



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL  
OFFICE OF STATE FIRE ADMINISTRATION



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**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 31, 2006 MEETING OF  
THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

Chairman Peter Carozza called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. with the following members present: Commissioners Brady, Morris, Nicol, Ouellette, Stankye, Walsh and Wilkinson.

Staff members Lewandowski, Lewis, Morrisette, Piechota and Piskura were present.

Attendees took a moment to pledge allegiance to the American flag.

Chairman Carozza moved to Agenda Item 1 Employee Recognition.

Mr. Morrisette took the opportunity to recognize three employees that have reached milestone with the agency and state service.

Pam Cooney, Bookstore Manager was recognized for 5 years of service to the agency. Deborah Richardson was recognized for 10 years of service to the agency. Ed Bycenski was recognized for 15 years of state service.

Chairman Carozza said if there were no objections he would like to move to Agenda item 5a New Business and then Agenda item 4e. There were no objections.

Moving to item 5a.) American Honda Motor Company, Inc. Donation – Director of Training Piskura introduced Roger Quandt, Assistant Zone Manager for Honda Motor Company, John Larabee, Founder and President of Manchester Honda and Craig Peters from Manchester Honda. Program Manager Mark Salafia stated that we are very fortunate to receive the donation of a 2001 Honda Civic GX fueled by compressed natural gas. The vehicle will be a valuable asset to the Connecticut Fire Academy in demonstrating safety issues associated with alternatively fueled vehicles. He anticipates the vehicle will be used in the recruit firefighter program and alternatively fueled vehicle classes.

Mr. Quandt remarked that it is nice to have a relationship with local entities especially with this kind of vehicle. If one of these types of vehicle is involved in an accident, it's nice to know firefighters have first hand experience extinguishing fires. He said it is their

pleasure to donate the Honda Civic GX to the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control.

Moving to item 4e.) USAR (Non-Fire Service Personnel) Certification Eligibility - Mr. Morrisette stated that Commissioners may recall that at the November meeting the Commission had tabled this item regarding the certification eligibility of non-fire service personnel, specifically those that participate on the state Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team. At that time he was asked to invite John Mancini to the meeting to answer questions the Commission may have.

Mr. Morrisette also introduced the agency's Associate Attorney General, Steve Sarnoski and said that he is our liaison with the Attorney General's office. He asked Director of Certification Fred Piechota to provide some background on the USAR team's request.

Mr. Piechota stated that the request came in when the Commission began the process of certifying persons to the various disciplines of Rescue Technician. He said the beginning part of that process was what we call CORE. It is a number of core concepts that are required by the standard for all levels of Technical Rescue certification so we put together a testing process for these core competencies. He said we had received a letter from John Mancini, Senior Taskforce Leader for USAR team requesting that the Commission certify selected members of the USAR team to the level of Rescue Core in anticipation of certifying them to additional levels. That created a second request and that is there are some non-fire service persons who serve as part of the USAR team. Mr. Mancini asked if the Commission could certify those non-fire service personnel to Core and then ultimately to the other levels. That prompted a request for an informal interpretation by the Assistant Attorney General. It was the Assistant Attorney General's opinion that it was valid that the Commission could in fact certify non-fire service persons serving as members of the USAR team.

Mr. Morrisette remarked that his understanding from discussions at the last meeting is there were some concerns amongst Commission members that this may open the door for other disciplines, maybe not affiliated with the USAR team, to approach us for certification to various levels.

John Mancini gave a brief explanation of the operations of the USAR team. He said the USAR team currently is made up of six components; Search, Rescue, Haz Mat, Planning, Logistics and Medical. The Rescue component is one that they certify to Rescue CORE. In that Rescue component, Connecticut decided after 9/11, and the problems they had there, to get law enforcement personnel involved so we would not have problems with evidentiary collection and turf control. He said from the beginning of the inception of the Connecticut USAR team we've added some law enforcement personnel who are on the team just for evidentiary collection and identification. They would be working side by side with the Rescue Technicians in a collapse pile or at other scene to identify and preserve evidence. Firefighters are not well versed in that and we're trying to teach our own the evidence of an explosion or any Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) incident. He also said with the police officers working side by side with the Rescue Technicians it

would help them identify and maybe preserve some of the evidence. With that said, we would need these police officers to be trained to a certain level so they can enter those atmospheres to the rescue area whether it be confined space or structural collapse. They've already gone through Awareness and Operations for some of the disciplines and now we're trying to get them to the CORE and that's the basis for having law enforcement personnel on the team.

