

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 24, 1998 COMMISSION MEETING OF
THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Carozza with the following members present: Commissioners Andresen, Chatfield, Haber, Kowalski, Mullen, Munkenbeck, Nicol and Vendetta. Commissioners Cavanaugh, Gomeau, Johnson, and McCarthy were excused. Staff members Morrissette, O'Neil, Ouellette, Piechota and Piskura were present.

Mr. Morrissette introduced and welcomed Gary Keith from the NFPA and Kenneth Beliveau, Connecticut Fire Photographers

Mr. Morrissette reminded the Commissioners that Ken Beliveau would be available in Classroom 110 after the Commission meeting to take their picture.

Mr. Morrissette asked if any Commissioners were interested in seeing a demonstration of the new Flashover Simulator at the conclusion of the meeting.

Commissioner Kowalski inquired if there was a schedule of upcoming demonstrations.

Mr. Piskura stated that another Train-the-Trainer will be scheduled in the near future and that he would share the schedule with the Commissioners

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kowalski and SECONDED by Commissioner Haber to approve the minutes of the October 27, 1998 meeting. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Chatfield abstained because he was absent from the meeting.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kowalski and SECONDED by Commissioner Munkenbeck to approve the Staff Report for the period of October 15, 1998 - November 14, 1998. Motion Carried.

Moving to item 4 a.) Mr. Morrissette gave a facility update. He stated that reconstruction of the link roof has been completed. The 10 year warranty on this work has now been upgraded to a 15 year warranty. As soon as payment is made by the agency for this work, the warranty documents will be forwarded. Both the agency and DPW have inspected and signed off on the work.

Internally there are discussions taking place amongst the staff in regard to a facility master plan. Over the last several months the Training Division has undertaken a redesign of their office space. This has been shared with the other divisions and their input and needs have been asked for. We also have received a request from Hartford County indicating they also have an interest and need for additional space. Understanding that we have a master plan

project as part of the proposed budget; pending the fiscal impact, we would like to move forward on the administrative office space modification in the near future. Some of the work can be accomplished by our facilities personnel. Mr. Piskura would now like to follow through with the original plan of opening up the front display case to have a reception area for visitors and students visiting the facility. We will be consulting both DPW and the Fire Marshal's Office with some of our proposed changes.

Moving to item 4 b.) Mr. Morrissette gave an update of the 1-800 FIRE-LINE Program. He stated that activity was somewhat slow at the present time although a few calls continue to come in each week. In addition, an informal forum was held last Wednesday, November 18. Participants in the 1-800 FIRE-LINE Program and Fire Chiefs were invited to attend and share their local recruitment and retention programs that are successful. It was a very productive meeting with about 35 people in attendance. Ultimately, we would like to develop a compendium of exemplary practices for the area of recruitment and retention. There were a lot of unique ideas that came out of the meeting. In addition to the chiefs and the recruitment people, also in attendance were a First Select Person and an Assistant Town Manager.

Commissioner Munkenbeck who was in attendance stated there was interest to continue with these meetings in the future. There was also much interest in the results of the survey from the Connecticut Safety Institute.

Moving to item 4 c.) Mr. Morrissette stated that just this week he had received a copy of the strategic plan the State of Maryland's Fire and Rescue Institute had recently completed. They followed through on a very comprehensive planning process with a lot of diversified input. A copy of this plan will be distributed to all Commissioners when they return from the printer.

Moving to item 4 d.) Commissioner Munkenbeck gave an update of the Public Fire Education Subcommittee. The subcommittee had a meeting at which time they talked about some issues and reviewed information relative to a job description and to possible future moves. Presently Commissioner Johnson is drafting a final report. The subcommittee came out of their meeting with a feeling that they did not wish to expand certain areas but rather look to see how they could assign the present staff member to move forward without expanding into an extra staff person until a request could be made through the budget process.

Moving to item 4 e.) Mr. Morrissette stated that he had not received as of yet a formal reply to an inquiry to allow a member of the Commission to attend the Governor's staff meetings. However Peter Ellef, Governor's Co-Chief of Staff has verbally approved the State Fire Administrator to be in attendance at the Governor's staff meetings. This is to be followed up in the very near future with a letter.

Moving to item 4 f.) Mr. Morrissette gave an update of the Budget Option proposals. The proposals were mailed to each Commissioner. Follow-up calls were made in an attempt to reach Commissioners for their input and questions prior to last Friday's submittal date. All five budget options were submitted. With the original biennium budget submittal we did receive a reduction proposal to the budget to ensure we did not exceed a 3% growth factor. Mr. O'Neil prepared a plan to meet this directive which he will explain to you.

