meeting order is basically under new business and that was item a active establishing transfer and various

functions of to the division of Fire Service Administration within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and revising the powers and composition of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control.

Perez, William 6:14

PW

The.

Kevin Kowalski 6:23

KK

So now is the time in which we can discuss this this important topic.

I will actually try to go around the table to see if there's anyone in particular wants to voice any type of questions that we have.

Timothy Wall joined the meeting



Kevin Kowalski 6:41

KK

Again, this is not a point of whether we take a vote, what we do is we'll take it back to our constituent organizations and make the information known to them so.

Rep. Pat Boyd 6:54

RB

Yeah, Mr Vice Chairman, can I before you jump into around that, can I just kind of give an overview here.

Perez, William 7:01

PW

It's.

Kevin Kowalski 7:02

KK

Yes, Sir again.

Rep. Pat Boyd 7:03

RB

Thank you.

So well, the last you know, I I've been in the legislature for eight years and worked very closely with the firefighters association, the Joint Council and other stakeholders.

And I feel like the fire has been speaking more and more with one voice in the last couple years, which has been, I think, for the benefit of the service as a whole.

And so the last couple years, the question and the issue has come forward to how do how are we, how are we to be more effective going forward.

You know, we all know that the future that you know, the volunteer side of the fire service is rapidly changing on, you know, my background.

I also sit on a fire district board for a small town and polfer it where I'm a company president and have been a member for 16 years.

Later I get what it's like to a small district department in rural part of the state.

You know, I've spent a lot of time talking with union members and career chiefs about how we continue to attract great candidates to make their career out of being in the fire service.

Umm.

And the biggest thing we were able to get through last year, which started out as a public safety bill and ended up in the budget implementer, was the actual expenditure and authorization of a third party strategic plan for the fire service.

Right.

And that's I know you guys have talked about that in some of your prior minutes and that was a pretty big achievement.

I check it off as a pretty big achievement going forward, and so the next logical step is once that strategic plan comes back, what do we do?

Right.

What do we do?

And we need to be able to have the fire service informed, be able to chart its own destiny going forward, or else somebody else will do it for us.

Right.

And a lot of times things are money driven, which in the course of US meeting with and particularly with the Joint Council to a lesser extent the Commission last year to try to get that third party strategic plan and build off all the conversations with the fire service 2025 stuff is, you know, part one is getting somebody else to look at us and say, hey, you doing this really well.

These are things that you can do to be more efficient is what do we do in that information comes back and you know, I think the biggest disservice that we do is we don't have a mechanism to implement a strategic plan going forward.

And so, you know, I dove into the, you know, kind of what is the structure now, you know, and in particular, some of the great work that Jeff and his team does on behalf of the Commission.

And we did a deep dive into what other states do you know, even had a meeting this past week with former representative Dargan, where we talked about what happened in 2011 and everything that led up to that.

Right.

And so, umm, this bill is the start of the longer conversation of how do we how do we strengthen the position of what we now call the.

It's a division of the Fire Commissioner, fire prevention control right.

Which is really the Fire Services Administration division.

How do we give this division the and position it to be the lead agency for the state of Connecticut to deal with the fire service as it's rapidly changing in the future?

And so as we dove into statutes right there, there are some things that it is clear authority on, but there's a lot of things that are either deferred authority or it's ambiguous at best.

And so this first draft is my best attempt to summarize discussions that I've been part of or been hearing from people in the last three years to try to put forward, you know, how do we strengthen our thing when this strategic plan comes back, we have a group that's dedicated to its implementation and to try to solve some of these problems.

And so I've often used the term only because within government, people know what I'm talking about.

It is in a quite an apples to apples, but we don't have the post Council of the fire service right.

And so that as a guiding again, there's a lot of things that don't transfer over, but as a guiding principle, how do we do that?

And pre 2011 right as a standalone Commission, there were certain powers you had that got deferred.

There are other things that you never had as a whole, but a win for me, and I think for the fire service is to be able to say that, you know, the Commission can deal with certifications, which you do now deal with the Fire Academy as you do now, but also expand into some of the public policy type stuff, you know, for example, often in the legislature and.

And believe me, I know the legislature is not the be all end all you know.

But our cognizance is pretty deep in the Public Safety Committee is often for things with law enforcement will defer to the post Council and like so, we'll direct the Post Council to come up with a model policy on filling the blank right.

JAMES KOSER joined the meeting



Rep. Pat Boyd 12:16

RB

So it's developed by cops and then it's implemented on that level.

You know the commissions not in a position where we could direct, you know, having oversight response, we can't directly Commission to do certain things in now and implement it.

That's just not this.

That's not the structure, right?

And so, you know, I know the feedback I've gotten so far.

Some people are like, this is exactly what you need.

Other people have some concerns about, you know, some of it's about change and I get that and some of it is about, well, how does this really work compared to what it does now?

JAMES KOSER 12:48

JK

Yeah.

Rep. Pat Boyd 12:49

RB

But I view this as an opening conversation to something that we really have to jump into.

We can't talk in the abstract anymore.

Going forward, we really have to tackle this subject and I am under no illusions that in a short session of the legislature that we're going to solve all of our problems and, you know, in the middle of May the governor is going to sign a bill and we're going to organize the this division.

But I do think we have to start and we get where we get and then we pick it up again.

We don't have to be in session to pick this up again and we go forward and then if we do another phase or something going forward in the long session next year, that's OK you know.

But what I do believe has been really positive is there's been active discussions right now and conceptual support from the governor's office and his people, his policy people, the Joint Council's been chewing on this and directed some of this, you know, the fact that we're meeting today, you know, shows me that you're engaged, which I really appreciate.

And then there's been pretty robust discussion and all the tenant organizations, if you will, that that many of you represent, but certainly the Joint Council represents.

So somebody had to kick the football down the field and begin talking nuts and bolts on it.

And so I kicked it.

So that's the long.

JAMES KOSER 14:05

JK

Alright.

Rep. Pat Boyd 14:07

RB

That's the long prelude to plus the Public Safety committee is usually run by a bunch of cops.

So, you know, let's do some fire service stuff.

JAMES KOSER 14:15

JK

Right.

Rep. Pat Boyd 14:17

RB

Why we why we got we got some insight here.

So anyway, that's my long into it.

I'm really here to listen to answer some particular questions.

I had a great time conversation with Commissioner Higgins on Friday about all this and you know, I appreciate your input and involvement, because this is not something we're going to do in a in a closet somewhere and then just ram it through. This is something that we all need to buy into at the end of the day.

Pete B. 14:43

PB Mr. Kowalski, I have a question.
Yeah.
You muted?
Anyway.

Kevin Kowalski 14:59

KK Go ahead.
I'm sorry, go ahead.

Pete B. 15:00

PB Hey.
Yeah.
I'm sorry, pat.
You know, I agree this this thing could be the best thing since sliced bread if.
With a few adjustments, you know it gives the power back to the fire service to and we've been trouncing on over the last 10 or 15 years of uh in a lot of ways.
Umm, but just a I just had a few questions and I don't know if anybody saw my recommendations but that I sent to the Commission and the joint console but.
In line 83 through 101, it has, uh.
A lot of legislative leaders, both on the minority and the majority side.
Appointing people from the different fire service organizations and you know my, my, my concept of workable Commission is to keep it apolitical and that we, those organizations, the Chiefs, the instructors, the fire Marshals, the state Firemen's Association would actually we decide who we have serving us on the Commission.
So I don't know, is that going to be?
Is that gonna be a political football where that would actually stop the progress on this?

Rep. Pat Boyd 16:32

RB Yeah.
No, that's a.
That's a good question.
Umm, right now.
So we didn't change the appointing process, we just had changed slightly who the appointing authority is.
So, right, right now.
Umm, you're all.
You're all appointed by the governor.
You're not.

Kevin Kowalski 16:51

KK Right.

Rep. Pat Boyd 16:51

RB You're not.
You're recommended by your tenant organizations, and you're a gubernatorial appointment and all that this does is spreads out the authority.
So the governor doesn't control every seat, right?
And you know, I think the last thing on a governor's mind is, is I don't say the last thing, but it's not, it's not a high profile type Commission mom, but a governor could decide tomorrow that your appointments are all up or when you expire, that you're not gonna be reappointed.

Gary Ruggiero joined the meeting.



Rep. Pat Boyd 17:24

RB Mom and it's pretty common in other places that there are other commissions posts being one of them, that they're spread out amongst another group, right.

Gary Ruggiero 17:27

GR 6.

Rep. Pat Boyd 17:37

RB And so I don't view it as being political because it's no more political than it is now.

Gary Ruggiero 17:37

GR

The.

Rep. Pat Boyd 17:44

RB

It just diversifies.

So let's say in the future there's an adversarial governor, right?

That individual doesn't control the Commission.

It would allow other appointing authorities.

Now who appoints you?

You know, it was just kind of a shotgun spread the direction we gave to our LCO attorney was to, umm, diversify the appointments.

But who appoints who right now is not set in stone.

