



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



TEL: (860) 627-6363

Jeffrey J. Morrissette
State Fire Administrator

34 PERIMETER RD. WINDSOR LOCKS, CONNECTICUT 06096

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 29, 2005 MEETING OF
THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

Chairman Peter Carozza called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. with the following members present: Commissioners' Brady, Blashchik, Gomeau, Kowalski, Morris, Nicol, Ouellette, Stankye, Walsh and Wilkinson.

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

Attendees took a moment to pledge allegiance to the American flag. Chairman Carozza asked members to remain standing for a moment of silence honoring Richard Pratt Sylvia.

There was a moment of silence in honor of Richard Pratt Sylvia.

Chairman Carozza stated if there were no objections he would like to add to the agenda under new business item 5g) New London IMT Recognition and if no one objects that the meeting proceed to agenda item 5a) Connecticut Chapter CPCU Donation following the approval of the minutes and committee reports.

Chairman Carozza called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2005 meeting.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ouellette and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Blashchik to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2005 meeting. Motion carried.

Chairman Carozza called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2005 meeting.

Commissioner Blashchik remarked that he was asked to clarify a report made by Director of Certification, Fred Piechota on page 7 paragraph 5 of the October 25, 2005 minutes. It was reported that the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET) received \$3 million from the legislature to begin the planning phase of creating a Statewide Emergency Services Data Network. Commissioner Blashchik said that the \$3 million was actually a commitment from OSET surplus from the 911 fund.

Mr. Morrissette stated that he had one additional correction on page 5 item 4f that was brought to his attention this morning by George Pohorilak, Director of the Office of

Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET). He said there was a brief discussion about a point he had brought up regarding another group in the public safety arena who is moving forward looking at mandatory continuing education and possible tapping into the 911 funding stream to cover those costs. OSET felt that the way it was worded gave an impression that the fire service can also get funding from that fund to support fire service training. He said because it was an extraneous discussion he would recommend deleting the sentence just prior to sentence speaking about Senator Stillman serving as Co-chair of the Public Safety Committee.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Kowalski and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wilkinson to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2005 meeting as amended. Motion carried.

Chairman Carozza called for a motion to approve the Staff Report for September 15, 2005 to October 14, 2005.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Kowalski and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wilkinson to approve the Staff Report for the period of September 15, 2005 – October 14, 2005. Motion carried.

Chairman Carozza called for a motion to approve the Staff Report for October 15, 2005 to November 14, 2005.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ouellette and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Blashchik to approve the Staff Report for the period of October 15, 2005 – November 14, 2005. Motion carried.

Chairman Carozza called on State Fire Administrator Jeffrey Morrissette for introduction of guests.

Mr. Morrissette introduced new employee Mark Ruggiero to the Commission. Mr. Ruggiero serves as a General Trades Worker replacing Jim Scavetta in the agency's Facilities area. He officially welcomed him to the agency.

Mr. Morrissette also stated that Chairman Carozza had asked that the meeting proceed to agenda item 5a in recognition of a guest at today's meeting. He asked Director of Training Adam Piskura to introduce Alyce DeAngelo, CPCU of the Connecticut Chapter of the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters Society.

Mr. Piskura stated that he was contacted a few weeks ago by Ms. DeAngelo stating that the CT Chapter of CPCU would like to issue a \$1,000 donation to the Connecticut Fire Academy to purchase training support materials. He said they went back and forth many times to select an appropriate item the Committee wanted to purchase and they voted on purchasing a rescue manikin and extrication gloves. He introduced Ms. DeAngelo to the Commission to make the check presentation.

Ms. DeAngelo stated that she belongs to the CT Chapter of the CPCU Society a group of insurance professionals who have gone above and beyond their education not only to get the CPCU designation but they also stress continuing education to keep up with the latest needs for insurance and that one of their primary considerations is giving back to the community. She said on behalf of the CT Chapter of the CPCU it gives her great pleasure to present a check for \$1,000 to the Connecticut Fire Academy for the purchase of a rescue manikin and extrication gloves. She also said it gives her personal pleasure to be here today as she has two sons that are firefighters and are both graduates from the Connecticut Fire Academy (CFA). The brotherhood of firefighters is a wonderful thing and she thanked everyone for all the efforts, the men and women who put their life on the line for all of us everyday.

