



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



TEL: (860) 627-6363  
Jeffrey J. Morrisette  
State Fire Administrator

34 PERIMETER RD. WINDSOR LOCKS, CONNECTICUT 06096

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

Chairman Carozza called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with the following members present: Commissioners Brady, Kowalski, Morris, Nicol, Ouellette, Stankye, Walsh and Wilkinson.

Staff members Lewandowski, Lewis and Morrisette were present.

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

Chairman Carozza called for introduction of guests by State Fire Administrator Jeff Morrisette.

Mr. Morrisette asked Sgt. Michael Nockunas for an introduction and a welcome on behalf of the Connecticut Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce (USAR).

Sgt. Nockunas stated that he is assigned to the USAR team full-time and welcomed the Commission to the home of the USAR. He said they would offer a short presentation and a tour at the conclusion of the meeting. He introduced the members of the USAR Team as follows; Trooper Kathy Henry, DC John Mancini, Mark Lewandowski; David D'Ostilio, Kyle Zimmer, Lt. John Ricci, Lt. Richard Hally, Brett Kirby and Michael Pryor. These members will be available downstairs to show the equipment and answer any questions Commissioners may have. He also said there will be a tour of the facility for those interested and they would like to show the \$11 million worth of equipment they have between the different units assigned at the Brainard Airport facility.

Mr. Morrisette introduced one additional guest as Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative for the Connecticut State Firefighters' Association (CSFA).

Moving to item 2) Approval of minutes of the June 27, 2006 meeting and minutes of the September 26, 2006 meeting.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Stankye and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Brady to approved the Minutes of the June 27, 2006 and September 26, 2006 meetings. Motion carried.

Moving to item 3) Staff Reports June 15, 2006 – July 14, 2006, July 15, 2006 – August 14, 2006 and August 15, 2006 –September 14, 2006 and September 15, 2006 – October 14, 2006.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Wilkinson and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Kowalski to approve the Staff Reports for the period of June 15, 2006 – July 14, 2006, July 15, 2006 – August 14, 2006, August 15, 2006- September 14, 2006 and September 15, 2006- October 14, 2006. Motion carried.

Moving to item 4a.) Budget/Staffing Update –Mr. Morrissette reported regarding the budget. We have a new budget analyst assigned to the agency from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). We are required to submit a 10% budget reduction option which all agencies are required to do by November 11<sup>th</sup>. This reduction will total about \$359,000 for our agency. He said one of the complicating factors he wanted to bring to the Commission's attention with the movement of the Regional Fire Schools budget over to the Commission, it adds to our bottom line which impacts our budget reduction. He's looking to see if we could exclude the Regional Schools from our bottom line figure as they add approximately \$65,000 to our reduction goal. This would be a significant hit to the agency. He also indicated he promised the Chair of the CSFA Education Committee that he would not include the schools in the reduction option but that in the future that same promise could not be made.

He said we're all aware that at least in the current fiscal year there is a projected surplus; this budget is for the next Biennium so there is no projections as to date. Mr. Morrissette said in looking at some of our options and at the bottom line he would propose that we eliminate the \$200,000 for the Supplemental Grant Award program. Also we would look at a combination of reductions to our Personal Service and Other Expense Accounts as well as some of the other restricted account areas. He said he's still working on some of the scenarios. He asked if Commissioners had any questions.

Commissioner Stankye mentioned that when the negotiations took place regarding the Regional Fire Schools' budget they were assured by Legislators that this was only going to be an administrative thing and they were not going to be part of the Commission's entity so he thinks that should be addressed.

Mr. Morrissette remarked that he had placed several phone calls over the past two months into Secretary Genuario of OPM trying to secure a meeting to discuss this and other related issues. No meeting date has been secured as yet. Commissioner Nicol asked for clarification of the first area being considered for a budget Reduction Option.

Mr. Morrissette replied that he would look at the Supplemental Grant Award program which took the place of the Limited Access Highway program.

Commissioner Nicol also asked if the Regional Schools were not part of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control budget would they be subjected to the 10% Budget Reduction Option.

Mr. Morrisette remarked that is a question that would need to be answered by someone at OPM. It is possible the Comptroller's Office had submitted reduction options in the past without consulting the CSFA. In most years reduction options are just an exercise we hope never need to be enacted.

Commissioner Stankye said during the budget process they've requested X amount and they've been given Y amount but they've never had to submit a Budget Reduction Option.