Commissioner Stankye remarked that we're talking about members of the USAR team and not outside entities.

Mr. Piechota remarked that it would be helpful for Attorney Sarnoski to comment. He said the reason we went to the Attorney General's office to ask the question is because the Statutes state that the Commission has the authority to certify members of the fire service.

Attorney Steve Sarnoski stated he's been the Commission's Assistant Attorney General for about 14 years although Commissioners may not know that because he does not get the opportunity to attend Commission meetings on a regular basis. He wants to talk with State Fire Administrator Morrisette about perhaps changing that because we're living in an increasingly legalistic world. He said Mr. Morrisette and Mr. Piechota approached him asking whether the USAR team could fairly fit under the existing Statutory scheme so that the Fire Academy could develop programs and offer the existing training certifications for what was previously discussed. He said he thinks the Statutes have enough general language in there that we could squeeze that in without going beyond the Statutory chart. In working with the Connecticut Police Academy and State police and looking across to Homeland Security, he's not sure that any one really has the bubble concerning disaster recovery training. It doesn't appear that it is well coordinated under any hat, but if the Commission wanted to venture into training for the USAR team or other organizations that are very useful and necessary in this world we live in, he feels it would be best to add a phrase to the Statutes that says "disaster recovery training" and the Connecticut Fire Academy could make a real contribution and be the lead in coordinating disaster response for the state. It would be up to the Commission if they wanted to venture out into that area but it seems that we don't have in our Statutory system a clear responsibility for who coordinates that. He said he couldn't think of a better place than the Fire Academy to do that and the USAR team would be the first step in that direction because someone needs to have that authority. He said it would be good to have something specific in the Statutory language that provides clearly for that authority and in the meantime it's better to do it than not to do it.

Commissioner Morris asked if the Statutes would include federal, state and local in that language.

Attorney Sarnoski said he suggests that in the definition of firefighter duties and training responsibilities we just add the phrase "disaster response and recovery" as one of the disciplines that have authority. That is general enough to any well accepted certified course such as the USAR team, water recovery and other things that aren't directly

firefighting but are certainly performed by firefighters as a general rule here in the state of Connecticut. He said it is a very simple fix and he can't see anyone objecting to it.

Commissioner Walsh asked if we get into this can we specify it's for one particular group and does this open the door where we cannot control things because there are police departments actively trying to become fire departments and we have to protect against that.

Attorney Sarnoski remarked that he hears the concern and there needs to be a line drawn between the disciplines. He said the fact that we would have the Statutory authority to delve into the area doesn't mean we have the obligation to take on the entire world. The Commission would have to develop programs and abilities and take budgetary constraints into consideration. The Statute has never been changed since 9/11 and it probably ought to be. He said that's a policy decision the Commission needs to make whether we want to more actively pursue this. All this does is give clarification of the Statutory scheme. The authority to deal with this and whether or not the Commission chooses to exercise it and to what extent, is a matter of regulation policy that the Commission would deal with on a case by case basis.

A discussion period followed.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Morris and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Brady to explore the language as recommended by the Attorney General's office to modify the existing Statutes by adding the phrase "disaster response and recovery" to fulfill the request made by the USAR team.

Mr. Piechota remarked that in his short experience that could take years.

Attorney Sarnoski added that he has some language already to satisfy this but it is not specific to the USAR team and he recommends that we change the Statutory language not just for the USAR team but also to provide the Commission with broader authority which the Commission may choose to exercise or not. He said this change would require the usual legislative package for approval.