Chairman Carozza thanked Ms. DeAngelo and the CPCU for the donation on behalf of the entire Commission. He said it is very much appreciated.

Moving to item 4a.) Budget/Staffing Update – Mr. Morrisette issued a brief budget and staffing update. He said with the transition from a full complement in our business office and the reduction of one position, the actual duties and responsibilities to this date still have not been solidified by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). It appears that everything our personnel were previously doing, they will continue to do in addition to some other duties previously conducted by the Fiscal Administrative Supervisor. He said it is not exactly clear what this is buying us in terms of support, but he can say right now we're in a serious cash flow situation. Some of it deals with the reporting we're getting back from DAS. He said he wanted to make Commissioners aware that most of the small grants we receive via Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or elsewhere are usually based on reimbursements. When we conduct training deliveries it may be 6 to 12 months before the agency is reimbursed so often times, depending on when the activities occur, it places us into a very tight cash flow situation. Presently we're trying to work through this. It appears that a number of capital facility purchases that we've done in the past were done out of operating funds which depletes these funds so we're looking to get greater control over those accounts to ensure that if there are bond funds available to do something we use it for that purpose. He also said as Commissioners may recall, we managed a few small grant programs in lieu of the Limited Access Highway program. We did not have approval to pay the part time salaries from those accounts for those departments that may have elected a voucher to be used as a training program. He said we may have delivered the training but covered the salaries from our personal services or extension account and not from the special grant account. We are now trying to get the approval authority to pay out of those accounts and replenish where we were. He said he thinks it's manageable and we're going to look to have a representative of the DAS SMART program be on site a half a day or a day per week instead of asking questions over the phone or sending emails and having to wait a day or two for a response. At least if we know there is someone responsible on their end for budget issues it will provide greater control over the activities. Mr. Morrisette also reported that effective today DAS will be physically transferring all of the personnel files from the agency to Hartford. We've created an inventory list of all the files so they can sign off on what they're taking in the event something gets lost between here and

Hartford. He said he's asked both the training and certification directors to look at different economies that we can gain and to defer purchases until we get a better handle on our operational abilities.

Moving to item 4b.) CSFA Education Committee Update – Commissioner Stankye gave an update on the CSFA Education Committee. Commissioner Wilkinson was absent at the last meeting. He stated that the Committee met on November 17th and several items were discussed. He said we're all aware that the Bond Commission is not meeting so consequently this is holding up the New Haven project going out to bid. There is also some political maneuvering being done by the City of New Haven as far as Department of Public Works (DPW) managing the project. He also reported that DPW has publicly advertised for land for the Willimantic School as the school could not come to an agreement with the present property owner so consequently they are going elsewhere for land for the school. The Valley School has submitted their application to DPW to initiate a public search for land for their school. The Middlesex County School is continuing negotiations with the City of Middletown for a portion of the former Connecticut Valley Hospital land. Relocation of the Wolcott School to Waterbury has encountered some problems. The community college has refused to allow the Wolcott School to be relocated there so consequently they are going to the original location sought at the Cheshire prison. The Hartford County School has been offered two pieces of land adjacent to the Fire Academy and the airport authorities are looking for a lease of 20 years plus a 25 year option however they want an annual rental fee to be paid to them and that is being negotiated. The Fairfield School is getting extensive use because they are 1 of 3 schools that can accommodate live burns and their burn building continues to deteriorate. He also said the Education Committee is discussing the possibility of reactivating their plan to purchase temporary or portable burn facilities so live burns can continue to take place and they are going to try to revisit the legislature to seek funding to purchase burn facilities for temporary use until the major projects get moving. Discussions continue with legislators to obtain an increase in the annual grants that the schools receive along with some permanent mechanism to fund the grant program for the schools. The next Education Committee meeting is scheduled for December 22nd.

Commissioner Nicol made one correction that the Wolcott School will be relocated to the Naugatuck Valley Community College and not the Teikyo Post Technical School. He also added that he was at the meeting that followed the Education and Training Committee Meeting with the local fire representatives and they met with the president of Naugatuck Valley Community College who indicated that the college had done an extensive study which took about a year to complete. He said it was a pleasant meeting but when they got to the end, the president stated that it just doesn't fit into their campus plans and that was it. Commissioner Nicol said it was very disappointing on their parts because they had hoped the facility at Naugatuck Valley would work out. He also said at a recent area chief's meeting they had discussed going to their back up location which is the Cheshire site and they are 98 percent certain that it will be a workable site; however, if there is problems with that they would opt to follow DPW's procedure for site selections.