Mr. O'Neil distributed to the Commissioners an overview of the reduction plan. The directives require the budget be limited to a 3% growth factor. Proposed reductions include elimination of the Limited Access Highway Account (i.e. \$230,000) and a reduction to the Equipment Account (i.e. Rescue Truck \$276,979). For the second year of the biennium,

the recommendation is again to reduce the Limited Access Highway Account and the Equipment Account.

Commissioner Munkenbeck inquired if any indication had been made as there has been previously when a reduction is requested and a capitol item such as the rescue truck has to be taken off the budget request that this could be possibly moved into bonded money.

Mr. O'Neil stated that he was not told of any such option.

Commissioner Kowalski inquired about the amount of reduction from the Limited Access Highway Account.

Mr. Morrissette stated that the reduction would eliminate the program.

Commissioner Nicol inquired whether the administration of the Limited Access Highway was a legislative mandate.

Mr. Morrissette stated historically, the Commission has proposed to cut this program several times in the past. Essentially, a decision would have to be made at a higher level, that this program is worthy of funding and continuance. Mr. Morrissette stated that this program was statutorily required.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kowalski and SECONDED by Commissioner Haber to approve the Biennium Budget Reduction Proposal. Motion Carried.

Moving to item 4 g.) Mr. Morrissette stated that this item was tabled from last month's meeting for possible action by the Commission.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Nicol and SECONDED by Commissioner Kowalski that the Commission is in agreement with the Blue Ribbon Panel Report. Motion Carried.

Moving to item 5 a.) proposed 1999 Commission Meeting Schedule.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kowalski and SECONDED by Commissioner Haber to approve the 1999 Commission Meeting Schedule. Motion Carried.

Moving to item 5 b.) Mr. Morrissette asked the Commissioners whether they wished to hold a December meeting.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Chatfield and SECONDED by Commissioner Kowalski to cancel the December 29, 1998 Commission meeting. Motion Carried.

Moving to item 5 c.) Mr. Morrissette brought to the attention of the Commission that Mr. Andy Ouellette was recently selected by his peers throughout the nation and awarded the J. Faherty Casey Award. The award is granted to an individual who embodies the core values of excellence in educational resource sharing.

Chairman Carozza stated that it would be appropriate to invite Andy Ouellette to attend the next Commission meeting to be recognized by the Commission for receiving the J. Faherty Casey Award.

Moving to item 5 d.) Mr. Piechota gave an overview of the Emergency Medical Care Requirement (NFPA 1001). He stated that the Certification Division was currently in the

process of putting together FF-I and ultimately FF-II testing to the 1997 NFPA 1001 Standard. In the 1992 Standard, Emergency Medical Care was a FF-I skill requirement. It required that the individual be able to define the principles of infection control in blood and body fluid precautions using personal protective equipment as it relates to emergency medical care. Personal protective equipment was all part of the standard and were addressed in the written test for general knowledge information and in the CPR part of the practical test where the individual was required to demonstrate proficiency. The 1997 Standard is changed and there is no longer an emergency medical care objective. One of the five entrance requirement for the level of FF-I is that emergency medical care performance capabilities be developed and validated by the authority having jurisdiction. Another one is that the individual meet the medical requirements of NFPA 1582 and that the individual pass physical fitness requirements. The question before the Commission is whether we should continue to test EMS requirements as part of our certification examination process.

A lengthy discussion period followed with Commissioners asking various questions pertaining to the revised Standard.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Nicol and SECONDED by Commissioner Kowalski to accept the sign-off of the local fire chief and/or a certified instructor for the Emergency Medical Care Requirement (NFPA 1001). Motion carried.

Mr. Keith from NFPA updated the Commission on various items. He spoke about a report called Fire Prevention 2000 which is a result of a conference held last February in Scottsdale, AZ. Approximately 42 fire prevention representatives from the U.S. and Canada attended this conference to tackle the issue of looking at fire prevention over the next few years with the ground rule that they would have no additional resources committed to this effort in their own individual departments. This report is available to the Commission which was also distributed initially to all the members of the Fire Marshal Association of North America. The feeling is that the message in this report is equally important to not only fire service management but also to the city managers and town councils that have to make decisions about allocations of funds within their fire service organizations. What this document tries to do is try to persuade the fact that on a percentage we should be seeing more funds allocated toward fire prevention than what is currently happening.

Mr. Keith gave a brief update of the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition in Connecticut. It has now been over a year since the Coalition held their first orientation with the public affairs program that is going on. That is continuing and the Coalition is committed to continuing the effort this year as well as going on into 1999. Connecticut continues to be leading in terms of a state that is making phone call inquiries to the toll free number. We know we are reaching out to the consumers. A woman from Connecticut has now been identified that experienced a home fire and is building a new home and called the toll free number to line up a contractor to install sprinklers in her new home. During the next few weeks this woman will be interviewed and her story will be put on tape. When a new distribution of public relations material is distributed to the media her story will be included. As we continue to work in Connecticut, one thing we would like to see happen at some point, is to pick up where we left off with the State Legislative Committee that had been working with this issue. Throughout this process a lot of the effort in Connecticut has fallen on the shoulders of Commissioner Vendetta. At last week's meeting of the National Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition Steering Committee, the members indicated they would like some other representation at some point from the Chiefs, Fire Marshals and Public Educators.