Mr. Morrissette remarked that from a timing standpoint the legislative session opens next Wednesday and if this is to be done this year there are tight deadlines to meet.

Chairman Carozza asked Mr. Sarnoski to share the language with the Commission.

Mr. Sarnoski said he'd like to review the language with Mr. Morrissette that he's come up with to change the Statute. He said in section 7-232 j definitions where it currently says firefighting duties means and includes *duties performed in connection with the suppression and prevention of fires, fire training and rescue; fire investigation; arson investigation details of assignments to protect the public safety against fire* we would add the phrase "disaster response and recovery" and then back to the other language.

Section 7-3231 under the duties of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control subsection three we would add the phrase “conduct firefighting and disaster response and recovery” back to the old language training and education programs, etc. and then the last phrase where it says fire prevention, add “disaster response and recovery” old language and related fields. He said rather than just relying on the general language and related fields, we would clarify that this is a major disaster response and recovery which is largely run by fire services today. He said he feels that would be sufficient to provide the general Statutory authority of the definition and will provide the authority to conduct the training and certification programs necessary to make it work.

A brief question and answer period followed.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Stankye and **SECONDED** by Wilkinson to allow the USAR team to test and be certified to the level of Rescue Technician CORE. Motion carried.

Chairman Carozza indicated that we would return to Agenda Item 2 Approval of Minutes.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ouellette and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Walsh to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2005 meeting. Motion carried.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ouellette and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Nicol to approve the staff report for the period of November 15, 2005 through December 14, 2005. Motion carried.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Nicol and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stankye to approve the staff report for the period of December 15, 2005 through January 14, 2006. Motion carried.

Commissioner Stankye asked about the outcome of negotiations for funding of the lease agreement for additional land at Bradley Airport as indicated in the monthly staff report period of December 15, 2005 through January 14, 2006 Administration report item 1d.

Mr. Morrisette remarked that he’s more confident today, than when he initially wrote the staff report, that funding will be in place as part of the Governor’s budget. In a meeting last week with several legislators, the Secretary of Office of Policy Management (OPM) and the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works (DPW) it was relayed that we should see this in the budget. He said he spoke to our Budget Analyst afterward and she confirmed it.

Commissioner Stankye asked for an explanation on Training Division report item 1C in the staff report as it relates to CPAT.

Mr. Piskura replied that things did not work out as the building in Norwalk itself is fantastic but unfortunately the floor had a four degree incline from one end to the other. He said we've also looked at property in downtown Hartford.

Moving to item 4a.) Budget/Staffing Update – Mr. Morrisette reported that from a budget standpoint our cash flow situation has improved marginally. We had a significant number of grants and other billables that have turned around and have been deposited. We still do not have any formal procedures set-up with Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Small Agency Resource Team (SMART) in regard to regular reporting and the like. There is also some concern related to some capital money which was requested back in November which appears to be finally making its way to us. There are some delays and we'll need to meet with those folks to see what the future will be in terms of support. He said he believes it will require a body here either weekly or bi-weekly at minimum to provide the support to him and the Business Office. The Human Resource side seems to be working a little better and the liaison has been doing a significant amount of work specifically with the Director of Training.

Mr. Morrisette also reported on the Mid-term budget adjustments. He said he was advised that it appears funding will be on hand for employee physicals as well as for the land lease option here at Bradley. We'll have a formal look at that when the Governor releases her budget next week. He also reported regarding staffing that Mr. Piskura is undertaking another review of our part-time instructor cadre to ensure the required number of teaching hours are met as well as to determine the number of vacant positions we have. Also, recently we've had discussions with Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) about providing funding for one full-time durational Trainer position and funding for a part-time position.

