

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

January 22, 2009 – 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:18 with the following representatives present:

Burrville Fire School – Robert Norton, Jr., John Field
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins
Fairfield Regional Fire School – Chris Tracy
Hartford County Regional Fire School – Chet Haber
Middlesex County Fire School - Fred Dudek
New Haven Fire Academy – Chuck Howitt
Stamford Regional Fire School – Tony Conte
Valley Fire Chiefs’ Regional Fire School - Peter Wols, Jr.
Wolcott State Fire School - Steve Veneziano, Paul Perrotti
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol
Connecticut State Firefighters Association - Charlie Stankye, Jr., Ted Schroll
Connecticut Fire Academy – Jeff Morrissette, Adam Piskura
Guest: Danbury Fire Dept. - Mark Omasta

Minutes of the December meeting were distributed. Motion by Chris Tracy seconded by Peter Wols to accept the minutes. Motion Carried.

1. Status of properties acquisitions

Charles Stankye reported that Senator Crisco was continuing to work on issues surrounding the attempt to purchase property in Beacon Falls. The O.P.M. decided not to follow through with the acquisition of the subject parcel.

The acquisition of the Rogers property for the Eastern Connecticut Fire School remains stalled. Rogers has had possession of the sales agreement for approximately 10 months and has not executed the sales agreement.

2. Other projects status

Don Ouillette reported by email that the New Haven project should be ready for bids February 2009. The most recent construction estimate is \$5.2 million.

Hartford County project report by Don Ouillette from his email of Jan. 20. The design development started this month. The project is projected to be ready to bid in fall of 2009. Chet Haber reported that there was substantial agreement between Hartford County and C.F.A. staff with respect to the burn building design. Chet reported that the burn building would be 2 ½ story with a walk-out basement design. The administrative building will be an “L” shaped design. Chet also reported that there would be space dedicated to a trench rescue mock up across Perimeter Road from the burn building.

Don also reported that no progress has been made with respect to the design work on the Fairfield and Burrville schools due to the potential for a shortfall in bond funding authorized. Committee members did not understand why the Governor had released the \$150,000 in a special bond commission meeting on August 4th and the D.P.W. has chosen not to commence with the design. Chris Tracy reported that the legislative aid for Representative Drew told him that Doug Moore at D.P.W. was not committed to beginning the Burville and Fairfield design work. Chris also reported that Doug Moore was unfamiliar with the spreadsheet that Don Ouillette had shared with this committee on the current five-year plan as brought forward by D.P.W. staff as a planning document.

If federal funding comes through for the New Haven project the current funding will carry through until 2011. Chris Tracy has asked David Wlodkowski from D.P.W. to consider representing the Hartford project as shovel ready.

Representative Merrill has asked specifically about shovel-ready projects as it pertains to the potential for federal funding for economic stimulus funding. The only project that D.P.W. has indicated would meet their definition of shovel ready would be the New Haven project.

There was discussion about the Education Committee drafting a position letter on priorities for the regional school projects. A motion was made by Peter Wols, seconded by Chris Tracy that we draft such a letter. The motion passed unanimously. Al Hawkins reported that he would try to capture the spirit of the directions previously provided by the committee for circulation to committee membership for review and subsequent approval.

3. Legislative and Administrative update

Ted Schroll reported that he is hopeful that the legislature will amend the language in the training bill this session. During the first meeting of the Public Safety and Security Committee there had been comments made suggesting that no bills should be expected this session that would have a cost associated with them. Senator Stillman told Ted that she intended to move forward with the additional bond funding. Ted had asked for a bonding bill for the regional fire school project in order to continue to move the project forward. No monetary value has been established. Today the Public Safety and Security Committee brought forth a raised bill requesting the bonding in the amount of \$40 million.

4. Other items from membership

Mark Omasta reported that after our last meeting that Chief has asked Representative Godfrey to introduce a bill to establish Danbury as a regional fire school.

Steve Veneziano asked about the budget building process for the operational budgets. Documents were submitted by each regional fire school in August for inclusion into a single document for submission by the Education Committee. Once the Governor's budget is published on February 4th then we can decide how to work out any shortfalls in the proposed budget. There should be an opportunity to meet with the sub-committee on Regulation and Protection in February.

Meeting was adjourned at 20:10.

5. Next meeting date

Next meeting date

February 24, 2009 will check on the availability of Wethersfield Company #3

Submitted by Al Hawkins