

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Education Committee

### Meeting minutes

July 28, 2005 – 19:00

## Wethersfield Fire Department Company #3, Kelleher Court

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

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn  
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins  
Hartford Fire School - Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal  
Middlesex County Fire School – Fred Dudek  
New Haven Regional Fire Academy – Bill Seward  
Wolcott Regional Fire School – Jim Trzaski  
Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Bill McAllister, Ted Schroll, Charles Stankye, Jr.  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jim Wilkinson, Rich Nicol  
Connecticut Fire Academy – Jeff Morrissette  
Guests: Wayne Sandford, Deputy Commissioner DEMHS; Don Ouillette, DPW

There was no one present representing the Fairfield Regional Fire School, Stamford Fire Department Regional School, or the Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School.

Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed. Motion by Haber, second by Jepeal to approve as submitted. Motion carried.

### **1. Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security – Deputy Commissioner Wayne Sandford**

Wayne Sanford reported on the status of Homeland Security funding. For 2003 fiscal year approximately \$3.9 million was spent for the training contract with UConn and for the TOPOFF Drill. There is \$1.7 million remaining that needs to be spent before September 30 of this year.

Items included in current funding include; 5 mobile command vehicles, 5 shelters for Red Cross operation, 5 mass casualty trailers.

Wayne also discussed the addition of 3 more foam trailers to bring the total number in the state to 9.

2004 training funds include \$1.4 million, Wayne added that additional funding could be added.

The Training Coordination Committee (Jeff Morrissette chair) is building a training matrix. NIMS training for firefighters could be delivered by the CFA and through the regional fire schools coincident to Firefighter I and II deliveries.

2005 funding will include approximately \$1 million in training funds.

DEMHS is attempting to coordinate Equipment, Training and Planning needs by region. Wayne indicated that each municipal emergency operations plan must be reviewed by his office staff. More staff is being added to each regional office to assist area towns with the development of their emergency plan, associated training, and eventually exercise of the plan.

Agency initiatives will include municipal certification as being NIMS compliant. At the current time the Office of Homeland Security has developed 15 scenarios for plan exercise. These range from Hurricanes to Tornados to the detonation of improvised explosive devices.

Wayne also reported that there are still 16 prime movers for towing the mass decontamination trailers that are parked in Rocky Hill. Those vehicles are ready for delivery to the respective towns.

McAllister asked if equipment could be purchased and assigned to the Connecticut Fire Academy for loan to the regional fire schools. Jeff responded that the current plan is inclusive. Coordination and the exchange of information are essential. Wayne pointed out that several meters are being ordered for the C.F.A., along with 15 fit testing machines. One or two of the fit testing machines will be used by P.O.S.T.

Wayne further reported that the training on equipment already distributed is his highest priority. Additional meter “train the trainer” courses will be forthcoming. Wayne referred committee members to check their web site for the DEMHS monthly newsletter. This publication will advertise training opportunities. Wayne also reported that the department is intending to add two additional IT employees to improve/expand the web site.

Wayne also reported that they are attempting to establish five regional offices in the state, to correspond with the five regional hazardous materials initiatives. The intent is to staff up these offices to provide support services to municipalities. Long term staffing projections are approximately 80 statewide. Within each region he wants to establish one pre-designated regional command post.

Wayne also reported that his staff is interested in encouraging municipalities to focus funding requests on equipment that will be used in daily operations, as well as in the occasional large scale incident.

## **2. Status of properties acquisitions**

Hartford – Last Thursday there was a meeting with Bradley Board of Directors, Hartford county made a presentation of their plans for the subject property. Next Bradley BOD meeting would include an executive session for discussion. If the project receives approval, an M.O.U. could be written rather than a lease agreement.

Middlesex – City planner is working on a 13 acre parcel. The school committee is hoping to have some movement on the property acquisition soon.

Valley Chiefs – Board of Directors authorized Charles Stankye to work with Department of Public Works to acquire property. Possibly one of two sites in Seymour.

Willimantic – A three-year lease agreement has been executed with the owner of the current property. This agreement has provision for two one-year extensions. This should provide for a facility for operations until property is acquired and a new school constructed.

Burrville – D.P.W. attorney continues to work with D.E.P. on a lease agreement.

## **3. New Haven Burn Building/Renovation – status**

Don Ouillette reported that the New Haven project estimates were over \$1 Million over budget. Because of the soil conditions at the site pilings need to be driven to bedrock in order to provide a footing for the storage/CPAT building included in the change of scope for the project.

Don also reported that staff from the Governor’s office was pushing to get the project moving and they want the budgeted funds spent.

Don believes that the original \$4.9 million budgeted will be adequate to complete the project as originally described in the regional fire school study.

Charles Stankye expressed that if the redesign was the cause for the overrun of the budget that the 12,000 sq. ft. storage/CPAT building should be eliminated.

Jeff Morrisette reported that O.P.M. has an item in the long-term capital budget for a year round CPAT facility, he will look to see if that funding could be accelerated.

By consensus of those present, it was decided that the New Haven project needed to return to the original design scope in order to get the project moving forward within budget. There was concern expressed that since this is the first project advancing that we need to keep it within the original budget.

## **4. Legislative Session 2005 – end of business**

The legislative change to the 2004 bond bill has been passed and signed by the Governor. This allows the D.P.W. to begin work on acquiring necessary property. Jack Farrell from D.P.W. will begin compiling information to advertise for property. Anyone with a preferred site needs to respond to the advertisement. Don warned that the state would not expend funds to clean up environmental contamination at any site.

Don also reported that he wanted to get the design for the New Haven site on the bond agenda for September.

## **5. Other items from membership**

Mike Jepeal reported that the standardization committee is continuing to work via email. They still intend to have a report for this committee in the fall.

Mike also reported on his trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma for participation in the validation committee for IFSTA. He reported that there was a move to incorporate overhaul into fire control, and to add Haz-Mat Operational into the Firefighter I standard. Mike indicated that there was a lot of timely discussion at the meeting and that several issues were discussed that provided for improvements in the lesson plan and text. Mike characterized the trip as a very productive and enjoyable.

Jeff Morrissette requested that anyone wishing to host 2006 calendar classes contact Mark Salafia.

C.F.P.C. Certification – There was a brief discussion about recent meetings around the state to discuss the practical skills testing. One additional evaluator will be supplied by the certification staff for practical skills testing, this person would be used to coordinate the J.P.R. testing.

Rich Nicol distributed information on a new insulating material for burn buildings.

Rich Winn asked if the committee members felt that someone should be added to this committee from the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. The consensus of those present was that Wayne Sandford should be included on the distribution list for this committee. Wayne was extended an invitation to attend our meetings whenever he felt that he wanted to share information.

Jim Trzaski reported that the Wolcott school was named in a lawsuit resulting from a hand injury sustained by a student during training in the fall of 2004. The student reportedly tripped and fell during a hose advancing evolution. Release of liability forms now call for signature by both the chief and the student.

Al Hawkins reported that he had visited the display at the New England Fire Chiefs show by Harmless Hazards. He picked up information to share with the regional fire schools, but did not bring it this evening.

**Next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 25, 2005 at Wethersfield Co. #3.**

Submitted by:  
Al Hawkins, chairman