That's an open discussion, right?

And it could be that each tenant organization is everybody kept every, every tenant organization now kept keeps your seat.

Ohh.

Kevin Kowalski 18:19

KK

OK.

Is it possible to then add the verbiage of REC as recommended by the by the organization for those five core groups?

Rep. Pat Boyd 18:31

RB

Yeah, I don't see when it's not there currently, right.

C.M. Stankye, III 18:31

CI

Well.

Can.

Rep. Pat Boyd 18:35

RB

And if that's active now?

Kevin Kowalski 18:35

KK

No, but that way it would almost guarantee it that we would get from what the organizations want.

Rep. Pat Boyd 18:38

RB

Yeah.

Yeah.

C.M. Stankye, III 18:43

CI

You can.

Kevin Kowalski 18:44

KK

To do the job and then the balance of it would be, you know, would be open season so to speak.

Rep. Pat Boyd 18:51

RB

Yeah.

C.M. Stankye, III 18:51

CI

Can I can I add it to that Chuck Snake?

Kevin Kowalski 18:54

KK

I'm sorry, OK? Yes.

C.M. Stankye, III 18:57

CI

Well, one of the particular things we met as Executive Board of the Connecticut, the CSF a this morning in one highlight it stood out in particular if you look at line 1:30 it says that umm one, it says that the appointing authorities may use the recommendations of the organizations that has to be changed to shall May is it's a short word but may means they can take them, they do not have to use.

Rep. Pat Boyd 19:27

RB

So.

So if you want just to be clear truck that's existing language.

Kevin Kowalski 19:34

KK

Yeah, that happens to be existing language right now.

Rep. Pat Boyd 19:36

RB That's existing like so right now that there may appoint you.

Perez, William 19:38

PW Yeah.

Kevin Kowalski 19:40

KK That's correct.

Rep. Pat Boyd 19:41

RB So I listen.

C.M. Stankye, III 19:42

CI No, no, I'm not.

Rep. Pat Boyd 19:42

RB I am totally happy about it.

It was not any direction we gave the attorneys when drafting the bill that points been made, but that's existing language.

Perez, William 19:44

PW The.

Kevin Kowalski 19:53

KK Well, can we we'll will you consider changing it to with the four at least the five core groups I I'm.

Perez, William 19:53

PW Commission.

Rep. Pat Boyd 19:57

RB Oh, absolutely.

Yeah.

No, absolutely.

I the intent is, believe me, the intent is not to disenfranchise any of the tenant organizations at all.

That part wasn't part of the discussion.

Kevin Kowalski 20:11

KK OK.

So that so that'll be a positive note for us as far as and I and I think I on my notes, I had all that how that all worked together to you.

Rep. Pat Boyd 20:21

RB You it's up in a couple people.

Who?

Britain feedback and I approve.

Kevin Kowalski 20:24

KK OK.

So that that's good.

So that the tenant organizations will be the ones that will recommend to the governor or appointing authority.

Who?

The membership could be OK also, just so everyone understands, and I understand this correctly, the current list of Commissioners will expire.

Rep. Pat Boyd 20:40

RB And so.

Kevin Kowalski 20:50

KK I don't know if that's a good word or not to use but will essentially dissolve as we know it on June 30th, 2025.

Rep. Pat Boyd 20:52

RB I don't want any of you.

So that that timeline was suggested by the governor's office to come to coincide with the next biennium budget.

Because again, we're still early in this process, but if we decide if there's a cost that are incurred with the reorganization that's not currently budgeted for, they wanna be able to budget for it in the next biennium.

JAMES KOSER 21:21

JK

I'll get.
All storage hollow Rd.

Rep. Pat Boyd 21:26

RB So that was a that was a recommendation from the governor's office.
Now that they didn't change, if depends how far we get, but yes.

Kevin Kowalski 21:31

KK But the.

JAMES KOSER 21:35

JK Alright.

Kevin Kowalski 21:35

KK But there's no cost impact to free Commissioners.

Rep. Pat Boyd 21:38

RB No, but if we move the Marshalls in, there's might be a cost impact into the depart.

Kevin Kowalski 21:43

KK No, no, I understand that part.

I'm saying the Commissioners themselves are going to be swiped clean, so the existing.

People that are currently appointed for A3 year term, they're that three year terms not up until in some cases in 26 or 27 there are three year term is continuing.

But the way I understand the language is, is that once June, June, June 30th gets here, those names were swiped clean and the new Commissioners will be appointed.

Rep. Pat Boyd 22:20

RB Yeah, as it's written out, if that there could be some flex on that as well that would that wasn't a hard, yeah, the new Commission, you would be reconstituted in the at the start of the new budget year in 25, yes.

Hurst, Brian joined the meeting



Kevin Kowalski 22:25

KK OK.

Just I just wanted to make sure so that we understood that part.

Uh Commissioner Wall.

Yeah, that's what it says right now.

That's the way I understand it.

So if there is some adjustments on that or figure out how to keep the current one and then at the at the revision of the new one or they're new appointments, then you could do whatever.

However, the appointment goes.

Rep. Pat Boyd 22:51

RB Yes, that probably could be done.

That new positions would be appointed to immediately, and we could write some language that said that current terms, you know, can run through their cold.

Frank Hilbert 22:59

FH Yeah.

Yes.

Kevin Kowalski 23:02

KK OK, Commissioner wall, please.

You have floor.

Timothy Wall 23:08

TW Uh, thank you.

Two quick question.

One, Kevin, can you identify the five associations that have recommendations?

And second of all, as you were mentioning that the term would expire, would it be smarter?

Should we look at the association recommends example such and such for two year term such and such one year term where there at the end but every year the whole Commission is gone.

Perez, William 23:28

PW She.

Timothy Wall 23:38

TW

There's no little bit of knowledge how to run the Commission, how to run the meetings, just to kind of staggered just the thought, but I'll listen to your response in reference to what are the associations that have a seat and also it should there be like a staggered 2 year and one year appointment.
Thank you.

Kevin Kowalski 24:00

KK

I think we can send out a list you're talking about for today's meeting.
Or are you talking about?
Overall, I don't understand your question.
The first question.

Timothy Wall 24:08

TW

That's what's Kevin.
What's the proposal?
Two from the State Association, 2 from mechanics, two from the fire.

Kevin Kowalski 24:14

KK

Yeah, but.

Timothy Wall 24:16

TW

Chief, that that's what I wanted to clarify that we're gonna keep.

Kevin Kowalski 24:18

KK

Yeah.
My I think Mike suggestion has stated was from the core group and that is 2 from Korea, two from the Connecticut Chiefs, 2 from the Fire Marshals, 2 from the instructors and two from the Fireman's Association.
Those core groups would have the two selections, or the two Commissioners would be recommended to their appointing authority, whether it's the Minority Leader, minority Majority Leader, whoever, the governor.

Rep. Pat Boyd 24:44

RB

Yeah.

Kevin Kowalski 24:46

KK

But as long as it comes from that recommended service.

Rep. Pat Boyd 24:49

RB

So the additional seats to your question, right, the additional seats and what the Vice Chairman said is correct is the fire equipment mechanics.

Kevin Kowalski 24:51

KK

Answer your question.

Rep. Pat Boyd 25:01

RB

We split CCM and cost so instead of CCM having two seats, CCM has one and the Council in small towns has one to kind of get.

Perez, William 25:11

PW

Of someone.

Rep. Pat Boyd 25:13

RB

Umm the, the Ms Advisory Board.
That's one to have a liaison there, which I believe this group has a or one of the tenant groups has one on their side, the chair of the Education Committee of the Firefighters Association.
So technically, that group would have three, but that that may that seat may only be while that person holds that office, right?
Uh State fire Marshall or designee?
It says the director of Forestry Division, but we're really meant for that was whoever is the head of the and I don't know the exact term within deep the head of the forest fire a wildfire.
Peace.
Uh, that's what.

Abbott, William 25:54

AW

That Smokey bear.

Rep. Pat Boyd 25:56

RB Yes, smoky pair like that.

Frank Hilbert 25:57

FH Why?

Rep. Pat Boyd 25:58

RB Uh Emergency Management director or designee for cross agency stuff and it says the kernel of the state police. But what we really meant there was the head of the fire investment.

Kevin Kowalski 26:11

KK FIU. Yeah.

Rep. Pat Boyd 26:12

RB Yes.

So that way, right, because the proposal moves Marshalls from DAS into this division and so it only makes sense that the code side and the enforcement side are on the same page in the same.

Kevin Kowalski 26:25

KK Yes.

Perez, William 26:26

PW Right, right, right.

Rep. Pat Boyd 26:27

RB And then we dropped the Connecticut Community College system rap and added the tech schools because there seems to be more priority and the ability I know some of the work that that you all been doing has been on workforce development in high school curriculums and stuff like that and that since we control the state tech schools more than we Control Board of EDS, we could implement some of these things easier on that side.

Kevin Kowalski 26:27

KK Yes.

