

Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

Friday, September 6, 2024

Agenda: <https://egov.ct.gov/PMC/Agenda/Download/24164>

A recording is available at: <http://ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=23517>

Members present: John Filchak (Vice Chair), Matt Hart, Martin Heft, Karl Kilduff, James O’Leary, Jan Perruccio, Eric Protulis, Troy Raccuia, Brendan Sharkey, Ron Thomas

Members not present: Carl Amento, Steve Cassano, Bridget Fox, Tom Gaudett, Sam Gold, Laura Hoydick, Keith Norton, Francis Pickering, Lon Seidman, Steve Stephanou

Other participants: John Harkins, Brian O’Connor, Sheila McKay

OPM staff: Christine Goupil, Greg Lowery, Bruce Wittchen

Vacancies: Designee of the House Minority Leader
Nominated by COST: Municipal official: Town of <10,000
Nominated by COST: Municipal official: Town of 10,000 – 20,000

1. Call to order, overview of meeting procedures, agenda review/additions

Commission chair Filchak began the meeting at 10:35, noting the lack of a quorum at that time, and proceeded to Item 3.

2. Approve draft minutes of [8/2/2024 meeting](#)

A quorum was not present and the group did not vote to approve the draft minutes.

3. Membership Updates

Commission member Heft said the Governor’s Office will meet to consider appointments of municipal officials nominated by COST and of a vice chair. There is no word regarding a potential minority leader designee.

4. Update: [2024-25 Work Group Program](#) (also see [Work Group Ground Rules](#))

a. Municipal Workforce Development Subcommittee (Matt Hart and Ron Thomas, co-chairs)

Commission member Hart said the group has met twice and thanked Christine Goupil for her support of the group. There are approximately ten members. They intend to provide recommendations in December-January but expect to continue their work beyond that time. He described a survey of municipalities to identify the most challenging positions for recruitment and retention and are interested in best practices for both.

Commission member Hart highlighted the potential for towns able to support paid trainee positions such as assistant building officials and assistant assessors. He noted the significance of compensation and the potential for shared services, but also pointed out concerns about public treatment of local officials and the impact on recruitment and retention. He concluded by noting the need to consider the availability of workers and mentioned the potential for hiring from the justice-involved community.

Commission member Thomas agreed with Commission member Hart's description. He pointed out that others are also looking into municipal workforce development, but this subcommittee is not reinventing the wheel. He mentioned efforts by the CT Conference of Municipalities (CCM). Commission member Thomas also commented on differences in municipalities' ability to afford to hire employees and described what human resources directors are doing.

Commission chair Filchak mentioned the [Gov. M. Jodi Rell Center for Public Service](#) at the [University of Hartford](#) and suggested inviting someone to come speak of civility issues. Commission member Thomas said CCM is working with center regarding civility guidance. Commission chair Filchak will reach out to them.

Referring back to the earlier mention of hiring trainees, Commission member Heft mentioned the state's [CT Career Trainee](#) job class. Commission member Hart agreed, noting the CT Dept. of Transportation's use of it. Commission chair Filchak recommended also working with community colleges on this.

b. Special Education, Education Governance, & Workforce Development Subcommittee (Jan Perruccio and Lon Seidman, co-chairs)

Commission member Perruccio said some of this subcommittee's work parallels what the other group is looking at, but in education. They are also looking at governance issues such as how school districts can combine efforts to work together and also how they break up. She mentioned a recent discussion with ACIR member Keith Norton of the [CT State Dept. of Education](#), who described the agency's efforts regarding new teacher pipeline, teacher retention, and certification issues. The subcommittee also continues its review of potential solutions already adopted in statutes and, if not yet adopted, why not.

Commission member Perruccio said the group's next meeting will be in-person on 9/17 at the CT Assoc. of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS). The focus will be a discussion of the work of the [Task Force to Study Special Education Services and Funding](#) with task force co-chair Fran Rabinowitz.

Commission member Perruccio said the subcommittee is working on all three aspects of its assignment simultaneously and noted that they, like the other subcommittee, have also the level of anger directed at officials and administrators, but in education.

Commission chair Filchak noted the potential for sharing services between town and school and said Mansfield's model for doing that seems rare. Commission member Hart mentioned that being covered in an upcoming CRCOG workshop regarding shared services. OPM will talk about the [Regional Performance Incentive Program](#) (RPIP) and there will also be a moderated panel. He provided an overview of workshop content. Commission chair Filchak invited any further comments or questions about the work of the subcommittees and there were none.

5. ACIR regular reports

- a. 2024 legislative sessions mandates report (due 11/15/2024)
- b. 2023-24 ACIR Annual report (no due date)
- c. 2025 Mandate Compendium Supplement (due 1/22/2025)

Bruce Wittchen provided an overview of the three reports and said he has completed drafts of each and will circulate them after receiving feedback from CAPSS about his review of education mandates. Commission chair Filchak noted the ACIR's interest in extending its mandate reviews to include a closer look at a few mandates to determine their actual impacts on different kinds of municipalities. Bruce Wittchen mentioned a recent discussion with CCM and COST about the mechanics of doing that.

Commission chair Filchak suggested also considering regulatory mandates, not only statutory mandates, and mentioned the significance of animal pound and storm water mandates. He said an

advantage to looking at regulatory mandates is that regulation development is a slow process, allowing a potential role for ACIR input. Commission member Thomas said that is a great idea because regulation development is not a visible process.

6. **Upcoming meetings:**

Commission chair Filchak read the dates of upcoming meetings and Christine Goupil requested that anyone having data for consideration by the subcommittees send it to her and Bruce.

- September 17, 2024, 9:00 am ACIR education working group
- September 19, 2024, 9:00 am ACIR municipal working group
- October 4, 2024, 10:30 am Full ACIR

7. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:09.

Minutes prepared by Bruce Wittchen, OPM