

CapCOG Board of Delegates
Good Hope Fire Station, 1200 Good Hope Road, Mechanicsburg
Monday, February 18, 2019 - 6:30 PM

MINUTES

DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:

Dauphin Borough, David Kopenhagen Dillsburg Borough, Mark Ryder East Pennsboro Township, John Kuntzelman Goldsboro Borough, Robert Charles Hampden Township, Nate Silcox Highspire Borough, Terry Watts Hummelstown Borough, Dee VanGuvree Lemoyne Borough, Kasha Griva Londonderry Township, Anna Dale Lower Allen Township, Rick Schin	Lower Paxton Township, Robin Lindsey Middle Paxton Township, Jim Fisher Monaghan Township, John Whitehorse Monroe Township, Carl Kuhl New Cumberland Borough, Robert Kline North Middleton Township, Harry Kelso Paxtang Borough, Chris Spackman, Jack Thomas Royalton Borough, Terry Watts	Silver Spring Township, Harry Kotzmoyer South Hanover Township, Nora Blair Susquehanna Township, Tom Pyne Swatara Township, Christine Zubeck Upper Allen Township, Ken Martin West Hanover Township, Jay Megonnell Wormleysburg Borough, Margie Stuski
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NON-VOTING IN ATTENDANCE:

See Attached Sign In Sheets	<u>CapCOG STAFF</u> Gary Myers, Executive Director, CapCOG Rhonda Campbell, Administrative Assistant, CapCOG
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MUNICIPALITIES NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Annville Township Camp Hill Borough Carlisle Borough Carroll Township Conewago Township Derry Township East Hanover Township	Fairview Township Harrisburg City Lower Swatara Township Marysville Borough Mechanicsburg Borough Middletown Borough	Penbrook Borough Shiremanstown Borough South Middleton Township Steelton Borough
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The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Anna Dale. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Due to the large attendance (63 individuals) roundtable introductions were suspended for this meeting. Anna welcomed everyone and moved to presentation.

Presentation

Nate Silcox, Chair of the Public Safety Committee welcomed everyone to Hampden Township. Silcox reiterated the criticality of the volunteer fire service in PA. Less than 38,000 volunteer firefighters currently in PA. COG been looking at the issue for some time; a Firefighters Summit was held in 2016 and it resulted in many thoughts and ideas. The Public Safety Committee has been continuing discussions since that time. Focus is on some of the "low hanging fruit" and things we can do now.

Introduced Jerry Ozog, Executive Director of PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute. Ozog presented "The Future of Volunteer Fire Service - A Time for Transformation." Highlights from the presentation are provided below. A copy of the presentation was provided to all Delegates and Alternates with the February 2018 Board package.

- There is a crisis in many parts of PA.
- Ozog reviewed what has changed and discussed the extreme importance of elected officials and municipal staff to solve problems together.
- Tonight we are setting the stage. Focus is on fire departments tonight.
- Volunteer fire departments (VFD) are typically membership-driven organizations. As a result, decision-making can take a long time.
 - The self-governance can cause conflict between fire departments and municipalities.
 - Need to understand the culture of the VFD and help them to move toward new ways of doing things administratively and operationally.
- Issues
 - Consistent staffing 24/7/365 (lack of prime ff age 18 to mid 40's)
 - Lack of next generation - succession planning; need to be open and inviting to new members
 - Live-in programs may have run their course
 - A few successful programs in Central PA but over last 20 years is number of live-in programs has declined significantly.
- Many FD operating the same way for the last 30 years. Apparatus and stations are new, but methods aren't.
- Data - 36,000 today compared to 300,000 in 1970's. Call volume has increased due to positive economic development.
 - Many reasons people don't volunteer - aging PA population, families busier, people working multiple jobs, etc.
- A lot of departments are not fully funded by municipalities, so they have to fundraise.
- Discussed challenges retaining members.
- The solutions are at the local level - VFD need mentorship and leadership as well as administrative help.
- Recommended standard is 18 to 22 firefighters on site within a certain period of time.
- Zero standards when a truck shows up as to who is on the truck for the fire.
- Cost of operations for a new firefighter - training costs between \$750 - \$1000; gear \$7000
- Capital equipment engine \$650,000; aerial/ladder truck 1.4 mil
- If we don't do something now, in five years it will be much worse.
- Many steps to a career fire fighting system - don't have to go from volunteer to career. There are things you can be doing to help now.
- Need a commitment to work together - elected officials and VFD.