Rep. Pat Boyd 26:52

RB So that that's the quick overview, Commissioner wall.

Kevin Kowalski 26:56

KK OK, commissioner.

Timthy Wall 26:56

TW But by question have I asked that?

Kevin Kowalski 27:01

KK Say again missioner wall.

Timthy Wall 27:03

TW Sorry, sorry.

Kevin Kowalski 27:06

KK Go ahead.

Timthy Wall 27:06

TW But presently what is on the Commission and what is going to be added.

Perez, William 27:15

PW Did shake?

Timthy Wall 27:15

TW We mentioned the career Chiefs.

The Courier chiefs have an appointment through the Connecticut Fire Chiefs.

Kevin Kowalski 27:21

KK Yeah, they're going to have an additional 2.

Two positions that will be given now, whether it's divided up by a career chief from a paid department, fully paid and a career chief from a combination, I guess that's to be determined also.

So I can get you the list currently umm that we currently have sent to you.

Of our current status of who's on it, but the new people are the mechanics, the career chiefs, and as representative Boyd had mentioned, all the other ones that are also added on some non-voting by the way.

And one thing I do want to add before I call on Commissioner Tompkins is, uh, I would also like to see some language, if it's possible to maintain the quorum if that's possible at 8 uh, we add more people, especially if they're non-voting.

They may not show up, but they would count towards a quorum.

If we can maintain 8 as a quorum, we can still succeed in business.

Uh through Tompkins?

Dan Tompkins 28:31

DT Yeah, just a quick observation, I guess.

And being new to the board and only being in that a couple of minutes certainly isn't reflective of this board.

But my experience in the in the past and sometimes when a when a board or Commission is so large, it can impede progress and my concern is that go from 12 to 22 you know, is that gonna be an issue going forward?

Kevin Kowalski 28:54

KK The.

Dan Tompkins 29:01

DT Just my thought.

Rep. Pat Boyd 29:01

RB So yeah, Commissioner Tompkins, first.

Congratulations, your appointment.

You're probably the only Tompkins.

I don't know.

Dan Tompkins 29:07

DT Thank you.

Rep. Pat Boyd 29:08

RB You're part of the world, by the way.

Umm so I spent some time talking with folks on the Post Council, which is I believe 26 spots about that.

Ohm and they said that one of the things that gives them the better ability to do is to also have some subcommittee working groups.

That's bigger.

So they're very focused.

So I think it's a good point, but I'm not sure it would hinder business, right attended.

It depends on who who's on the Commission, right?

The people and their collaborative spirit.

But I did kind of like the idea of saying, alright you, you for are now going to be a working group on this subject.

Come back to the full Commission, particularly if we're if we're getting rid of some of the deferential authority.

Right.

And giving the Commission actual authority, you're gonna have probably more topics to chew on, and you're probably gonna need to divide and conquer.

Kevin Kowalski 30:03

KK Missioner Perez.

Perez, William 30:07

PW Can you hear me?

OK, right now.

Kevin Kowalski 30:08

KK Yep, go ahead.

Perez, William 30:09

PW True.

Well, hi, good morning or good afternoon for you folks.

First I wanna say is a representative boy.

Thank you for doing this.

I actually took the time I actually learned new stuff because I took the time to read every single page, even the old stuff, even the non-underlying stuff.

And I learned quite a bit.

Wow, I think we're ready for this.

I think it's time.

Is it perfect?

No, no new laws ever gonna be perfect.

We're never.

You're never gonna make everybody happy if you did.

It's a horrible law, right?

So just my first thought of the whole thing after doing this for 37 years is I love the direction we're going to.

I did have that same fear, Commissioner Tompkins.

About is it a little bit too big, right.

Uh, the the rate cause that if you want something to die, throw it into, throw it into a big committee, dies in committee.

Right.

So.

So that's just something I guess we gotta be careful about.

I like some of the additions that we did also and even with the state police or the OR the DEP, some are voting somewhere non-voting.

I like that we did that and sometimes it's appropriate to be a non-voter, but to be part of it for communication wise.

So a lot of good stuff.

But I definitely think finally, while I actually give the Commission a powered, actually do things and we gotta be ready for this and this is this is what's gonna be great for the fire service.

Because if we don't do this, that strategic plan is not gonna be worth the paper we put it on.

And let's just be honest.

It's just gonna sit there maybe 10 years ago when I'm just about right or 20 years from now, when I'm already to pass away, we'll find out that some of the things are happening.

That's what's gonna happen.

Unless we have something like this build, the only other thing that I know that some people may have concern about always talking with the Commission of people told me a little while ago we had some conversation and the vice chair, Kowalski, last week.

Some people, I'm sure we'll have some concerns about.

I think it's 179 and 180 where they speak about writing standards for promotions.

Commissioner Tom, could you could probably touch on that right?

A lot of the career departments are gonna be like, oh, my God, you're gonna set, you know, you gotta have fire.

Officer wanna fire off to two to get promoted and it's gonna be a cost to that.

In my mind, I think inevitably we should head that way.

Are we ready for that now?

I don't know.

I'm sure some of the small monetary departments and I live in Andover where it's a small volunteer department.

I could see if we set standards that we start setting standards high.

We're gonna get a lot of pushback, because right?

Even you represent a boy, you live, you know you're part of a small community, right?

Partnered with small volunteer so, but I always say we could have substandard real low too, right?

So even if we did do that, we control what the standards would be, but I could see a lot of people giving us some right so we could start dirt low and just say, you know, you gotta be firefighter one maybe to become a fire off.

Rep. Pat Boyd 33:06

RB Correct.

Perez, William 33:13

PW So you gotta be 500 too, and that's it.

Leave it there, but inevitably the future and the fire service needs to evolve it inevitably.

But I know there's, you know, there's no money.

Sometimes to pay for these small communities like I live into where we can afford a career department.

That's a different conversation for a different day, but I think that one we may get some pushback.

But again, if we're setting the standard, we as a smart new committee, could set it at a low at a low bar.

We that's one way of solving that problem.

If we decide to go with that way, besides that, go ahead.

Frank Hilbert 33:44

FH OK.

Rep. Pat Boyd 33:44

RB So commit.

Well, that section there, that that was a I believe that the prior language said the Commission right now is to recommend those things.

Perez, William 33:46

PW Go ahead or.

Rep. Pat Boyd 33:55

RB And so my direction to our LCO, right, so my, my direction to our LCO attorney who takes what I write on a napkin and turns it into language that's legal was to remove anything that was recommend and give that authority.

KK Kevin Kowalski 33:55
Yes.

PW Perez, William 33:55
Correct.

KK Kevin Kowalski 33:56
Establish or recommend.

PW Perez, William 34:07
What?

RB Rep. Pat Boyd 34:11
Umm.
And to move applicable powers at the Post, Council has to the Commission.

PW Perez, William 34:18
Yeah.

RB Rep. Pat Boyd 34:18
So again, you would this group would control that and being smart, you know that a small-town department.

PW Perez, William 34:24
Right.
You start low, you're start low.

RB Rep. Pat Boyd 34:26
Hey, is this you have the city of Bridgeport has.

PW Perez, William 34:27
Yeah, you can't, right, right.

RB Rep. Pat Boyd 34:30
Right, but that but that lets you kinda as time goes on kind of work through it?

PW Perez, William 34:32
You have.
And I and I think just to wrap up what I'm saying, I think that's the direction we need to go into this fire service.
If not, we will never progress to where we really need to be, but at the same time, let's be smart and be understanding of all the.
I mean, I'm in the department where you have to be fire officer.
Want it?
You can't even test for Lieutenant.
So yeah, I have no problem with that.
I prefer even higher, but I also understand the reality in the state we live in.
You know, we gotta represent everybody.
So I think if we did do that, we just kind of hope we do that.
We start off very smartly and very low to make everybody really comfortable and over the years we start to try to raise the bar of the fire service.
That's my final say.

KK Kevin Kowalski 35:15
It I do have a question on this too.
Currently, a lot of language has to do with the authority having jurisdiction within the OSHA standards.
Now with everything changing with the OSHA standards over the next 2-3 years, whether that will get a little bit money, whether the chief will then have the authority of to make the determination what is needed for their people within their organization, because that's what's currently happening right now, they make the determination so up.
I mean, that's something that we probably would have to watch and maybe mirror or run parallel make programs available based on what OSHA requirements are and work on it on that.
So that's a very positive note.
I think I think it's a neat idea and I applaud.
I agree with you Chief Perez too.
Chief wall, do you have your hand up again?

PW Perez, William 36:11
You have to put your hand down too far.

Timothy Wall 36:13

TW

OK, my hands down.

Kevin Kowalski 36:13

KK

OK, it's it broke.

Timothy Wall 36:14

TW

Good.

I'm good.

Thank you.

Kevin Kowalski 36:16

KK

Your hands broke, OK?

Timothy Wall 36:17

TW

OK, I don't know what.

Kevin Kowalski 36:19

KK

Alright.

Is there any other questions from the constituent groups?

I do have some I'd like to cover if you if you could.