Commissioner Nicol stated that at the last Education and training meeting the Chairman had discussed that he would be submitting budgets for the Regional Schools and asked if those have been submitted to OPM.

Mr. Morrisette replied that the initial submittal has been made and he's requested the Chairman provide justifications as well. The information is being passed on to our budget contact that is now at the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). That individual is working with OPM.

Mr. Morrisette also provided a staffing update. He said as Commissioners are aware we have a vacancy for the position of Fire Service Analyst. We were very fortunate to have that position advertised very rapidly. The closing date was last week and as of the day prior to the closing date we were informed seven applications were received. He said he's not sure how many were received as of the last day and how quickly they will be evaluated for inclusion on a certified list of qualified candidates. He said it would be his recommendation that there be a panel of representatives of the Commission to sit for at least an initial interview. He asked Chairman Carozza to entertain the establishment of an interview Committee.

Moving to item 4b.) CSFA Education Committee Update – Commissioner Wilkinson reported on behalf of the Education Committee that they met once again last Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. He said Commissioners may refer to the minutes of last month's meeting where Commissioner Nicol gave a very in-depth report in his absence and he really doesn't have a lot to add today. All projects continue to move forward at their respective paces and overall the Committee is very happy with the progress shown. In the absence of Doug Chavenello of the Fairfield Regional School he was happy to report that he advises that they were a recipient of the first round of fire grants this year to construct a flashover simulator at their facility. The next meeting of the Education Committee will be November 30<sup>th</sup> at Company 3 in Wethersfield. He said it is their hope to invite Representatives Walter Pawelkiewicz and Linda Orange to attend and be updated on the progress that has been made over the last year with regards to this project. He also reported that at the State Firefighters Convention held in September, the State Firefighters Association passed a By-Law that officially established the Education Committee as a Standing Committee of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. In that language, it specifies that two members of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control serve as active members on that Committee. Currently he and Commissioner

Rich Nicol serve with that Committee and are both willing to continue serving as representatives of the Commission if it is the desire of the full Commission.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ouellette and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Brady to appoint Commissioners Wilkinson and Nicol to represent the Commission on Fire Prevention on Control on the CSFA Education Committee. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kowalski asked a question of the members on that Committee. He said that last week there was a meeting in reference to review of employee applications and there was a question in reference to whether people could be employed in a Regional Fire School and the State Fire Academy at the same time.

Commissioner Wilkinson replied that it was discussed briefly at the meeting and he believes it is Mr. Morrissette's intent to bring it up for discussion at some point in the meeting.

Chairman Carozza said if there were no objections he would like to move to New Business item 5a) Election of Officers. He called on Commissioner Nicol to Chair the Elections Committee.

Commissioner Nicol called for a motion to nominate a slate of officers.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Wilkinson and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Walsh to nominate Peter Carozza as Chairman. Motion carried. Commissioner Nicol called for any additional nominations. As no other nominations were received Commissioner Nicol called for a motion to close nominations and the Secretary cast one ballot for Chairman Carozza. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Brady and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Morris to close nominations for the position of Chairman. Motion carried.

Commissioner Nicol sought nominations for the position of Vice Chairman.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ouellette and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Brady to nominate Kevin Kowalski as Vice Chairman. Motion carried. Commissioner Nicol called for any additional nominations. As no other nominations were received Commissioner Nicol called for a motion to close nominations and the Secretary cast one ballot for Vice Chairman Kowalski. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Stankye and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Brady to close nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. Motion carried.

Commissioner Nicol sought nomination for the position of Secretary.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Stankye and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Brady to nominate James Wilkinson as Secretary. Motion carried. Commissioner Nicol called for any additional nominations. As no other nominations were received Commissioner Nicol called for a motion to close nominations and the Chairman cast one

ballot for Secretary Wilkinson. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Brady and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stankye to close nominations for the position of Secretary. Motion carried.

Chairman Carozza thanked Commissioner Nicol for Chairing the Nominations and Election Committee. He also thanked the members of the Commission for their support and confidence and said he's looking forward to another successful year.

Moving to item 4c.) Service Voucher Update – Mr. Morrisette gave an update regarding the FY07 Supplemental Grant Award Program. He said as of October 26<sup>th</sup> we have received 116 responses from eligible fire companies. Of the 116 responses 58 have selected the \$1,150 vouchers and 58 have selected the \$1,150 checks which were processed this past week. Therefore, those that elected checks should be receiving them within five business days. We still have approximately 40 fire companies which have not responded or notified us as to their intention on how the funding will be administered on their behalf. We will send a final letter to those companies and make it extremely clear that the funding will lapse if it is not utilized by the close of the fiscal year.