Mr. Piskura added that we've applied for a grant allocation from DEMHS to fund a position that would predominantly conduct National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) related training and process claim forms. He said as we schedule and deliver training we get reimbursed by DEMHS and this person would be devoted to that activity estimating that would be fifty percent of an FIE and then we would have the remaining fifty percent to use in the traditional role of a Trainer here. He said that was looked upon favorably and he and the State Fire Administrator have a meeting this Thursday to discuss the mechanism of transferring the funding for that position. As of right now, he's unable to submit the request for the position because he doesn't have substantiating paperwork that shows the flow of money. It would be a durational position depending upon funding from DEMHS for approximately two years. We've also been in conversations with DEMHS about a part-time position to provide maintenance coordination activity for the Prime Movers and the Decontamination Trailers. They've realized that a significant amount of time needs to be spent just in interfacing with the 29 different locations and the various things that could go wrong with them such as heaters, tow package and such. DEMHS has issued an RFP and once a contract is in place, a part-time position would be used here on our staff as a program coordinator. This is a different relationship than the NIMS position mentioned earlier.

A question and answer period followed.

Moving to item 4b.) CSFA Education Committee Update- Commissioner Wilkinson reported regarding the regional fire schools. He said the Education Committee has been extremely active since the last Commission meeting. There was a regular meeting in December and on January 10<sup>th</sup> there was a meeting held at the Legislative Office Building that included select members of the Committee, the State Fire Administrator, representatives of the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) as well as Representatives Pawelkiewicz, Orange and Willis. It was a very productive meeting where the strategy was formulated on two issues; one was how we needed to act to get the first phase of the regional fire school funding onto the Bond Commission agenda. The second was what actions had to be taken to begin legislatively to increase the amount of operational funding given to the regional fire schools on an annual basis through the state. That was followed by a second meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> which he was not able to attend. Again select members of the Committee, the State Fire Administrator, the three representatives previously mentioned, representatives of the Speaker of the House, Senate President Pro Tempore, Commissioner Jim Fleming from DPW as well as Secretary Robert Genuario representing OPM were in attendance. He said he was told that Representative Pawelkiewicz and Commissioner Fleming did an excellent job of explaining to Secretary Genuario the history on this project and the need to move it forward on the Bond Commission agenda. Unfortunately, the January Bond Commission meeting was scheduled for two days after this meeting so we weren't included on that agenda. It appears that a consensus opinion from those in attendance was that we've reached the wall so to speak and we're very optimistic that we will make the next agenda. He also said that there was another regular Committee meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> where a number of items were discussed. As Mr. Morrisette mentioned earlier, there seems to be an indication that the funding for the lease of additional property here at the Academy for the Hartford school will be included in the Governor's budget. If that falls through, Representative Pawelkiewicz said he's prepared to introduce a Bill to try to make that happen. As far as all the other sites, appraisals are being done on two perspective sites for the Eastern Connecticut school. DPW is ready to advertise for possible sites for the Valley school. Fairfield and Middlesex need to be working on MOU's with their municipalities. Wolcott needs to move on an MOU with the Department of Corrections (DOC) to make the property in Cheshire available and an Attorney within DPW is going to work with Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding the property that the Burville school uses. As far as the funding for phase one of the project which is the design and engineering for New Haven, a letter has been prepared because we feel that we need to get a letter writing campaign up and out to the Governor reminding her that she's actually the person that will make us get on the Bond Commission agenda. The history of the Bond Commission is that they've not been having their monthly meetings as they previously had so there's no guarantee that there will be a February meeting so this is our last push to get this on the next agenda. He distributed copies of a letter to members and encouraged them to write to the Governor with copies to their local legislators. He also asked members of the Commission that may hold office in any of the major fire service organizations to mail copies to the Speaker of the House, Senate President Pro Tempore, Co-Chairs of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee as

well as the Co-Chairs of the Public Safety and Security. The letter and a cover letter from President Robert Guthrie of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association (CSFA) will be sent to Mr. Piechota for disbursement through the list serv. He asked members to share the letter with anyone that could write a letter to the Governor to help the project move along. The next regular Committee meeting is scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup> and this coming Friday there will be another meeting amongst some of the members of the Committee and key legislators to address the issue of increasing the annual operating funds for the regional fire schools.