Commissioner Stankye, I'm sorry, go ahead.

C.M. Stankye, III 36:31

CI

No, I just, I just put it up.

So it was there.

One of the things that in just to piggyback both whoever on what Chief Perez said.

I just think we have to be very, very careful of putting the cart before the horse here.

What if the strategic plan comes out and says, uh, you gotta do B instead of a or whatever?

Again, in our discussions this morning at our meeting was several things were brought up because we represent both career and volunteers in particularly on the promotion stuff and the requirements to be a firefighter.

You know, we're all going for recruitment retention and there's a grave difference.

You know, some of the one particular department might not have a guide to drive the piece of apparatus during the day.

And if we put certain requirements in there, because the wording in and I'm glad to see Pat that you had say it's a working

document that was what we were concerned about that you know did a volunteer chief can't say this guy can't drive

anymore and per say and we also have to watch for your career guys that are there put these requirements in for promotions

some of that is collective bargaining stuff too you know that that that rears its head in there for promotions you know in

town a you might need five years experience in.

Rep. Pat Boyd 37:36

RB

Yeah. Yep.

C.M. Stankye, III 38:00

CI

Town B.

You might need 10 years' experience in town C All you gotta do is come off probation and you can be up for promotion.

So that's the kind of stuff that, that, that we were somewhat not work concerned about that that was one of our concerns to put forward.

Rep. Pat Boyd 38:12

RB

Yes.

Yeah.

No, Commissioner Sankey.

Kevin Kowalski 38:17

KK

OK.

Rep. Pat Boyd 38:18

RB

I don't disagree with you, but I also think that if we're empowering this Commission right, we're also trusting the people that are appointed to make sound policy.

Right.

And just the very brief discussion of this topic all we did in this bill was remove the word recommend and put establish.

Well, it gives you the right that's.

Perez, William 38:40

PW

Yeah, we could say could we should taking go ahead.

Kevin Kowalski 38:42

KK No, actually, you took out established and you put in required.

Rep. Pat Boyd 38:48

RB Yeah.
Yeah, we, we give we gave you instead of deferential.
Hey, look, maybe you wanna consider this.
This group would be empowered now.
How are you use that power?
Must be judicious.

Perez, William 38:58

PW Right.

Rep. Pat Boyd 38:58

RB Must be thoughtful.
Must take into all spectrum of the state and the fire service client.

Abbott, William 39:03

AW If.

Rep. Pat Boyd 39:04

RB But we're trusting you to do that.

Perez, William 39:04

PW But.
So something real quick, we could always say we're leaving it up to the local AJ as our decision.
We can do that and.

Rep. Pat Boyd 39:16

RB You can say here are some guidelines.
It's up to the yeah, you can do.

Perez, William 39:18

PW Yeah, here's some guidelines that we leave it up to you for.
Now we could do that.
But you're right, uh Commissioners taking, we could also go to the extreme and mess everybody up too, so we gotta be careful with that.

Rep. Pat Boyd 39:29

RB You're right about that.

Kevin Kowalski 39:32

KK OK.

C.M. Stankye, III 39:33

CI Did my hand come down?

Kevin Kowalski 39:33

KK Uh.

C.M. Stankye, III 39:34

CI I thought I hadn't clicked it.

Rep. Pat Boyd 39:36

RB Yeah, you're good, Chuck.

Kevin Kowalski 39:36

KK Yeah.
Yeah.
OK, chief wall, you're all set.

C.M. Stankye, III 39:39

CI Not at the waterfront.

Kevin Kowalski 39:43

KK

OK.
All right.
I just want to go.

Timthy Wall 39:45

TW No, no, I can't bring my hand on it.
I can't bring my hand down, so I'm good.

Kevin Kowalski 39:47

KK Ohh bro alright.

Timthy Wall 39:48

TW I'm good.
Thank you.

Kevin Kowalski 39:50

KK Alright, thank you.
Alright, uh, the other thing we already covered, I just wanna go over some of the I'm sorry.

Frank Hilbert 39:51

FH Controls control shift K.

Kevin Kowalski 39:57

KK I just want to go if someone knows that we got sent and that was that.

Frank Hilbert 39:57

FH Tim control shift.

Kevin Kowalski 40:03

KK You know, I know it came from some other sources and I don't wanna speak on behalf of them because they're not in my constituents.

But there were some suggestions at the Connecticut Chiefs.

Also, the career chiefs could divide there to up to reflect one from the full time uh career department, fully paid and the other one would come from a combination department.

You know, that way it'd be it would assure the break up because quite frankly, there's a lot of combination departments out there and would want to make sure that they were, they were represented on the Commission.

Rep. Pat Boyd 40:40

RB The intent was again the intent was that the quote unquote, volunteer chiefs have two seats and the quote unquote career chiefs have two seats.
That was the initial intent.

Kevin Kowalski 40:51

KK But quite frankly, UM, the Connecticut Fire Chiefs makes up all the Chiefs.
It's not just the Connecticut volunteer chiefs.

Rep. Pat Boyd 40:56

RB Yep.
Now, now I realize that I realize that.

Kevin Kowalski 41:00

KK So in fact, in fact, what they do as their executive board, to my knowledge is they alternate positions.

C.M. Stankye, III 41:01

CI In in that.

Kevin Kowalski 41:07

KK In other words, the President's career, the vice president's volunteer, and then once the volunteer moves up the president's, they bring in a career of vice president.

Rep. Pat Boyd 41:12

RB Yeah.

Kevin Kowalski 41:15

KK So it alternates all the time, so it looks equally.

Rep. Pat Boyd 41:17

RB

So the way the Post Council works it, obviously there's no volunteers in the police side, but it does further, uh.

Explain what the appointment should be.

For example, we'll say a police chief of a community of 15,000 or less is one seed of who's chief of community of, you know, 50,000 or more, right?

Kevin Kowalski 41:34

KK

Right.

Rep. Pat Boyd 41:39

RB

We could go farther into the appointment to have those demographics if you think that would be helpful, but the idea was that the two organizations would get instead of sharing an appointment would have their own but.

Kevin Kowalski 41:44

KK

Well.

Abbott, William 41:50

AW

Each.

Let's see.

Kevin Kowalski 41:51

KK

OK.

Rep. Pat Boyd 41:51

RB

Point taken.

C.M. Stankye, III 41:52

CI

Good.

Kevin Kowalski 41:52

KK

So, OK, uh.

C.M. Stankye, III 41:53

CI

But this, but there's no guarantee that the that the Chiefs Association or it's just gonna make volunteer volunteers.

Rep. Pat Boyd 42:03

RB

Yeah, we could write that in.

We could write that in.

Kevin Kowalski 42:06

KK

OK.

Perez, William 42:07

PW

And the chairman, Kowalski and the career chiefs, we don't really distinguish between accommodation, chief of the Chief. If you're in the career chiefs, you're a chief.

And so, for example, the President is a combination chief.

The vice president is a chief of a full career department.

It's that we don't separate it in any which way.

So you would have to spell that out because it's all the same for us.

Kevin Kowalski 42:26

KK

OK, OK.

That's no problem, chief.

I I'm it's not my constituent base, so that would be up to them.

It was just mentioned to me, so I just wanted to make sure I mentioned it here tonight again.

Is there so there is a possibility that we can set the quorum at 8 voting members.

Then I think that's an important feature, OK.

Rep. Pat Boyd 42:49

RB

Yes.

Kevin Kowalski 42:55

KK

So then, so if we continue to keep the existing list of Commissioners on until their term expires and then replace them with the current, I'm not sure how we can do that based on your layout, maybe all future appointments would be done on your scale and the and the Commissioners would be or the candidates would be recommended by the core group.

So is it?

I guess in my.

Rep. Pat Boyd 43:30

RB

Yeah.

I'll. I'll.

Yeah, I'm going to have to sit down with our attorney that I'm working with and work out, but I've I have made those notes.

Kevin Kowalski 43:34

KK

OK.

OK, so now I just want to get into a couple of enough to bulk pieces that we had too and that is still think it's extremely important to get so that the fire state fire administrator is appointed or recommended to the Commissioner for appointment.

Rep. Pat Boyd 43:39

RB

It's just.

Kevin Kowalski 44:00

KK

It's the appointment has to be recommended in my opinion.

Uh by the?

Rep. Pat Boyd 44:05

RB

So we didn't, we didn't touch that section of the law.

Kevin Kowalski 44:07

KK

The actually it was deleted.

Rep. Pat Boyd 44:11

RB

What was it?

Kevin Kowalski 44:11

KK

That section.

Yeah, it was.

And I will get it here soon as I find it.

Rep. Pat Boyd 44:19

RB

Yeah, I mean those.

So the last thing that we want, I'll just say editorially is a political appointee that doesn't know, and the fire hose from a garden hose.

Kevin Kowalski 44:24

KK

Yep.

Rep. Pat Boyd 44:29

RB

So you know there is.

Kevin Kowalski 44:30

KK

Right.