Approximately 12 companies carried funds over from last fiscal year but that will not be the case this year. He said the Business Office can provide to Commissioners a listing of those that have not responded as to the disposition of their funding.

Commissioner Brady requested that a list of the delinquent fire companies be sent to all Commissioners.

Moving to item 4d.) New London County IMT Recognition – Mr. Morrisette stated that he's not sure if there have been any further discussions but he did speak with Chief DeLia as of yesterday and he indicated he would try to contact Chairman Carozza to discuss the status.

Chairman Carozza remarked that Chief DeLia left him a message which he has not had an opportunity to get back to him so we will continue to table this item.

Moving to item 4e.) Minor Firefighter Issue – Mr. Morrisette called upon either Commissioner Brady or Kowalski to provide an update on the minor firefighter issue.

Commissioner Brady reported that we received a letter last week from the Department of Labor (DOL) outlining activities permitted and prohibited for firefighters under the age of 18. As Commissioners are aware, there was an accident that occurred in New Hartford that caused a stir within the DOL and they were looking to potentially cite the department for having minors on the apparatus. The State Fire Administrator had some concerns about the summer Cadet Camp program conducted by the CFA and how it might be impacted by any change in restrictions. There was a meeting at the DOL at which time it was decided by them that there would be no impact on the CFA Cadet Camp program however, there were a lot of issues related to Explorer, Junior and Cadet programs that existed throughout Connecticut's fire service. He said over the summer he and Commissioner Kowalski met several times with the DOL to clearly define a list of

guidelines for Cadets. The last meeting was in September which culminated in a list of guidelines. We worked on it and forwarded it back to the director of that department at which time they got back to us to say the letter had to be signed by the Labor Commissioner. He said that letter finally came last week and a copy was distributed to the Commission. This letter establishes the DOL guidelines for departments to build and operate a program. There is a statement in the letter that these are the maximum operating parameters and departments are free to build a program within the guidelines that this document creates. It is not an endorsement of any particular activity one way or the other; it is up to the local department to choose which activities are going to be permitted for their youth. He said one of the things that was the driving factor as to what activities were chosen was the desire to maintain consistency across all the public services that offer Cadet programs whether it is fire, police or emergency medical services (EMS) so there wouldn't be cases where certain activities were allowed for one and not the other. He said that would make enforcement of it a nightmare and it certainly would create a lot of havoc in the street where one service might allow something and another might not. He said they tried to create the broadest possible parameters for departments to establish programs and work within those to provide safe but meaningful activity for the youth of Connecticut. We don't want to have programs that are so watered down that there is no interest at that level nor do we want to have programs where the safety of these youth is compromised. Safety is going to be the key element in all of these. In the back of the letter there are three items the DOL Commissioner included and he and Commissioner Kowalski fully endorse those statements of the need for safety and that the authority of the Connecticut Occupational Safety and Health Administration (CONN-OSHA) is not diminished whatsoever. He also said there is no insulation from liability and ultimately it comes down to the local department being responsible for their program within these guidelines.

Commissioner Johnson arrived at 9:53 am.

Commissioner Morris asked if we were going to send an electronic copy of the letter on the Listserve so all departments would have the information.

Commissioner Brady remarked that we would try to do something to that but he has a brochure that the DOL has prepared already and this is under employment of minors in the state of Connecticut. Their expectation is to create a similar brochure that would be distributed. He said they also talked about the need to outreach to all the organizations and he had a conversation this morning with Chief McDonough from Southington who will be the incoming president of the CT Fire Chiefs' Association (CFCA). The CFCA and the CT Fire Department Instructors' Association (CFDIA) are planning a joint meeting in January which we expect to use as one of the roll out functions. He said he will make himself available to any of the county organizations to go out and make sure they have the information and we could get a PDF copy of the letter posted on the Commission's website.

There was a brief a discussion on how educational programs would be impacted by these guidelines.

Commissioner Morris also asked what this letter does to the Boys Scout of America program.

Commissioner Brady said it supersedes everything and the Boys Scouts have already accepted whatever the state is going to promulgate.

Commissioner Kowalski added that in the Boys Scouts of America documentation it is stated that they must follow all state and federal regulations.