Vice Chairman Kowalski asked if this will be an effort by the planning committee and the Commission to do a permanent funding profile for all fire training or just for the regional schools.

Commissioner Stankye said this would be to get funding for the entire state not just the regional schools and it would be similar to what the folks do at the Police Academy where they receive free training. He said they want everyone to get involved to get a statewide uniform funding program.

Moving to item 4c.) Update to Service Vouchers - Mr. Morrisette reported that letters were mailed to the 162 eligible fire companies with a deadline of November 30th to select a grant option of either receiving a direct payment of \$615 or a voucher to procure agency services. To date only about 60 percent have responded so we're going to have to push the folks that haven't yet responded in terms of how they want to spend the grant. He said we will have until the end of the fiscal year to ensure that checks are issued and services rendered.

Moving to item 4d) National Certification Registration Options - Director of Certification Fred Piechota stated that the next 2 agenda items relates to certification and both have been on the agenda for the past 3 months but due to the lack of quorum no action could be taken. He said this item has to do with submitting for national registration for everyone who becomes certified to any level within our state. Currently we test 15 levels of certification and we're accredited for most of them with the Pro Board and fewer with IFSAC. He said currently all national certification that persons receive are done on a voluntary basis so they go through an examination process that has been accredited by either IFSAC, the Pro Board or both and they are presented with a certification certificate from the state as well as an application for national certification by either IFSAC or the PRO Board or both as is appropriate. As of calendar year 2004, approximately 29 percent of the people who are eligible applied for Pro Board certification and approximately 17 percent of the persons eligible applied for IFSAC certification. He said we've met the minimum requirements both organizations have levied upon us but that's a small number. We are exploring the possibility or procedure whereby as a value added to the students, the Commission present to the fire service the ability for them to become certified and receive their national certification automatically as a part of the state's certification process. A number of states currently do that for their firefighters. He said this proposal is to outline options that may be available to the Commission to explore as a way to offer national certification to all persons who are eligible at the appropriate levels without any further action on their part. There are some fiscal ramifications to that but using the 2004 figures; it would be approximately \$10,000 additional for the Commission to do that based upon the numbers of persons that have been certified. He said we've looked at options of how that could be paid for and from the staff perspective we would like to explore the potential to consider raising certification fees to \$20 for every level. Currently for any level that has a practical skills test it is \$12.50 and if it is just a stand alone written test it is \$5. That fee has never been raised in the past 12+ years and we would like to consider it and our proposal would be to

put together a position paper outlining what the option consists of and a potential fee increase that would not be instituted for at least 6 months.

Commissioner Kowalski remarked that he does not feel that the Commission should spend \$10,000 worth of training dollars to provide national certification when only 29 percent of people theoretically want the national certification. He said if there is a mechanism to facilitate getting the funds and processing it as a clearinghouse he would personally become involved with it.

Mr. Piechota remarked that one option that we've considered and rejected immediately was for the Commission to underwrite this cost by taking it out of existing funds. He said people will have to pay for this and the question now is do they pay just what it cost or do they pay a little more to help underwrite the process.

Commissioner Johnson arrived at 10:07 am.

Commissioner Kowalski asked what the cost is for the Commission to provide that service.

Mr. Piechota said it's hard to have exact dollars but to the best of our ability it cost approximately \$20,000 in calendar year 2004 to certify about 1,400 people. He said he would work on a position paper detailing the actual cost of delivering the certifications and then we could add to that the cost of the national certification and Commissioners could share it with their organizations if they like.

Commissioner Brady added that he agrees with Commissioner Kowalski in that we ought to be moving in the direction of breaking even. He said he discussed this idea last night at a meeting with the Valley Shore Chiefs and they were in favor of doing it by just putting the money into the fee structure. A position document would be helpful so everyone is aware of it.

Mr. Piechota remarked that hopefully by the next meeting we will be able to present a document that would be suitable for Commissioners to take back to their organization for review and feedback. He also said that the State Fire Administrator suggested that a survey be conducted of our customers to obtain feedback.