Moving to item 4c.) Service Voucher Update – Mr. Morrissette reported that out of the 162 eligible fire companies 27 have not made a selection thus far. The money goes away at the end of the fiscal year. We've sent a second letter and made phone calls to those that have not yet responded. Sixty-seven companies thus far have elected to receive a direct payment or a check and 68 have requested vouchers. The Business office will begin to process checks in the next coming weeks.

Moving to item 4d.) National Certification Registration Options – Mr. Piechota reported that the last couple of months there was an item brought before the Commission to see whether the Commission wanted to provide national registration to all persons eligible to be certified to the PRO Board and IFSAC. At the current time people are given an application and they have to submit the application and payment on their own with the appropriate fee to the appropriate organization to get their national certification. We brought forth a proposal to see whether or not the Commission wanted to do that on their behalf and register everybody. The Commission had requested us to provide a document outlining what it costs to deliver certification for all levels. He referenced the document called Certification Examination Delivery Cost Analysis and said the numbers on the right is what it really costs the agency to deliver examinations and does not include hidden costs such as logistics, transportation and equipment. He said these are based on our best estimate of the actual labor cost of the evaluators that the Commission provides. We estimate the cost to deliver Rescue Technician testing at \$200 per person. At the current time the Commission realizes revenue of \$12.50 per person per level. He also said Mr. Piskura would share a little more about some additional costs above and beyond this.

Mr. Piskura stated that in effecting these tests it involves specific props, vehicles or trailers. If the test is conducted off site there is also the logistics of moving the vehicle, having people available, additional labor and mileage fees. We also need to have the equipment available which means if it is unique equipment, which much of this is, there is competition for use of the equipment training versus the testing/certification component. We currently charge for replacing consumables when we deliver training and at some point we'll have to introduce that into the certification component because the same wear and tear exist in testing as in training.

Moving to item 5b.) New London County IMT Recognition – Mr. Morrissette stated that we had tabled this item from our November meeting. He said there is an initiative on the part of DEMHS to create up to five regional Incident Management Teams and the first

one is the New London County. He said one or two other areas are working diligently in this area.

Commissioner Brady remarked that he read the information and they are calling the team a Level 4 which relates to a city or local organization and the next level is a county organization so is Level 4 the appropriate level for what they are.

Mr. Morrisette replied yes, that the terminology is actually a "Type" versus Level but a Type 4 is typically a larger city or county.

Chairman Carozza added that he had a request from the Commission to table this at our last meeting so that Chief DeLia could attend a meeting of his organization and make a presentation. He said the Uniform Professional Firefighters Association (UPFFA) consensus is that they will not support the concept at this time.

Commissioner Morris asked the reason for UPFFA opposing the concept.

Chairman Carozza remarked that Chief DeLia did an excellent job in the presentation but it comes down to issues involving collective bargaining agreements and contracting out bargaining work and issues related to that.

**A MOTION** was made by Commissioner Morris and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wilkinson to table this item so that this could be further explored down the road rather than not gain support from a key component agency. Motion carried.

Moving to item 5c.) Policy/Operations Manual – Mr. Morrisette stated that at the last meeting he had indicated that he would share with the Commission our updated policy/operations manual. He said because of logistical issues and the way the information is uploaded to a blind page on our website he could not easily share the promised information with Commissioners. What he is proposing is that Commissioners access the information on our website, a blind page that requires them to complete and select a logon ID and password of choice. He asked Mr. Piskura to comment further on what he told the adjuncts at their meeting.

Mr. Piskura said the training division has collectively revised our policies and in the process of doing so they've added new ones. He said he would like Commissioners to review them all but he wanted to point out a few. One is a disciplinary policy about five or six pages long and he asked each Commissioner to look at it. He said in the policy we're involving the Commission with the disciplinary process for adjuncts which is brand new as we've never done that before and he wants the Commission's reaction to it. Another policy to look at is the one on outside work that would only apply to new hires but is controversial within the staff. He said those are two that he specifically wants the Commission to look at and there are others that may peak an interest. Eric Munsell is our program manager that has taken the responsibility of pulling the policies together and he is going to group them into a table of contents that will make it easier to place on our website. He said he's also asked our adjuncts to visit the website and review them.