Ozog then introduced Gary Myers, Executive Director of CapCOG. Gary shared that one of the responsibilities of COG is to help our 42 members be aware of situations and make things better. Members work with COG voluntarily - e.g., salt, Comcast, etc. One of first things that came up was to create a retention and recruitment program that our members can use. All have a desire to serve your constituents (elected officials and VFD). We want to find the common ground to help VFD and municipalities.

Opened floor for discussion

Kraig Nace - Duncannon EMS SR6 Commission member.

- The challenge is that our boards, commissions, throughout commonwealth, the same people are doing multiple jobs, multiple volunteer organizations. More critical with VFD - older individuals serving.
- Fire and EMS have similar problems but different requirements. EMS licensed; FD none required. All insurance driven for FD, not government driven.
- Nace believes EMS is over regulated, and FD under regulated.
- Up to municipality to create standard of cover (what type of firefighting do you need? Rural water supply? High rise fire fighting). Depends on the geography.
- Without dialogue and understanding of needs - people and money - we can't move forward.

Bob Timko - Fairview Township F.D.

- We have pushed the can down the road for decades. We have to make a decision and do something. National Volunteer Fire Council (he serves on). In Germany, they start recruiting volunteer firefighters at age 6. Equipment isn't the problem.

Kasha Griva - Lemoyne Borough

- What was National Volunteer Fire Council? I agree with going into the schools once a month and spending time with kids at a young age would be a good thing.

Margie Stuski - Wormleysburg Borough

- We need to ban two words from legislature - unfunded mandate. We need to figure out what we need to do to get where we need to be. It all requires money.
- After 20 years of ignoring problem, it is way beyond that. If legislature is going to keep requiring spending, where does it come from?
- We've added risk with no way to address the risk. Where do municipalities get money to do what they are required to do?

George Drees - Susquehanna Twp Fire Chief

- Volunteer fire station saves \$1m a year.
- VFD should be applying for grants. Call successful grantees and ask to see the grant and use it as a starting point to submit for your own grants. If denied, ask why so you can learn and make adjustments for the next grant. Share your successful grants with others.
- As fire person, we want to show our elected officials that we are doing our part. Susquehanna Township asked to go in 2x a month to elementary school; hang out at recess with kids and be a mentor. Just hang out and play. Still hasn't been allowed.
- Some rural areas do an excellent job recruiting and raising money.

Timko

- For elected officials, if you don't get the grant, the government will come out and talk with you on how to improve on the grant application for the future.

Tom Vernau - Lower Allen Township.

- Regional concept - deployment of resources. Where's that stand?
- Ozog responded. There are some very successful regional processes across the state. Has to be a willingness to give something up. Younger generations leading our departments - they are open to seeing something different. Ozog has seen fire departments who wanted to go regional, but elected officials didn't want to or vice versa. The goal is to have 24/7/365 coverage - there are a variety of ways to get there.

Ronnie Allen, Monaghan Township Supervisor

- What can we do so that we don't lose volunteer fire companies? We need to get out there to recruit and make public aware.
- Ozog - Altoona and Westmoreland County have recruitment programs. They hired someone full time through a grant to manage the recruitment program. Washington Co. MD, hired a marketing expert to be their recruitment person - she does public outreach for the volunteer fire departments.

Gary Myers - CapCOG Executive Director

- Can COG create a recruitment/retention program for all our members? Could we apply for a grant to make it happen?
- We have to think outside the box. Work with neighboring municipalities; West Shore works. Paxtang and Swatara have a police service program that is working across municipal borders providing better coverage for less money.

Christine Zubek, Swatara Township

- One of the important things I've noticed is Jr. firefighter programs and recruitment programs dissipated in a lot of companies. We need to get back to the formalized recruitment and Jr. firefighter programs.
- Jerry Ozog - The challenge is that someone has to be in charge of the junior FF program and that can be difficult.

Justin Eberly, Monroe Township, Dept Emergency Management and volunteer FF.