Commissioner Morris suggested that if we conduct a survey we should asked folks what they do with their training funds and how much of their training funds is actually used at this facility.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Kowalski and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stankye to table this item until the next meeting.

Moving to item 4e) Certification Fee Schedule, Levels – Mr. Piechota stated that the certification fee schedule levels is the result of a recommendation by IFSAC when they were here for their last site visit. He said at that time it was only a recommendation but

perhaps at their April 2006 meeting IFSAC will make it a requirement that any entities that are certifying Firefighter I and II must also issue separate certificates for Haz Mat Awareness and Operations levels. Currently, the Commission tests Haz Mat Awareness during the firefighter I examination and Haz Mat Operations during the firefighter II examination so the objectives are tested within those levels but it has been the Commission's procedure and policy to not issue separate certification certificates for those levels nor are those levels reported out to IFSAC or the PRO Board as having been issued by the agency. IFSAC is telling us that in the very near future they will require that we issue those levels separately and the Pro Board has not offered an opinion either way. He said we could easily begin to issue certification certificates for the Awareness and Operations levels as is appropriate within the current testing process. Awareness is fine now but for the Operations level, we may have to do a little more practical skills testing within the existing programs. We could also look to allow the regional fire schools to do stand alone testing for Awareness and Operations. He said there is a fee proposal involved and if it is the Commission's desire to move forward to begin to offer these levels as stand alone levels we will then do a detailed analysis as to the cost of this. One option certainly would be for the Commission and or the regional fire schools to perhaps offer Awareness level testing to non-fire service personnel such as DPW folks, police officers, EMS and all the people who are required to have that level by OSHA in our state. He asked if it is the Commission's desire to put together a process to begin to offer Haz Mat Awareness and Operational testing certification as stand alone levels or offer those 2 levels but in a combined examination so for example, there would not be stand alone Awareness level certification although that would probably take away the ability to do the non-fire service personnel.

Commissioner Kowalski asked if it is correct that in reality we're just training them to the level and their employer would then certify them.

Mr. Piechota remarked no that by this process if the Commission is going to certify them then the Commission would conduct the testing. He said certainly this would be a spin off for the locals because the locals could accept the Commission's testing process as their own if they chose to do so.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Kowalski and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stankye to approve the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control Certification Fee Schedule, levels. Motion carried.

Commissioner Morris added that he has a concern about when we do mass trainings between communities of DPW workers and other employees of communities that may not wish to take a test especially guys that work inside vehicles and such. He asked what happens with those individuals that we are now offering testing and the local communities want to keep these folks maintained and certify them on their own as they have been doing in his tri-town area.

Mr. Piechota said that without taking a look at all the details, the community would continue to have the option to do things as they have always done. The Commission may

choose not to extend this to non-fire service personnel. He said right now our statute do not allow it, but there might be some changes being made about that but it is certainly a local option to do it or not.

Moving to item 5b.) 2006 Commission Meeting Schedule – Mr. Morrissette said that a 2006 meeting schedule was disseminated to Commissioners and asked for review and adoption if acceptable.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Wilkinson and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stankye to approve the 2006 Commission meeting schedule. Motion carried.

Moving to item 5c.) December Meeting Status – Chairman Carozza stated that the December meeting is tentatively schedule for the 27th. He asked for the pleasure of the Commission.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Kowalski and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ouellette to cancel the December meeting unless an item of importance comes up for discussion. Motion carried.

Moving to item 5d.) Mid-Atlantic Association of State Fire Commission Report – Commissioner Nicol reported that on October 20-23, 2005 he attended the 27th annual Mid-Atlantic State Fire Commission conference in Charleston, WV. He distributed copies of the conference minutes and a schedule of meetings for the next 19 years. The conference served several purposes; (1) to share information amongst states relating to successes in training, legislation and funding, (2) to bring problems to see if other states have experienced similar situations and have solutions that have worked, (3) to participate in information and educational programs scheduled by the host, and (4) to have formal and informal times to socialize with the representatives from other states. Forty-one representatives were registered for the conference. Commissioner Nicol said the most important portion of the conference was a 30 minute presentation by each state representative. He said Connecticut was asked to formally join the organization as a member unit and one of the requirements of being a member state is to host the conference on a rotational basis. There is a minimal fee to attend the conference and there would be a financial obligation by the host state. He said it was a beneficial conference and he recommends that Connecticut consider joining as a regular member. He also thanked the Commission staff for their assistance in preparing the materials and PowerPoint program for his presentation at the conference.