Whatever their comments are, we'll catalog them for internal review. In addition to that, we'll take the Commission's comments into consideration. There may be some issues that the Attorney General may want to review but for the most part they are just a grooming of our former operations manual. He said we need to get to a point where we have established policies and then we have Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that follow as policies. Right now it's a mixture of both and we'll fix that so it clearly states this is a policy and this is how it was achieved. There's no deadline as yet but when we post them to our website we'll send instructions out to all our staff and we'll share it with Commissioners.

Moving to item 7 Matters to be raised by Commissioners and Staff – Secretary Wilkinson read correspondence received from John Bolton regarding a motion to deny felon city of Bridgeport Firefighter candidate James Bulerin Jr. from receiving his Firefighter I Certification and all other Certification granted by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control.

Mr. Piechota remarked that the current Commission certification regulation allows the Commission to revoke certification for persons convicted of a felony. We have been advised by our Attorney General representative that the Commission might want to consider not granting certification to a convicted felon so that we don't go through the exercise of having to take it away later. That's a very good idea but unfortunately we do not capture the information as to whether a person is a convicted felon or not.

Mr. Morrissette remarked that he had a lengthy conversation last week with Mr. Jacobs from the City of Bridgeport's Personnel Office and sent him an electronic copy of our regulations. They are looking at revising some of their policies as it relates to civil service within the city. He said at present this is a local issue; if it comes to us we don't have the system established to actually administer the de-certification piece. The regulation does not prevent the Commission from certifying a convicted felon.

A brief discussion period followed.

Mr. Sarnoski added some legal analysis on the subject. He said under the current Statutory scheme the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control does not have the ability to withhold certification on the basis that someone is a convicted felon. It would be a policy decision for the Commission and there is no provision for felony convictions in the entire current Statutory scheme in terms of certification. He said the Commission needs to determine if we want to go the police route where a felony conviction is an absolute bar or if we want to go the OEMS route where a felony conviction is something to take note of and look into in a more detailed fashion and make a judgment as to whether the nature of the conviction or when it occurred ought to bar a person from being involved with the fire and disaster services. The Commission would have to come up with some kind of policy or regulation which clarifies the basis upon which we would make that decision. He also said the Commission may want to explore other offenses which are not felonies such as reckless burning and things of that nature. He said when we look at the analysis we shouldn't just limit ourselves to felonies and we may want to

look at misdemeanor offenses like larcenies, which may not be a good fit for the fire service.

Chairman Carozza remarked that it may be appropriate to establish a Committee to explore this further. He asked if Commissioner Johnson who is not in attendance today and Commissioners Walsh and Ouellette would be interested. They agreed.

Commissioner Walsh stated that earlier this month he had the opportunity to represent Chairman Carozza at a meeting held here at the Academy by DEMHS regarding an information sharing network that they are introducing to the police and fire disciplines. He said the meeting was extremely well attended by police and military personnel. He was the only fire service representative. He said he had the chance to speak with DEMHS Deputy Commissioner Wayne Sandford about it that the representation between police and fire is very lopped sided. He told him that several fire chiefs and representatives of the fire community had been invited to the meeting and none of them responded. He said they talked a little bit about what could be done to get fire service personnel more involved. Commissioner Walsh encouraged members to go back to their respective groups and encourage participation because the lack of us being there means the fire service is getting overlooked.

Commissioner Morris added that he agrees with what Commissioner Walsh is talking about but it's all about timing. He said he recommends that maybe the Career Chiefs and the Connecticut Chiefs add an individual that they can take to these meetings to represent the fire service and we would benefit more rather than trying to get individuals.

Chairman Carozza mentioned that it may be appropriate to extend an invitation to Deputy Commissioner Sandford to attend one of our meetings.