And So what I want to do is just put that back in that the language in there that was taken out and I can get you the line number.

Rep. Pat Boyd 44:32

RB

Yeah, that.

That was not an intentional yeah.

Yeah, we talked about that last week.

Kevin Kowalski 44:41

KK

Yeah, we Yep.

Rep. Pat Boyd 44:42

RB

So I mean, that's all be on the check in list so yeah.

Kevin Kowalski 44:44

KK

OK, so that's a good thing.

C.M. Stankye, III 44:46

CI

Kevin.

Kevin Kowalski 44:48

KK

Go ahead.

C.M. Stankye, III 44:49

CI

Go ahead.

Kevin Kowalski 44:50

KK

The other items I have basically is I'm trying to understand the concept of everywhere where the state fireman built Abbott Commissioner Abbott.

C.M. Stankye, III 44:51

CI

Now, if you were going to say.

Kevin Kowalski 44:59

KK

Yours can work up now.

Everywhere where state to state fire Marshall Shell be responsible for this was strike stricken and put in the division of Fire Service Administration and I'm trying not trying to understand why that concept was there.

Rep. Pat Boyd 45:14

RB

Direct cause?

So the perhaps the most controversial part of this isn't the appoint who's appointing who?

It's the.

It's the moving of the fire Marshall and Odom from DAS into this new division.

Right.

And so we wanted to make clear that the head of this division is the state fire administrator.

And in that in within the division, there's several offices, some of which currently exist.

So anywhere it says the successor to the Office of State Fire Administrator that's talking about the existing structure that the state Fire Marshals Office would be in this division.

So that's just what you're seeing is just legislative striking of where it currently is defined as within the Department of Administrative Services, it would be put it, that would be to put it here in this division.

So that's more of a technical change. Umm.

Kevin Kowalski 46:13

KK

Yeah, I I'm again.

I'm still not clear why the state fire Marshall wouldn't be the person responsible for like the fire safe cigarette law, you know.

Rep. Pat Boyd 46:21

RB

Or they are.

There they are.

They're referring to the office.

It's a technical piece.

Right now, the office is defined as a division or not a division, but an office within DAS with the.

What is it?

Construction management or built right?

Kevin Kowalski 46:35

KK

Yeah, construction service.

Perez, William 46:36

PW

Where right?

Abbott, William 46:38

AW

Rex.

Rep. Pat Boyd 46:39

RB

So.

So this is it's right, it's cleaning up that the fire Marshall themselves is being divorced from construction services and dropped into fire services administration.

Kevin Kowalski 46:39

KK

Working more.

OK.

Abbott, William 46:51

AW

Yeah.

Rep. Pat Boyd 46:51

RB

And.

Perez, William 46:52

PW

If I may, if I make.
Ohh God.

Kevin Kowalski 46:54

KK

And that and that appointment, I just wanna follow up and that appointment, the state fire Marshall will be appointed by the.

Rep. Pat Boyd 46:54

RB

Yeah, the only the only thing that chief.

Kevin Kowalski 47:04

KK

Commissioner of desk.
Correct, not the state.
Fire administrator.

Rep. Pat Boyd 47:07

RB

That's.
I don't know if we dove into the appointment process piece, I'll have to double check that.

Abbott, William 47:13

AW

I.
Think that I think that's the way that I read it in the bill.

Kevin Kowalski 47:16

KK

Yeah.

Abbott, William 47:17

AW

I think it says the Commissioner of public Safety, yeah.

Kevin Kowalski 47:19

KK

It does and.
And so, yeah, you're.
So we're in the weeds with that and that so have to figure out how that will lay out.

Perez, William 47:23

PW

Just.

Rep. Pat Boyd 47:24

RB

Yeah, well, well, that.

Kevin Kowalski 47:29

KK

So you're saying that the state fire Marshall will work under the direction of the state fired administrator?

Rep. Pat Boyd 47:34

RB

What?
So the division head of the new division of Fire Services will be the state fire administrator, and there'll be offices within the division will be all the existing ones now and the office of the State Fire Marshall.
Just as an editorial point, and for Bill will be scratching his chin while I say this is, I've heard a couple of feedback.

Perez, William 47:52

PW

So.

Rep. Pat Boyd 47:57

RB

At first, the governor's office is like what?
And then upon further explanation that currently code and enforcement aren't even in the state in the same State Department, and the conversation has even gone as wide ranging as.
Do we really wanna have state troopers who need to be on the road doing fire investigations, and should we consider building up a fire investigation unit within this new division so the conversation with the governor's office has been all over the board, right?
And they were.
And this is again, who knows what's actually going to settle out.
But there was interesting conversation around freeing up troopers to get back on the road and getting specialists to do fire investigation, which I thought was an interesting concept.
And frankly, when I started out down this path, I was not thinking about moving the Marshalls over.

But as people got wind of the discussion, and then what we got back from all the Northeast States, we're one of the very few states that has division of responsibility the way we do.

Kevin Kowalski 49:03

Yes.

Rep. Pat Boyd 49:03

There's nobody else does, and so, but back to my there's a controversial section of this within the bureaucracy.

Abbott, William 49:06

The.

Rep. Pat Boyd 49:12

It is moving that division, that group out of DAS to where I believe it belongs and frankly, to which representative Dargan told me on the phone it should have never got moved out in 2011.

Kevin Kowalski 49:25

That's correct.

I know I worked with him on that and it didn't.

Well, didn't set well anyhow.

Perez, William 49:32

Yeah.

Kevin Kowalski 49:32

So.

So somehow we're gonna have to put the state fire Marshall.

And I was looking at the flow chart that was floating around.

I think without a last year and quite frankly, it really doesn't, it really doesn't refer to what we're doing here now.

Rep. Pat Boyd 49:43

Yeah.

So some of what I did was based off that too.

Kevin Kowalski 49:49

So I'm trying to figure it out and trying to play.

I know probably.

Chief priest if he's still on, you know, he could probably bring some light to it, but as far as the director of fire service operations, where that sits into it, uh, and how this this all works together, I think if we did a flow chart similar to that I think would have a better understanding of how everything is supposed to the nuts and bolts are supposed to work.

Rep. Pat Boyd 50:17

So part of this a Commissioner that I consider is if we reconstitute the Commission and give you all authority, in my opinion, one of the first acts of the new Commission is to work with the state fire administrator as the division head and work out what the rest of the structure of the division should look like.

You know, because I don't necessarily want to legislate that part, but I we have to legislate if we're gonna move the office of Fire Marshalls over now, frankly.

Kevin Kowalski 50:37

Right.

Well, have well have a year to do it.

Rep. Pat Boyd 50:49

Right.

But frankly, it has also been suggested by some of the policy people that the whole building codes people come over here and I don't, you know, that's a larger discussion that we have to open up, but.

Kevin Kowalski 51:00

Well, I do have one more.

And chief Priest, I'll get right to you in a second.

But as a follow up question, I know that you I'm sure you're catching some calls from the education and data management area and I have a.

Rep. Pat Boyd 51:15

Not yet.

I've been waiting for that to happen.

Kevin Kowalski 51:17

KK

Well, I have a suggestion for you in that as I represent the fire marshals, I was on the phone today with the with the Chair of the Fire Marshals Association or the President and one of the subjects came up is to see if we can bring maybe not all the code people, but at least the building official Training Council that's responsible for providing the training to the trades group and the building officials and combine it with the fire Marshall Training Council as one group. One large group that would facilitate the training for that group and I, and I think those are all volunteer, I mean they're not volunteers.

There are a lot of them are career people, but certainly they go and they will work to get it all squared away. So I don't know if that's a consideration too.

Rep. Pat Boyd 52:15

RB

And they love it.

Kevin Kowalski 52:17

KK

I think it'll make it a little bit easier.

Rep. Pat Boyd 52:20

RB

Yeah.

Kevin Kowalski 52:20

KK

Or palatable I should say.

Rep. Pat Boyd 52:22

RB

Yeah, I the governor's office is supposed to facilitate a discussion between the Deaths Commissioner's Office and the DAS Commissioners Office on this, that they.

That was the one promise that they gave me on this aspect is that we will all have a sit down in the near future, which I'm sure will be lovely.

Kevin Kowalski 52:41

KK

OK. Chief priest?
Yeah, I'm sure.

Greg H. Priest 52:46

GP

Thank you, Commissioner Kowalski.

Kevin Kowalski 52:46

KK

You have me.

Greg H. Priest 52:48

GP

I believe you would ask me a question and I would hope you would refresh my memory with what and what was.

Rep. Pat Boyd 52:53

RB

The org chart.

Kevin Kowalski 52:56

KK

I was looking at the org chart that you had published or as a working document. I'm sorry for discussion purpose document, so I don't wanna have any onus of responsibility on it. I just.

I was trying to use it to understand all the concepts of.

The questions I had on this bill pertaining to how the food chain works.

Greg H. Priest 53:22

GP

Thank.

Thank you, Commissioner.