A brief discussion followed.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Nicol and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Walsh that Connecticut formally join and participate in the Mid-Atlantic States Fire Commission. Motion carried.

Moving to item 5e.) USAR (Non-Fire Service Personnel) Certification Eligibility – Mr. Piechota said that at the end of October Mr. Morrisette received a letter from John Mancini a senior taskforce leader for the Connecticut Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR) requesting that the law enforcement members of their team be eligible for certification in the Rescue discipline. The state statute that governs the Commission and its certification program is very specific that it is for members of the fire service. He said Mr. Mancini is asking if law enforcement officers who are members of the USAR Team could be eligible to be certified to the Rescue Technician discipline only. On October 28th he and Mr. Morrisette met with Assistant Attorney General Sarnoski, who made an informal interpretation of our statute which essentially states members of the USAR Team are eligible to become certified by the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control to various levels of Rescue Technician even if they are not members of a fire department away from the USAR Team. Based on that opinion, we are moving forward and that information has been communicated to Chief Mancini. Mr. Piechota also said that Attorney Sarnoski recommends that the Commission take the necessary steps to provide clarification to that issue in state statute and he believes Mr. Morrisette is in the process of putting together a recommendation for changes to the statute that would allow this to happen.

A discussion period followed with questions and answers.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Brady and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Gomeau that we invite John Mancini to the next Commission meeting to answer any questions the Commission may have. Motion carried.

Moving to item 5f.) Danbury Aerial Device Acquisition – Director of Training Piskura said he was approached by Chief Peter Siecienski of the Danbury Fire Department about a surplus 100 ft. 1995 LTI platform that they would like to barter with us in exchange for seats in future Recruit classes. He said they currently are planning to have approximately 13 students in the next Recruit class and an additional 13 after that. We've evaluated the vehicle and it is road worthy with new tires and a rebuilt engine. Our aerial instructor cadre is interested in acquiring this so they have it to use to cover simultaneous classes. He said one of the greatest concerns the State Fire Administrator mentioned to him was maintenance and housing since we're out of space and the device would not fit in any structure we have here or at the CPAT Center in Meriden. He also said he has an offer to house the device at the Mashantucket Pequot fire station where they have empty bays. He said he would like the Commission's approval to accept the proposal of acquiring the device in exchange for seven recruit seats. He said to lessen the financial impact on the agency, he's sent a letter to the Chief requesting they stagger the recruits over a calendar year and the Chief responded that they would do that.

Commissioner Kowalski asked how much money we're talking for the 7 seats in the recruit class.

Mr. Piskura remarked that the current recruit seat is \$3,309.

Mr. Morrissette added that basically if the Commission approves the barter and we acquire the device, we monitor the use and expense to us so it doesn't turn into a money pit. If that becomes evident, we would have to cut our losses and move on but it does have some utility to support several popular programs taught by some of our very committed instructors.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Nicol and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Kowalski that the agency accept the barter proposal of acquiring the Danbury Fire Department 100 ft. LTI aerial device in exchange for 7 seats in a recruit class. Motion carried.

Moving to item 5g.) New London County IMT Recognition – Mr. Morrissette said that back in September we had sent out a copy of a letter received from Chief DeLia who attended our last Commission meeting and presented an overview of the New London County Incident Management Team (IMT). He said in looking at the future the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) is interested in eventually establishing these types of teams in the five DEMHS regions. He said as part of establishing an IMT team there is some language in the federal documents that they be recognized by the authority having jurisdiction but they don't identify who that may be and depending on the type of team there are different levels of authority. The New London County IMT has already been approved by the Southeastern Council of Governments and by DEMHS. As a matter of courtesy and respect for the Commission being the fire service's focal point, Chief DeLia is requesting that the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control consider formally recognizing the IMT as an emergency response resource. Due to a lack of a quorum we weren't able to take action so today we are asking for that formal recognition.

Chairman Carozza said he apologized for not being at the last meeting and since there was no quorum he would request that the Commission table this item so that he and other members have an opportunity to meet with Chief DeLia to obtain a little more information from the presentation.

A **MOTION** was made by Chairman Carozza and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stankye that the Commission table this item until the next meeting. Motion carried.