Deputy Director of Training, Mark Lewandowki reported that we held the two instructors' meeting and approximately 60 Adjuncts and Personal Services Agreement (PSA) Instructors attended each meeting. Commissioner Blashchik attended both meetings and we were very consistent in our deliveries at those meetings. We are working on notifying the Adjuncts that if they didn't attend one of the meetings or contacted Director of Training Piskura that they have to make other meeting before they can teach. He said he wanted to make it clear that no one is being fired. The meetings were well attended and very productive from our standpoint as well as the Adjuncts.

Mr. Piskura stated as a reminder that if a fire department uses the CPAT process that entity must obtain a license. Compliance amongst fire departments is marginal. He said the Connecticut Fire Academy has a license to conduct CPAT as a service but fire departments that utilize the CPAT process must also be licensed by the IAFF. There is no charge for departments to obtain a license and the application is online.

Mr. Piskura said there are three handouts today and one is about platform speakers and that's a new initiative of ours. We are actively seeking attendees, the very first speaker is John Mittendorf a retired fire chief from Los Angeles who has written some books and

will speak about fire ground academy. He is a very engaging speaker and last appeared on a platform at the Fire Department Instructor's Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis last year. These platform speakers will change every month or so and one that's very popular in fire service circles is Billy Goldfeder. We're hoping that people patronize these seminars.

He also mentioned a Train-the Trainer (T-t-T) concept for Traffic Control for First Responders. We're experimenting with offering a couple of T-t-T's around the state to bring people up to speed on how to instruct traffic control for First Responders and to empower them, that after they've gone through T-t-T that they would be on record here with our registrar that they could submit their Rosters here and we would issue them certificates and maintain class records. If we get any problems or hear of any issues that cannot be resolved with the instruction, the technique, the results or incomplete delivery of the lesson then we would suspend that person from being able to use our certificates.

He referenced another handout on grant workshops and stated that every year with the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program offered by the Federal Government we work in concert with FEMA Region I out of Boston to conduct grant writing workshops around the state. Every year the grant program changes the amount of money that's allocated by the United States Congress and it also changes the parameters of what they give money for so it's beneficial to go to one of these workshops if you're actively pursuing a grant.

Mr. Piskura also reported that hats were distributed to all our Adjunct Instructors. He said we purchased them to recognize our employees and we're sharing them with members of the Commission today.

Mr. Piskura also mentioned that the State Fire Administrator is responsible for funding the Rockwell Film Library and we've recently purged the dated materials out of the holdings in East Hartford. Once we've realized some funding we're planning to upgrade the holdings to CD's and DVD's both in public life safety and fire education and in fire training.

Mr. Morrisette added that one of the largest problems we have is those holdings are dynamic and the issue is not so much procuring items for the Library but really updating catalogs and advertising. The lack of an IT position, specifically to provide that information upload causes some problems. He said we continue to do more with less and it does hinder our ability to ensure that people are aware of contemporary items either at Rockwell or within the agency itself.

Mr. Morrisette said he wanted to recognize Commissioner Blaschik for attending the two instructors' meetings. He is not in attendance today but he may have some comments at the next meeting. He also thanked the staff for preparing a well thought out agenda which generated some good questions. He said not everyone left with everything they wanted but overall it ensured information flow and hopefully addressed some of the issues that require addressing on a regular basis.

He also reminded members that next Wednesday is opening day of the legislative session and it is the short session. From a budget standpoint it's just minor budget adjustments. He said later this afternoon he and the Chairman will be meeting with the Co-chairs of the Public Safety and Security Committee to discuss a wide range of issues and asked members if there are any concerns that they share them before leaving today.

He also reported that the Congressional Fire Service Institute (CSFI) dinner will be held April 6<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC. From time to time the Chairman or he has the ability to acquire tickets for that event so if there is interest to let him know sooner than later.

Commissioner Nicol thanked Assistant Attorney General Sarnoski for attending the meeting today and said the information he provided to us was invaluable.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Stankye and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wilkinson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Chairman Carozza adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am.

Dated:

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James P. Wilkinson, Secretary  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control