I actually do appreciate being on record and recorded it to tell you that while I am the author of that in a PowerPoint or Visio, whatever it is, those things that you see represented, there are represented by many people across the fire service yourself and others who have provided me input.

It's not my personal document.

I just happened to be the person that put it together and I put the input in there as I as I receive it from others such as the state fire administrator.

Kevin Kowalski 53:52

KK

You can be proud of the work.

Greg H. Priest 53:56

GP

Thank you, Sir.

Perez, William 53:57

PW

Yeah.

Kevin Kowalski 53:58

KK

OK.

Alright.

Thanks chief.

I you know, so I always I'm saying is that I think we're gonna need to reconstitute one.

One last item, if I may.

Perez, William 54:06

PW

Right.

It's something.

Kevin Kowalski 54:09

KK

The If you go down to the end and it seemed like it would maybe a long day when the LCBO was doing this because where he got to the deputy fire, Marshall State Fire Marshall, he just arbitrarily said he.

Perez, William 54:15

PW

On.

Abbott, William 54:17

AW

And.

Kevin Kowalski 54:23

KK

Yeah, there's one can be made appointed by the Commissioner and it'll have all the duties of the state fire Marshall under the direction of the Commissioner.

I'm not sure that's the correct term or the correct use of.

Essentially, the deputy fire Marshall have more or actually more.

Managing power, so to speak, cause they're gonna work directly for the Commissioner and the other one's gonna be working for the state fire administrator and or the Division of Fire Services.

Perez, William 54:48

PW

Play for.

Kevin Kowalski 54:56

KK

So it's not consistent.

So we may want to take a look at that.

Rep. Pat Boyd 54:58

RB

Yes.

I hear you.

You know, just to be clear, the intent of this was that the head of the division of Fire Services is the state fire administrator.

I that that is the intent I caught a I caught AOL and had them Clear II last year.

Kevin Kowalski 55:09

KK

That's.

Perez, William 55:12

PW

Right.

Kevin Kowalski 55:12

KK

So we should probably write that right in there.

Rep. Pat Boyd 55:17

RB

As you know, we floated the idea of making it a deputy Commissioner, to which the prior desk Commissioner wanted none of it but and I also.

That's a just to be clear, Deputy commissioners are political appointees.

Kevin Kowalski 55:30

KK

That's right.

Rep. Pat Boyd 55:30

RB

What?

So they're at the pleasure of the governor and we don't want the head of this division to be a political point.

See, we want them to be, you know, as a civil servant.

Right, who's with fire service background and the last thing I just want to something you mentioned about 20 minutes ago is there is precedent in certain areas such as the State Board of Education who recommends to the governor who the education Commissioner is or at least gives a couple of names and the governor picks from that. So there's precedent and statute for that and I would imagine we would want to continue that here because as I said, we do not want a political appointee to be the head of this division.

Kevin Kowalski 56:10

KK

I agree. Good.

C.M. Stankye, III 56:12

CI

So just to clarify, that was one of the questions that we they had this morning is and I read this ad nauseam and I don't understand that might have missed it, who is gonna appoint the head of this new division?

Abbott, William 56:29

AW

Commissioner.

Rep. Pat Boyd 56:30

RB

Right now I believe and I could be mistaken and Jeff has served so well on this role, I don't remember who initially appointed him.

If it was the governor of the Commissioner, but it was recommended from this Commission.

C.M. Stankye, III 56:40

CI

OK.

Kevin Kowalski 56:44

KK

But that again, and we're gonna ask that to get put back in and I'll show you the line where deleted.

Perez, William 56:46

PW

Just.

Rep. Pat Boyd 56:50

RB

Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

I'm so that's already.

I already checked that box, but uh, fire administrator Morrissette.

Kevin Kowalski 56:53

KK

Yeah.

Yeah. OK.

Rep. Pat Boyd 56:56

RB

Can you?

Can you jump on for a second and back when you first were appointed, what that was preorganization should have been different.

But were you recommended from permission in a gubernatorial appointment?

Morrissette, Jeff J 57:05

MJ

Yeah.

Yes.

So Pre 2011, the appointment was by the Commission on Fire Prevention Control Post 2011.

It is appointed by the Commissioner under the recommendation of the Commission.

Rep. Pat Boyd 57:23

RB

Thank you.

So is that the way you guys want it?

Do you wanted to governor's appointment at the recommendation of the Commission, or do you want the Commissioner's appointment at the recommendation?

Kevin Kowalski 57:31

KK

I'd rather have the governor's appointment upon way.

Rep. Pat Boyd 57:34

RB

Recommendation of the.

Kevin Kowalski 57:35

KK

Old language was.

But again, we want to make sure that it's classified position not in and you know based on who's in charge that day.

Rep. Pat Boyd 57:44

RB

Right.

Perez, William 57:45

PW

Umm.

Rep. Pat Boyd 57:48

RB

Well, and that's why I abandoned the deputy Commissioner piece and because that was gonna make it a political appointee.

Kevin Kowalski 57:50

KK

Right.

So however, it's not a political, in my opinion, we shouldn't be going.

Perez, William 57:58

PW

Umm.

Kevin Kowalski 57:59

KK

Anyone else have any input on that?

Any comment, Commissioner, saying?

C.M. Stankye, III 58:02

CI

So what you're saying is it'll be a governor's appointment from the recommendation of the Commission.

Am I correct in that?

Rep. Pat Boyd 58:11

RB

Correct that that correct which is very similar to what the State Board of Education does to the Education Commissioner.

C.M. Stankye, III 58:14

CI

OK.

Thank you.

Kevin Kowalski 58:20

KK

Right.

I mean, when Jeff was appointed, I remember because we had interviews, we went through the whole process.

We had several uh applicants that we interviewed and then we went and made the recommendation at that point and I can't remember, quite frankly, who was too long ago, Jeff.

Morrisette, Jeff J 58:35

MJ

Who?

Rep. Pat Boyd 58:39

RB

Well, you've had a pretty good return in your investment on that one.

Kevin Kowalski 58:40

KK

Thank you.

Absolutely.

C.M. Stankye, III 58:43

CI

And then there's nothing that prevents.

Kevin Kowalski 58:44

KK

It was a good value.

C.M. Stankye, III 58:45

CI

There's nothing that prevents that Commission from interviewing their candidates to present to the governor prior too correct.

Kevin Kowalski 58:46

KK

This is a great value.

Morrisette, Jeff J 58:49

MJ

True.

Kevin Kowalski 58:54

KK

Yeah.

Rep. Pat Boyd 58:54

RB The longer the law does not speak to that, no.

Kevin Kowalski 59:02

KK And we set the standard, we set the standard of it of what we were going to do to make the hire.

Morrisette, Jeff J 59:02

MJ You're some hands up, Kevin.

Kevin Kowalski 59:08

KK And then.

Perez, William 59:10

PW Yeah, I don't know.

Kevin Kowalski 59:11

KK Follow through so.

C.M. Stankye, III 59:13

CI And also Kevin to go to go back to what you were saying before, I looked all the appointments all expire in the year 2025 with the exception of Tim Wall expires this year in 2024.

Kevin Kowalski 59:14

KK And now, yeah.

Perez, William 59:27

PW Right.

Kevin Kowalski 59:29

KK Yeah.

If we could be consistent and went upon uh when they end, that would be.

C.M. Stankye, III 59:36

CI They all that, that's what I'm saying.

They all end in 2025.

Kevin Kowalski 59:38

KK Ohh yeah, you're right.

That's right. That's.

Perez, William 59:40

PW Yeah.

Kevin Kowalski 59:42

KK Is there any other questions, comments.

Perez, William 59:43

PW What?

Kevin Kowalski 59:46

KK How's your time guys?

Greg H. Priest 59:50

GP Commissioner, I do have something if you're prepared for me.

Kevin Kowalski 59:53

KK Yes, go ahead.

Greg H. Priest 59:54

GP It.

Thank you for the opportunity to join this meeting.

Just to restate, because I'm not on camera, my name is Greg Priest and I am here today representing the Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs Association as their vice president, head of the Legislative Committee.

But I'm also the delegate to the Joint Council.

I just have one comment which is this has change for the fire service and change is difficult for everybody but the Joint Council made the restructuring or excuse me, to provide more responsibility to the Commission in the state, fire

administrator, one of our top three priorities last year.

So for that I would like to thank Representative Boyd for all of his efforts.

This is tireless.

The fire service is a challenge sometimes, so we appreciate his patience with us as we all pepper him with the nuances of the bill.

I would strongly, strongly encourage the Commission to consider one thing, which is there can be a pace and a discussion about all of the appointments and the things that we've discussed, but I recommend that we work with Representative Boyd and others to really look at this change of bringing the state fire Marshall and Odom under the belt in this current year while we work out some of the nuances.

If that is at the precipice, I think so.

Some of the discussion points that I've heard today, which I think are very, very important and will probably require further consideration, have to do with the concept of a may versus shall on appointments.

That would be a major change that would remove any level of discretion that others have.

That means any association could put anybody on there and virtually have it be statutorily required.

