

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

January 19, 2005 – 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelliher Court

The meeting was called to order with the following members present:

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn

Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Lloyd Niles, Al Hawkins

Fairfield Regional Fire School - Scott Bisson

Hartford Fire School – Chet Haber, Michael Jepeal

Middlesex County Fire School – Jay Woron

New Haven Regional Fire Academy – William Seward, Chuck Howitt

Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School – Peter Wols

Wolcott Regional Fire School – Paul Perrotti

Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Bill McAllister, Ted Schroll, Scott Potter

Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jim Wilkinson

Connecticut Fire Academy – Jeff Morrissette

There were no representatives present from the Stamford Fire Department Regional School.

Guest:

Connecticut Department of Public Works – Don Ouillette

Minutes of October 21, 2004: Correction under report for the Wolcott State Fire School – The Waterbury Area Fire Chiefs are looking at two parcels of state-owned property. At a meeting last evening they decided to pursue property in Waterbury as their first choice. That property is adjacent to the Naugatuck Community College, not Mattatuck. Minutes were approved as corrected.

1. Status of property acquisition

Eastern Connecticut Fire School - Don Ouillette reported that Jack Farrell from D.P.W. has hired two contractors to conduct appraisals of the Willimantic property. The appraisal reports should be completed by early February.

Hartford County Fire School – Chet reported that he had met with Bob Bruno from the Connecticut Department of Transportation a month ago about property near the Connecticut Fire Academy complex. The issue has been forwarded to the Commissioner of D.O.T. for comment.

Middlesex Fire School – Jay Woron reported that the school committee continues to pursue part of the former Connecticut Valley Hospital property. The Mayor is interested in constructing a fire school and a satellite fire station on Newfield Street.

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn is continuing to work with Don Ouillette to resolve the “revocable license agreement” with the D.E.P. staff.

Derby Fire School – The directors of the Derby school are continuing to evaluate various parcels of property that are available in the area.

Wolcott State Fire School – Representatives of the Waterbury Area Fire Chiefs have met with the President of the Naugatuck Community College to discuss the property on their campus in Waterbury. The college is interested in expanding their fire and medic programs.

Don Ouillette reported that the state has changed their procedure for purchasing property. Individual schools need to communicate the specific property requirements and the acceptable locations.

Owners of property considered for state purchase need to sign affidavits asserting that there have been no inappropriate communications or negotiations relative to the transaction. All parties need to use care to make sure that no negotiations take place with property owners prior to the D.P.W. negotiation.

2. New Haven Burn Building – status

Eleven submissions have been received to the Request for Proposals documents. The submissions will be reviewed and a “short list” will be developed with five or six vendors. The project manager will be Tom Suprenault.

The short listed vendors will be interviewed by the selection committee. Bill Seward will be a member of the selection committee.

The selection committee will make recommendation to Commissioner Fleming. The selected vendor will attend a scoping meeting and develop a price.

The timing should allow the selection to be completed by mid-February, hopefully the funding will be submitted on the agenda for the March bond commission meeting.

Bill Seward asked what should be done if someone on the selection committee knew a contractor on the short list. Don Ouillette answered that any conflict should be brought to the attention of the project manager and that all members of the selection committee would need to sign affidavits asserting that there were no conflicts of interests.

3. Standardization Committee – S.O.P., injury management, forms

Mike Jepeal reported that he was highly impressed with the knowledge base of those on the committee. Mike passed out a report listing the issues identified for discussion by the committee (copy attached). The next meeting will be at the North Farms Fire Station in Wallingford on February 10, 2005.

4. Q-2 Driver Program update

A draft copy of the D.M.V. regulations is available off of the C.F.P.C. web site. The D.M.V. intends to continue to test for and issue the Q type license for fire apparatus with G.V.W. in excess of 26,000 pounds. A “tow vehicle committee” is studying the issue of license requirements to operate a vehicle with one of the new decontamination trailers in tow. There was some discussion about examination costs. Jeff Morrissette believes that a fee is only charged when overtime is necessitated.

5. Legislative Session 2005 – luncheon in Willimantic

Al Hawkins sent a letter to Senate President Pro Tempore Williams to update him on the status of the capital project and on the current status of operation of each of the regional schools and their burn facilities.

Al reported that there will be a luncheon for eastern area legislators on March 12th at the Eastern Connecticut Fire School. He will send out notice to the committee as a reminder in case anyone wishes to join us.

6. Other items from membership

There was a discussion about the J.P.R. testing format being used to conduct practical skills testing for Firefighter I and Firefighter II level certification. Lloyd Niles discussed the Firefighter I practical skills testing

conducted at the Willimantic school earlier this month. Thirty students were tested. Testing began at 9:00 a.m. and didn't complete until 6:00 p.m.. Complaints were aired about the lack of flow of the testing process. Although testing has evolved to include J.P.R. stations, testing is still conducted with several single skill sheet format stations in addition to the J.P.R. station. A motion was passed directing the chairman to develop a letter to the NFPA committee complaining about the logistical issues relating to the J.P.R. testing. The other key issue regarding the J.P.R. testing is that it is a random test that subjects students to a "luck of the draw" type of testing rather than a standardized testing format.

Bill Seward discussed a situation where a student in a recruit class in New Haven entered the program with Firefighter I certification from an earlier program. During the recruit program the student was dropped for academic deficiency. Bill questioned whether anyone saw a liability incurred by these circumstances. Apparently there have been similar issues at the recruit school at the Connecticut Fire Academy. The general feeling of the group was that as long as all students in a recruit class were held to the same performance standard that there should not be an issue.

There was a brief discussion about alternatives methods to meet the O.S.H.A. live burn requirement. New Haven Fire Department is conducting a facilitated review of actual fire responses with those personnel that operated at the incident. This documented review of a live fire incident satisfies the O.S.H.A. requirement.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16, 2005 tentatively in Wethersfield.

Submitted by:

Al Hawkins, chairman