- He is going to VFIS insurance company to represent emergency services as a new career.
- One piece missing is mentorship and formal process; some type of structure. Volunteer system has to have someone to lead every initiative.
- Mentor to develop youth who follows a curriculum of sorts. Exploring -segment of boy scouts - Law Enforcement and Fire Fighter Exploring program. Trying to reinvigorate it in Central PA. Provides resources and regionalized opportunities. Working on putting together a program explaining the program.

Robin Lindsey, Lower Paxton Township

- Three FD in Township; two have live in. Take advantage of EIT and Tax Credit and length of service program (age 65 they get \$250/month for rest of their lives). Currently have 11-12 on the LOSAP program. Really helped in their township.

Timko

- LoSAP - Are SR6 looking at relief association? It was talked about.

Ken Martin, Upper Allen Township

- How do you react to citizens/public officials when mutual aid seems imbalanced?
- Ozog - It is about education. What is the recommended amount (18-22) - share that recommendation and the reality that the municipality alone can't meet that. It is a challenge.

Frank Wirth, Lower Allen Township Fire Captain

- That imbalance is getting worse. It's a real concern. We are at the precipice now. It can't be kicked down the road any longer.

Drees - The RR Grant opens Friday, February 22 and closes 3/22 - George Drees.

Gloria Zimmerman, West Hanover Township Supervisor

- We have a liaison from the Board of Supervisors who attends all Fire Department executive meetings. We try to support them. They go to summer programs, go around in Halloween and Christmas, visit schools, etc. Transparency is key.

Don Steinmyer, West Hanover Twp Supervisor

- Big problem with volunteer FD - you lose to big cities. When city of Harrisburg is paying firefighters plus offering benefits, or they go to larger municipalities with better benefits, etc.

Ozog

- Surveys done across PA, young people want incentives, cash, etc. Highly incentivized programs are what some are doing (e.g., if you meet certain requirements, get a check at the end of the year).
- State College - when you finish their program - you get \$5000 stipend. This can take the place of someone having to get a second job to support their family which opens them up to volunteer.

Silcox thanked everyone for coming and Ozog for leading discussion.

Myers asked attendees to send ideas to capcog@comcast.net.

CapCOG Regular Business Meeting Reconvened

Anna Dale reconvened regular meeting at 7:49 PM.

Consent Agenda

- Dale asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November and January and the Treasurer's Reports for 2018 End of Year and January 2019. Silcox made motion; Stuski seconded. Unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report

- Joint Bids - Opened February 14, 2019. Awarding at March 18, 2019 Board of Delegates Meeting.
- Annual Dinner - Magnificent speaker, largest attendance ever and largest money made on Annual Dinner. Next year the Annual Dinner will be held on the East Shore.

County and Planning Committee Reports

- No Cumberland County Report.
- No Dauphin County Report
- York County - Mark Ryder
 - Developing plans to relocate departments to the new Pleasant Valley Road complex from the annex and downtown.
 - Also nearing a decision on the stormwater authority proposal. It looks like we're going to implement an enhanced water monitoring program rather than create a SWA.

Legislative Update - Nate Silcox

- Copies of the report were available. Copy included with these minutes.
- One main things will be the SR6 - 92 recommendations in report; there are 27 different headings. How do we implement? Goal is to see what we can do.

PA Cog - John Kuntzelman

- No report.

Appeals/Act 45 - Terry Watts

- No appeals.

Public Safety Committee - Nate Silcox

- Will meet again in March or April.

Good of the order

- Nothing for the good of the order.

Motion to adjourn, Ken Martin; second by Robert Charles.
Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT
February 17, 2019