I think the other point and ioffer no nothing but to just say that I think that that's a very, very important part as well as having a governor appointing the state fire administrative versus a Commissioner because there is a team and that is the state fire administrator does report to the Commissioner again.

Offer no personal or organizational standpoint on that today because I haven't pulled our membership.

I just encourage the time for us to be able to sit down with Rep and Boyd as well as the leadership of desk to help influence the fire service moving forward.

So with that, I closed my remarks and I thank you very much for the opportunity to be here.

I will be testifying tomorrow at the Joint Council.

Ohh as part of the Joint Council in support of the concept of Rep Boyd's bill.

So with that I can answer any questions or whatever you may need for me.

Perez, William 1:02:13

PW

And.

Kevin Kowalski 1:02:13

KK

No, thank you.

We have some more questions here.

Uh, tetrol.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:02:18

RB

Let me just jump in before Ted, if you if you don't mind, we will need if we feel strongly that the state fire Marshall and Odom in particular belong in this new division, we're going to need help advocating particularly to the administration, that this is sound policy for efficiency of the fire service.

Kevin Kowalski 1:02:22

KK

OK, go ahead.

Perez, William 1:02:25

PW

Yeah.

Thank you.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:02:42

RB

So I just leave it at that because I do think you know that is that is the one area, but I believe is not a settled aspect.

Kevin Kowalski 1:02:44

KK

OK.

OK, I will make it known with the fire Marshals group to make sure that they are using whatever encouragement that they can to get that transition done.

Tetrol please.

Ted Schroll 1:03:08

TS

Yes, Mr.

Chair, thank you for allowing me to speak, if I may comment to Representative Boyd.

So much so much.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:03:19

RB

Please Sir.

Kevin Kowalski 1:03:20

KK

Go ahead.

Ted Schroll 1:03:20

TS

OK, that loud noise you hear is a big sigh of relief coming from out of the fire service.

To hear you say that we're not getting rid of the fire administrator.

Wait, I'll tell you.

That went through with a what ripples through the whole fire service and to know that the fire administrator is still gonna be a function within this?

Abbott, William left the meeting



Ted Schroll 1:03:42

TS

This but real reconstruction of the issue is great.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:03:47

RB

It was never.

It was never.

It was Ted.

It was never on the table and frankly I think I said to one of my first meetings on this topic with the Joint Council, that the most thoughtful voice in this reorganization, in my opinion, is Administrator Morissette.

Ted Schroll 1:04:03

TS

And I'm gonna stand it.

It's just that, you know, I have been up there and you're area of place for well.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:04:08

RB

Oh yeah.

Ted Schroll 1:04:10

TS

And when brackets go in, sometimes the brackets don't come back out, so that's why they thank you very much.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:04:15

RB

Yeah, I hear you.

Ted Schroll 1:04:18

TS

Thank you.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:04:18

RB

Yeah.

Ted Schroll 1:04:18

TS

Mr Speaker, Mr. Chair.

Kevin Kowalski 1:04:19

KK

OK.

OK.

Ted, Commissioner Hilbert.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:04:21

RB

Good to see you then.

Frank Hilbert 1:04:27

FH

No, no.

I think my comments have been echoed by others.

Thank you.

Kevin Kowalski 1:04:31

KK

OK, right.

Frank Hilbert 1:04:31

FH

I you know, I'll, I'll, I'll share the concerns later on.

Kevin Kowalski 1:04:35

KK

OK, Commissioner Norton.

Norton, Robert 1:04:39



Good afternoon.

I'm my question is, I had a meeting on Friday and the director of Odom didn't even know of this proposed language. Have you reached out to him at all for any input on anything and how will that move having Odom do building and fire training for both building code and fire code? Moving over to desk?

Perez, William 1:04:47

PW

And support.

Norton, Robert 1:04:59



How would that work?

And the current Union that owed him is in.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:05:04

RB

Alright, thank you, Commissioner.

I the legislatures have separate but equal branch of government from the executive branch, so I have not engaged in them directly.

My intention was not initially to go after this aspect of it, but when we started meeting with folks to discuss creating and strengthening of this division, more than one individual suggested that this would be to the benefit of the organization.

C.M. Stankye, III 1:05:26

CI

Right.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:05:31

RB

So if there is a will, I think, then the next discussion is all the logistical aspects of it, right and how this works.

You know what?

What is Central DAS doing now that supports it?

Will this new division have the same support?

You know, just because, let's say, the building officials remain in DAS and the Marshall move over here and Odom does or however this settles out.

You know, there's nothing precludes the individuals from collaborating and one of the things that governor was very, very clear on is, you know, efficiency of government, right.

And the governor has made a strong point to try to streamline things.

So we're not duplicate, so I would expect after the public hearing that within the administrative branch right in the Governor's chief of staff, ultimately me, you know coordinates activities amongst all of the Commissioners and state departments, they're gonna help facilitate that conversation because they don't work for us and the Public Safety Committee has direct cognizance and oversight over desk.

We do not for DAS, except under actual code, you know.

So we have cognizance over fire code and building code, but not the agency as a whole general.

I'm sorry, government administration in elections does so the through the chief of staff's office, there's going to be the actual logistical conversational on all of this but and so, so Long story short, we've been talking to the governor's office, not the agency, because the agency doesn't work or have we have oversight cognizance over them.

Kevin Kowalski 1:07:10

KK

Plus, like I said before, we could always look at the combination of joint combining the building officials, Training Council and the fire Marshall Training Councils.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:07:18

RB

OK.

Kevin Kowalski 1:07:19

KK

Maybe as an initial concept to facilitate cooperation between the group and quite frankly, we're at training agency, the Commission is, that's what we do.

Perez, William 1:07:24

PW

Yeah.

Kevin Kowalski 1:07:30

KK

We train people.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:07:31

RB

Yep.

Kevin Kowalski 1:07:31

KK

Das is not a training agency, so it's clear and simple that we can do the job within the scope of our operation.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:07:37

RB

Yes.

Kevin Kowalski 1:07:40

KK

Alright, cod chief press.

Perez, William 1:07:43

PW

What is front of the?

I want to reiterate what Chief Priest said.

What one I wanna take you, representative boy.

If there's any message I could give, push, push, push, push no let up for the for all of us and all of us should be pushing, we may not get exactly what we want, but this is a this is the best chance we got moving forward and then we could always try to clean it up.

We're not gonna be 100% happy, and if I truly believe that the fire marshals and older should probably be underneath us in the perfect world, adding the building site would also be even better.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:08:15

RB

Yeah.

Perez, William 1:08:15

PW

But those are my last.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:08:16

RB

And again, just to.

I appreciate that, chief, and I even had time to put in a UConn bill, huh?

The I just want to temporary expectations like we're gonna do everything that we can, but I I've said this every meeting I've opened with, I am under.

No illusions that we're gonna get this perfect and across the finish line in the short session.

But the commitment has been very clear from the governor's office, from Commissioner Higgins and others, that if we don't get there, we're not gonna rush to do it, to get, say, it's done.

If we've made progress, but we don't get there by the end of the session, that's OK.

There's a strong commitment to continue meeting over the summer into the fall and be ready to go with something.

We're all comfortable with or most of us are comfortable with, you know, for the long session.

So I just want to again, I'm working on this is a high priority for me.

I want to be able to win.

My time is up.

I wanna be able to say the fire services in the right direction, but I'm not looking to ram it through to get it done.

Half ***** in the short session just to hit meet that deadline.

Kevin Kowalski 1:09:27

KK

OK, I have one more question and that's Commissioner Wall.

Timothy Wall 1:09:32

TW

Thank you, Commissioner Kowalski.

Represent Boyne.

Thank you for your efforts.

Truly appreciate.

We'll where we've come and gone to along with many Quran.

This call and others did you've heard for from the fire service.

Now I believe there might be some anticipation of tomorrow people supporting this bill or organizations or presidents or representatives, you said something back about 15 minutes ago on how good it is for this.

Can you repeat that?

Because I think as.

Organizations state organizations come forward.

I think we again should be saying the same message.

Could you kindly repeat that?

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:10:11

RB

We.

Yeah, I don't remember exactly what I said, but it probably was that.

Everybody is going to be looking for a lead agency to help evolve the fire service in the state, right?

Volunteer departments, as they can't function anymore as we're trying to recruit and retention our career folks.

They need somebody to look to, for guidance and help them through transformation and we're trying to set up this division to be that lead agency, to work with municipal leaders, to work with other stakeholders, to transform ourselves, which we know that transformation is coming and we just don't have a mechanism to do it.

And we also wanna have this group to be able to implement the strategic plan that we're paying good money for that as somebody else said earlier, it's going to sit in the shelf and be worth not worth the 250,000 that we spent on it.

If we don't have a mechanism to implement it.

Kevin Kowalski 1:11:08

KK

Very good.

Timothy Wall 1:11:08

TW

Take thank you for that.

But you know you believe this is good for the fire service and everyone on this call believes it's good for the fire service to move forward.