Moving to item 6. Comments from the public - There were none.

Moving to item 7. Matters to be raised by Commissioners and staff – Secretary Wilkinson read 3 informational letters received by the Commission.

Commissioner Johnson mentioned that he hasn't received a written report on the practical test given to recruits. He said when chiefs receive their recruit training reports they get an evaluation on the written portion of the test but no evaluation on the practical skills.

Mr. Piskura remarked that he just found out that one of our employees unilaterally decided to stop doing the third report as there are 3 reports that are issued. We are in the

process of revising that to include those comments. He said it is difficult at times to get instructors to document things. He also stated that a meeting with the career fire chiefs, to discuss the recruit training program, is scheduled for December 9th at 1:30 pm at the Academy. Any Commissioner or career chief interested is welcome to attend.

Chairman Carozza remarked that the 2006 Training Calendar was well done and complimented whoever is responsible for the production of the calendar.

Mr. Morrissette reported on a number of items. He said that with DAS taking all the agency's personnel files to Hartford he sent out a general procedure for employees to follow if and when they may need to review their file. He believes DAS will work with us, whenever possible, to hand carry files to the agency.

Mr. Morrissette also informed Commissioners that a holiday luncheon is tentatively scheduled for December 20th and they are welcome to attend.

Mr. Morrissette also stated that it was mentioned at the last meeting that we have 2 mandatory instructors' meeting scheduled here at the Academy for January 17th at 6:30 pm and January 19th at 1:30 pm at which time we plan to release an updated Operations/Policy manual. He said he believes historically, the Commission has reviewed and approved that document so we will try to send a draft copy electronically as it is currently being reviewed by staff. He said he would like the Commission's input on the document and asked for their indulgence as we would like to present the manual at the instructor's meetings which precedes the January Commission meeting. At minimum, we would like to have at least one member of the Commission present but all Commissioners are invited. It is a living document and it's our intention to review and revise it annually or as needed.

He also said there's been some discussion amongst the staff internally who are very concerned with the payout of preparation time and the lack of preparation by many instructors. He said he's not sure if it's a supervisory oversight issue and maybe we need people to document what they do. Mr. Morrissette said he wanted to update the Commission because whatever action is taken could have repercussions and he'll keep Commissioners informed as the internal discussions progress.

Commissioner Ouellette remarked he had agreed to attend both meetings but since then he found out most likely he'll be out of town.

Commissioner Blashchik reported that he had left last month's Commission meeting to attend the Legislative Regulations Review Committee meeting to see if the fire code regulation would be approved. He said they were successful and as of December 31st there will be a 2005 Fire and Building Code hitting the streets based on 2003 NFPA documents and ICC documents.

Commissioner Nicol asked if we're planning on working on any legislation this year.

Mr. Morrisette remarked that for the past few years the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) missed sending us the documents for submittal so we received them late and we were advised that if we do submit something they would entertain it. If it has a fiscal impact, like with most legislation, it will be scrutinized very closely. The key things we're currently looking at are primarily the issue related to enabling legislation but it sounds like that may need to be on hold as it relates to today's discussions. He also said another discussion we've had in the past is looking at the indemnification issue for instructors which will not be addressed this year primarily because it bears the greatest scrutiny and finally we'd like to work with the chiefs to have them submit legislation preferably on our behalf related to forming a legislative study committee to review funding of fire service training.

Commissioner Nicol asked if we're planning to pursue the issue of having alternate members appointed to the Commission.

Mr. Morrisette replied that alternates are not needed if members attend meetings and he's very happy to see the attendance at today's meeting and hopefully that will continue. He also said that the Chancellor of Connecticut Community-Technical Colleges needs to appoint a member to replace Commissioner Cantor and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) need to appoint a replacement for Commissioner Brammer. When those two seats are filled then there should not be an issue with obtaining a quorum at meetings.

Commissioner Wilkinson asked for a brief report on the dissolution of the John Bolton lawsuit.

Mr. Morrisette said he contacted those Commissioners that were named in the lawsuit by Mr. Bolton and we had passed on the documents received from the Attorney General's office stating there was dissolution of the case with prejudice.

Chairman Carozza took the opportunity to wish all the Commissioners and staff of the Academy a very happy and safe holiday season.

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

Chairman Carozza adjourned the meeting at 11:20 am.

Dated:

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