BILL #	SPONSOR	SUMMARY	STATUS
SENATE			
SB 5	DiSanto	Regulatory Review Act: Legislative Approval of Regulations with Economically Significant Impact	In Senate Intergovernmental Operations
SB 46	K. Ward	Administrative Code: Contracting with State Police for Municipal Coverage	In Senate Law & Justice
SB 52	Gordner	Covered Devices Recycling Act: Manufacturer Responsibility for Recycling of Electronics in Counties and every municipality with 25,000 residents	In Senate Environmental Resources & Energy
SB 64	J. Ward	Police Officer, Firefighter, Correction Employee and National Guard Member Child Beneficiary Education Act: Tuition Waiver for Surviving Spouses	In Senate Education
SB 65	J. Ward	Volunteer Emergency Service Tuition Credit Program Act	In Senate Education
SB 82	Martin	Local Tax Collection Law: Consolidation in Counties of the Third Class	In Senate Local Government
SB83	Martin	Tax Reform Code: Volunteer Fire Company Sales Tax Exemption on Prepared Foods	In Senate Finance
SB 87	Martin	Title 4/Amusements: Municipal Opt-Out of Truck Stop VGT's	In Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Development
SB 94	Martin	Workers Compensation Act: Coverage for Integral Members of Fire Companies	In Senate Labor & Industry
SB 97	Hutchinson	PA Infrastructure Investment Authority Act: Municipal Eligibility	In Senate Environmental Resources & Energy
SB 104	Martin	Open Contracting Act: Ban on Project Labor Agreements	In Senate Labor & Industry
SB 110	Yaw	Title 53/Municipalities: No Home Rule Law Votes within 4 Years	In Senate Local Government
SB 119	DiSanto	Regulatory Review Act: Reduction in Regulations	In Senate Intergovernmental Operations
SB 127	Regan	Title 35/Health & Safety: 911 Law Reauthorization	Before Senate
SB 146	Brooks	Title 35/Health & Safety: Online Training for Firefighters	In Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness
SB 172	Browne	Tax Increment Financing Act: State and Local Sales Tax Inclusion	In Senate Finance
SB 174	Browne	Abandoned Property Tax Sale Law	In Senate Urban Affairs & Housing
SB 204	Blake	Title 53/Municipalities: Local Government Unit Debt Act	In Senate Local Government
SB 205	Blake	Title 53/Municipalities: Prohibition on Conflict of Interest for Municipal Authorities	In Senate Local Government
SB 206	Folmer	Title 53/Municipalities: Restriction on Swaps	In Senate Local Government
SB 207	DiSanto	Public Works Contractors' Bond Law: Adequate Performance Bonds	In Senate Local Government
SB 208	Blake	Commonwealth Attorneys Act: Attorney General to prosecute City, County, and Municipal Officials and Employees for Crimes involving Public Corruption	In Senate Judiciary

SB 209	DiSanto	Title 42/Judiciary: Time Extension for Prosecuting former Officials	In Senate Judiciary
SB 210	Folmer	Title 11/Cities: Competitive Bidding for Professional Services other than Solicitor, Engineer and/or Auditor	In Senate Local Government
SB 264	Dinniman	Title 53/Municipalities: Local Taxation of Natural Gas Hazardous Liquid Pipelines	In Senate Finance
HOUSE			
HB 74	Rothman	Titles 44/Law & Justice and 75/Vehicles: Local Radar	In House Transportation
HB 75	Rothman	Covered Device Recycling Act: Provides Waiver to Municipalities More than 5 Miles from DEP-Permitted Electronic Recycling Facility	In House Environmental Resources & Energy
HB 87	Maloney	First Responders Day – September 27th	In House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness
HB 88	Donatucci	Title 18/Crimes: Aggravated Assault Against Government Officials	In House Judiciary
HB 103	Maloney	Municipalities Planning Code: Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance Standardized Non-Building Permit Waivers	In House Local Government
HB 104	Ryan	Prevailing Wage Act: Repeal	In House Labor & Industry
HB 133	Rapp	Title 35/Health: Ban on those with Sexual Assault Convictions from serving as Firefighters	In House Judiciary
HB 139	Quinn	Title 27/Environmental Resources: Growing Greener III	In House Environmental Resources & Energy
HB 160	Quinn	Tax Reform Code: Tax Credits for First Responders	In House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness
HB 163	Everett	Title 62/Procurement: Modernization of Separations Act	In House State Government
HB 179	Quinn	Covered Device Recycling Law: Allows Private Contractors to bid on Collecting, Transporting, and Recycling the excess amount of Electronic Waste in each County not already covered	In House Environmental Resources & Energy
HB 187	Quinn	Title 58/Oil & Gas: Pipeline Impact Fee	In House Environmental Resources & Energy
HB 191	Cruz	Institutions of Purely Public Charity Act: Repeals Exemption for State-Related Universities and Institutions of Higher Education	In House Finance
HB 199	Cruz	Title 18/Crimes: Requires Law Enforcement Officials to obtain Authorization Orders from Judges before intercepting Wire, Electronic, or Oral communications.	In House Judiciary
HB 208	Deasy	Tax Reform Code: First Responders Tax Credit	In House Finance
HB 209	Deasy	Tax Reform Code: Exempts Firefighting Equipment purchased by Paid or Volunteer Firefighters using personal funds	In House Finance
HB 218	Cruz	Title 75/Vehicles: Use of Data Extraction Devices by Law Enforcement	In House Transportation
HB 228	Deasy	Cultural Development Districts	In House Urban Affairs
HB 230	Deasy	Title 53/Municipalities: Real Estate Tax Deferral for Elderly Homeowners	In House Local Government
HB 250	Gabler	Public Notice Prior to Signing Collective Bargaining Agreements	In House Labor & Industry
HB 264	Mako	Title 53/Municipalities: Best Financial Practices	In House Local Government
HB 269	Driscoll	Tax Reform Code: Realty Transfer Tax Exemption for	In House Finance