Commissioner Nicol inquired if anyone was in attendance at a recent meeting regarding the Fire Service's upcoming legislation.

Mr. Morrisette indicated he was in attendance and that he is passing out a report from that meeting. He indicated he tried to capture as much of the discussion and proposals as possible; however, it was possible he may have missed something.

Commissioner Nicol inquired whether there was any discussion regarding passing legislation for additional funds for the Firefighter Memorial Fund.

Mr. Morrisette stated that he did not recall it mentioned at the legislative meeting; however he believed it was discussed at a meeting of the CSFA Executive Board a week earlier.

Commissioner Chatfield thanked the State Fire Administrator for attending the open house of the new facility for the Prospect Fire Department.

Mr. Piechota reported that the Commission received official approval from the Pro Board for delegation of the level of Fire Inspector certification to the State Fire Marshal's Office. Additionally, an IFSAC accreditation site visit has been scheduled for mid March.

Ms. Colton-Reichler reported that formalized reservation process had been completed for the Kid's Fire Safety House. A letter explaining the reservation process was sent to all Fire Chiefs, Fire Marshals, Coalition Members and Fire Academy Instructors. An information flyer on the Kid's Fire Safety House is currently being designed for distribution.

Ms. Colton-Reichler gave an overview of the budget option proposal relating to a Youth Fire Setting Coordinator. This position would specifically develop, upgrade and evaluate the educational program that we feel will be an outgrowth of the Standard that will be adopted in November, 1999.

In response to a letter written to the Editor of the Waterbury Republican-American, Mr. Morrisette indicated that he sent a letter to Mr. Walt Miller on November 5 inviting him to meet with him and a member of the Commission to discuss the issues he cited in the newspaper article. To date no response has been received.

Mr. Morrisette stated that at last month's meeting it was discussed that a representative from the Commission was needed to sit on the Agency Safety Committee. A request was also made, that if possible, those meetings be scheduled the same day as future Commission meetings. Unfortunately, the December Safety Committee meeting was already scheduled prior to that request. The meeting date is December 16, here at the Fire Academy at 9:00 a.m. We will do our best to schedule future meetings on days of the Commission meeting.

Mr. Morrisette indicated that he had received a request for information from Representative Stillman's Office regarding the Commission's approval of the Quantitative Fit Testing Program. He stated that information was forwarded to Representative Stillman's Office and followed up with a telephone inquiry asking if she had an opportunity to review the material and whether she had any questions. Representative Stillman's Staff Assistant indicated that she had not as yet reviewed the documents.

Mr. Morrisette stated that he sent a letter to Attorney General Blumenthal requesting that he consider other uses for funds from the settlement of lawsuits against the tobacco industry. If funds could be directed to the fire service of Connecticut, such funds could be used for the purposes of public fire and life safety education, juvenile firesetting

intervention and for direct grants to local municipalities. He asked if the Commission agreed with this request that we should go on record and also ask Fire Chiefs to also voice their feelings on this matter.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Vendetta and SECONDED by Commissioner Haber that the Commission as a united front wishes to pursue the same avenue as stated in the State Fire Administrator's letter to the Attorney General requesting that funds be directed to the fire service of Connecticut. Motion carried.

Mr. Piskura gave an in-depth report about his recent trip to China representing Dr. Henry Lee by attending the 100th Anniversary of the City of Harbin's Fire Department and an International Conference scheduled at the same time. He gave an overview of the City of Harbin, the organization of the fire service which is part of the military and about the fire service. During this event all attendees were treated like dignitaries. He illustrated some of the gifts he and all attendees received during this event. Mr. Piskura presented a certificate of appreciation to the Fire Chief of Harbin on behalf of the Commission which was greatly appreciated. He stated that this was an extremely enlightening experience both technologically and in learning about another culture. He had a very enjoyable time and feels very fortunate for having had the opportunity to go on this trip.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kowalski and SECONDED by Commissioner Munkenbeck to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Chairman Carozza adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Dated: _____

Secretary, Commission on Fire
Prevention and Control

MOTIONS

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STAFF FOLLOW-UP REQUIRED

Strategic Business Plan - A copy of the strategic plan the State of Maryland's Fire and Rescue Institute will be distributed to all Commissioners when they return from the printer.

Public Fire Education Subcommittee - Commissioner Johnson is drafting a final report.

J. Faherty Casey Award - Chairman Carozza stated that it would be appropriate to invite Mr. Andy Ouellette to attend the next Commission meeting to be recognized by the Commission for receiving the J. Faherty Casey Award.