Kevin, I'll ask you to ask that to the group.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:11:17

RB

Yep.

Timothy Wall 1:11:19

TW

I do, but go ahead.

Kevin Kowalski 1:11:21

KK

Anyone.

We can't take a motion on it cause it's not a point of order, but I certainly we certainly can pull.

Uh.

Does anyone have any major issues against this bill?

Any organizations then I would suggest that we push the, move it forward and quite frankly, a representative Boyd, I want to also thank you.

Perez, William 1:11:39

PW

Move forward.

Move forward, man.

Kevin Kowalski 1:11:49

KK

I know what we talked before and I and I thank you for pushing this forward.

I know we can make the adjustment so to make this more understandable I guess and more achievable, and I think it's gonna be a great move for the, for the, for the fire service as a whole and thank you very much for your efforts on it.

R. Ortiz 1:12:00

RO

Worse.

Kevin Kowalski 1:12:08

KK

I think this is something that we're gonna be able to work with.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:12:12

RB

Why?

I'm.

Let's see, we can get done the next couple of months and then continue on from there.

Kevin Kowalski 1:12:16

KK

Again, I'll make myself available as well as all I'm sure, all the other Commissioners that we need to do to assist you and pressing forward again.

Pete B. 1:12:16

PB

So, so bad.

Kevin Kowalski 1:12:25

KK

There may be some adjustments that will have to do technical adjustments for next year and we understand that we don't know what the fiscal note will be on this.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:12:28

RB

Forward Yep.

Kevin Kowalski 1:12:34

KK

Do you have to do a fiscal note on this this year, even though you're gonna be uh?

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:12:36

RB

Yes.

So if once we JJF, which is our turn of joint favorable out of committee, which I this bill will get out of committee, it gets the Office of Fiscal Analysis will put a number on it.

Kevin Kowalski 1:12:43

KK

Right.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:12:51

RB

And what it's cost will be in the current session and then the out years as well.

Kevin Kowalski 1:12:56

KK

OK.

And do you anticipate making any of the adjustments that were suggested prior to the JSF?

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:13:03

RB

Yes.

So we're gonna hear the bill tomorrow.

Kevin Kowalski 1:13:05

KK

OK.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:13:07

RB

We intend to vote on it the following week on the 19th.

Kevin Kowalski 1:13:13

KK

OK.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:13:14

RB

On then, after the hearing tomorrow and I would appreciate anybody who's got some written notes to it.

We're gonna sit down and adjust the bill and then have substitute language when the bill is voted on by committing on the 19th.

Kevin Kowalski 1:13:28

KK

OK, then is OK.

Pete B. 1:13:29

PB

So what's Commissioner?

Kevin Kowalski 1:13:31

KK

So everyone understands that from your constituent groups need to submit notes of concern to be considered for change in the bill.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:13:43

RB

And those can be sent to my office.

They can be funneled together if one of you wants to funnel them all together.

You know, Pete sent me some notes.

Kevin, you sent me some notes.

I've gotten some from other groups.

It would be helpful if you're able to kind of put them together and then when we're sitting down, we don't, we're not missing something.

Kevin Kowalski 1:14:02

KK

Right. Understand.

Pete B. 1:14:03

PB

So Commissioner Kowalski, uh, to pat.

Kevin Kowalski 1:14:06

KK

Yes.

Pete B. 1:14:09

PB

Pat, you have every fire service organization represented here at this meeting and we're giving you the.

What did Perez say?

Uh.

Perez, William 1:14:21

PW

Goldman Super Green light rock'n'roll man, move forward.

Pete B. 1:14:23

PB

Yeah.

Perez, William 1:14:25

PW

Don't slow down.

Pete B. 1:14:25

PB

No, so long as long a Perez.

Kevin Kowalski 1:14:25

KK

Right.

Perez, William 1:14:26

PW

Don't worry, you're never gonna.
You're never gonna get a strictly on everything.

Pete B. 1:14:29

PB

As long as not as long as it's not drill, drill, drill.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:14:32

RB

Yeah, yeah.

Pete B. 1:14:34

PB

So, so, pat, I mean, we're giving you the vote of confidence here in the go for it, man and I, I totally agree.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:14:40

RB

Yeah, I appreciate that. So.

Pete B. 1:14:46

PB

We're all in the same boat.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:14:47

RB

Yep, and.

And so cards in the table the, the, the, the areas that have to get worked out is one, umm, where this DAS whole thing falls with the new administration.

But we're having conversations there.

And as I said to Commissioner Higgins on Friday.

He's only been here for a couple months and he's still trying to figure out who's who wears where and he's been focused in some of the other divisions.

His feedback is important and he has been supportive of this in concept, but obviously wants it just like all of you.

Sit down and really look at this stuff at the end of the day and I know he met with the Commission shortly after coming on. I have.

Kevin Kowalski 1:15:32

KK

Yes.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:15:32

RB

I have had nothing but positive interactions with him and he has recognized from our very first meeting where we talked about some other difficult stuff in law enforcement and before the meeting was over, I wanted to bring up the fire service and some of the conversations and he proactively the next time I saw him a week and 1/2 later stopped me in the hallway and mentioned some of the stuff about the fire service.

He was thinking about from our prior conversation.

Perez, William 1:15:58

PW

But be done too much.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:15:58

RB

And so I do think we have a good partner, the Commissioner and we want to just be able to continue, but I also want to make sure he has the time to thoughtfully weigh in because at the end of the day, this is his department and he's administering and so I just want to give you that feedback from where I sit.

Perez, William 1:16:01

PW

They're closing it up.

Kevin Kowalski 1:16:19

KK

Thank you very much.


Any other questions, let me go back to my agenda and make sure I didn't miss anything.


Jeff's gotta keep me honest here.


I don't believe so.

I believe that there is no other business to do before us.

I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

 **C.M. Stankye, III** 1:16:41
So moved.

 **R. Ortiz** 1:16:43
Second, where was I?

 **C.M. Stankye, III** 1:16:43
Stankye all in favor?


 **Timthy Wall** 1:16:44
Seconded.
I.

5. Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Stankye and SECONDED by Commissioner Ortiz to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.


Vice Chairman Kowalski adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Paul Januszewski left the meeting


 **Kevin Kowalski** 1:16:47
Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen, that you care correct.

 **Frank Hilbert** 1:16:48
Hi.


JAMES KOSER left the meeting


 **Kevin Kowalski** 1:16:54
Thank you.
Thank you all to care for setting this up and getting this all together.


 **C.M. Stankye, III** 1:16:55
Hey.

 **Timthy Wall** 1:16:57
Thank you.


Dan Tompkins left the meeting

 **Kevin Kowalski** 1:16:58
Representative Boyd.

 **Timthy Wall** 1:16:59
Stay safe, everybody.

 **Kevin Kowalski** 1:16:59
Again, I wanna thank you for everything that you're doing here and look forward to working with you to try to get some of these issues resolved.

Norton, Robert left the meeting

 **Ted Schroll** 1:17:01
Thank you.

 **Rep. Pat Boyd** 1:17:03
Thank you, Sir.

 **C.M. Stankye, III** 1:17:03
Hey, pat.

 **Rep. Pat Boyd** 1:17:04
Appreciate it.

 **Greg H. Priest** left the meeting

 **Ted Schroll** 1:17:05

TS

If.

C.M. Stankye, III 1:17:07

CI

East.

Perez, William left the meeting



Kevin Kowalski 1:17:08

KK

So we can just smooth it right through.

I'll be contacting these other folks in the fire Marshall's office.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:17:11

RB

Yeah.

Thank you.

C.M. Stankye, III 1:17:16

CI

Hey Pat, I put in to inspect your camp this summer.

Kevin Kowalski 1:17:16

KK

Thanks.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:17:19

RB

Well, great.

Come on by what?

I'm actually here right now working so.

C.M. Stankye, III 1:17:25

CI

Last time I was up there, I was the chief of the OA.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:17:28

RB

Well, it was a long time ago.

C.M. Stankye, III 1:17:29

CI

Yep.

Rep. Pat Boyd 1:17:31

RB

Alright, Chuck.

Timthy Wall 1:17:31

TW

Bye everyone.

Stay safe.

Rep. Pat Boyd left the meeting



Kevin Kowalski 1:17:33

KK

And I thank the guests for uh for hanging in there.

Ted Schroll 1:17:37

TS

Thank you, Commissioner.

Following speaker, thank you.

Kevin Kowalski 1:17:39

KK

Yep, have a good day, people.

Ted Schroll left the meeting



R. Ortiz left the meeting



Frank Hilbert 1:17:44

FH

Thank you.

Timthy Wall left the meeting



 **C.M. Stankye, III** left the meeting

 **Gary Ruggiero** left the meeting

 **Pete B.** left the meeting

 **Frank Hilbert** left the meeting

 **Morrisette, Jeff J** left the meeting

 **Clark, David A** left the meeting

 **Kevin Kowalski** left the meeting

 **Ouellette, Kara** left the meeting

 **Morrisette, Jeff J** stopped transcription