		Spouses of Soldiers KIA	
HB 275	Mehaffie	Municipalities Financial Recovery Act; Strategic Management Planning Program	In House Local Government
HB 320	Ryan	Title 53/Municipalities: Swaps and Derivatives Restrictions	In House Local Government
HB 323	Ryan	Prevailing Wage Act; Political Subdivision Exemption	In House Labor & Industry
HB 327	Warren	Liquor Code: Local Option Referendum	IN House Liquor Control
HB 328	Warren	Flood Insurance Premium Assistance Task Force	In House Insurance
HB 331	Grove	Title 53/Municipalities: Preemption of Local Labor Mandates	In House Labor & Industry
HB 349	Heffley	PA Construction Codes Act: Use of Third Party Agencies	In House Labor & Industry
HB 352	Kortz	Titles 44/Law & Justice and 75/Vehicles: Local Use of Radar	In House Transportation.
HB 371	Murt	PA Amber Alert System – Blue Alert for Police	In House Judiciary
HB 372	Bernstine	Project Labor agreement Transportation	In House Labor & Industry
HB 376	Owlett	Tax Reform Code: Volunteer Firefighter Tax Exemption	In House Finance
HB 381	Diamond	Title 75/Vehicles: Accident Reports by Police	In House Transportation
HB 422	Delozier	PA Construction Code Act: Building Code Official Trainee Program	In House Labor & Industry
HB 423	Topper	Liquor Code: Dry Municipality Referendum	In House Liquor Control
HB 430	Benninghoff	Regulatory Review Act: Repeal by Concurrent Resolution	In House Environmental Resources & Energy
HB 432	Barra	Workers Compensation Act: PTSI Coverage	In House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness
HB 443	Sonney	PA Construction Code: Third Party Inspections	In House Labor & Industry.
HB 468	Readshaw	Landslide Insurance and Assistance Program	In House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness
HB 473	Everett	Storm Water Management	In House Local Government
HB 474	Everett	Title 8/Coroguh and 11Cities	
HB 482	Grove	Title 38/Holidays & Observances)	In House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness
HB 494	D. Davis	Title 53/Municipalities: Establishing Municipal Water and Wastewater Authority Oversight Commission	In House Local Government
HB 499	Kortz	Title 4/Amusements: VGTs in American Legion	In House Gaming Oversight
HB 510	Schemel	Title 53/Municipalities: Intergovernmental Cooperation	In House Local Government
HB 511		2nd Class Township Code: Intergovernmental Cooperation	
HB 512		Title 11/Cities: Intergovernmental Cooperation	
HB 528	Jozwiak	Title 35/Health & Safety: Fire Police Rewrite	
HB 534	Zimmerman	Clean Streams Law: NPDES Permit Program	
HB 543	Bizzaro	Title 65/Public Officials: Board Member Compensation Prohibition	
HB 545	Neilson	Title 18/Crimes: Aggravated Assault of Local Code Enforcement Officials	

HR 60	A. Davis	LBFC Study of Salaries and Training of Police Officers	In House Local Government
HR 64	Snyder	LBFC Study of Deployment of High-Speed Broadband Service in Unserved and Underserved Areas	In House State Government