Mr. Morrissette added that he's already transmitted the letter to Gregory Latz who is the head for the Connecticut Explorer programs and it is also Mr. Latz's intent to become more active in invigorating the programs and conduct more professional development for the advisors to try to prepare them to lead these programs and give them the tools to make them effective programs. He said he offered any assistance our agency could do to assist in that endeavor.

Commissioner Kowalski said that it is important to add that the intention of this program is to recruit and retain both in career and volunteer departments and the key point is these youths are not replacement workers that go to a job and do it. These are educational programs.

Commissioner Walsh asked for clarification purposes if this is an adopted document or will the Commission be voting on it.

Commissioner Brady remarked that it is his understanding that this is a ruling from the DOL.

Commissioner Ouellette added that this document is something we've been looking for and it is long overdue because accidents were happening without ruling and he applauds our Commissioners for stepping forward so we have input. He's not had the opportunity to review the letter in detail but in glancing at the letter item # 3 under the activities that may be performed by minors 16 and 17 states "may respond to emergencies on fire department apparatus after receiving proper training". He said this is too broad a statement and the Commission should inform the DOL to be more specific in clarifying what proper training is.

Chairman Carozza thanked Commissioner Ouellette for bringing up the issue because he has his own concerns especially on item #6 "fight grass fires, after receiving proper training" and he's not sure if this has happened in our state but he knows it's happened around the country where minors have been injured and killed fighting grass fires.

There was a discussion on some of the items in the letter that needed further clarification and that our Commissioners go back to the DOL and offer input to have them provide clarification on the area of training and response.

Chairman Carozza thanked both Commissioners for meeting with the DOL. He said it may be worthwhile for Commissioners to review the letter and bring concerns and suggestions within a week or so to the Committee and maybe they could have another meeting with the DOL to express our concerns.

Mr. Lewandowski added that from a training perspective at the CFA, we have to look at policies and he asked Commissioners to keep in mind that currently the CFA application process does not allow minors to take any training that is hands-on in nature and this obviously would change that so we have to consider how we're going to handle that.

Commissioner Kowalski added that he appreciates any input from the Commission but he thinks we should move ahead with the document and then make changes as we progress because quite frankly the Chiefs out there are waiting for this document.

Moving to item 5b.) Annual Report FY 2005/2006 – Mr. Morrisette stated that we had previously transmitted to Commissioners the annual report and we are seeking approval today from the Commission.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ouellette and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Nicol to approve the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control FY 05/06 Annual Report. Motion carried.

Moving to item 5c.) 2007 Legislative Session- Legislative Initiatives – Mr. Morrisette asked Commissioner Brady to provide an update on his initiatives.

Commissioner Brady stated that as president of the CFDIA they are proposing this year that all the fire service organizations stand behind them in an effort to push the Training Bill through the legislature. He said he's spoken to a lot of the organizational heads and they all seem to be in favor of it. We have a terrific opportunity this year with a Governor who really likes the fire service, a state budget with money in it. He said he finds it unacceptable that the state of Connecticut running several hundred million dollar surpluses cannot find two million dollars to fund firefighter training. It will take a very strong united effort of all the fire service to show up and get this Bill passed. He said he will be contacting the heads of the organizations to have a meeting before the end of November. His intention is to develop a position paper so that all the fire service organizations are talking off the same paper and we start our efforts in December with the Public Safety and Security Committee and the Governor's office to gain whatever support we need to get this through; and when the time comes, he feels we're going to have to get all the fire service united because this will benefit everyone career, volunteer, small towns and large cities. That is the expectation that this could relieve them of some of the funding issues related to basic fundamental firefighter training.

Chairman Carozza added that we've been working on an issue for a number of years and that is the establishment of a Fire Service Caucus in the legislature like the one in Washington. Commissioner Kowalski and a few others were involved and we've had some successful meetings with the Majority and Minority Leaders of the House, Senate

President Pro Tempore in addition to the Governor and Speaker of the House and they've all given the go ahead so we'll move forward with establishing a Fire Service Caucus in the Legislature which he thinks will certainly be a benefit to the fire service.

Mr. Morrisette introduced another guest to the meeting Wayne Maheu, Executive Director, Department of Public Safety Division of Fire and Emergency Building Services.

Moving to item 5d.) Overview of Mid-Atlantic Association of State Fire Commissions - Commissioner Nicol gave a brief overview of the conference. He said it was a three day conference with eight member states represented; DE, KY, MD, NJ, NC, PA, VA and WV. CT and TN were guest states and SC was absent. There were approximately 60 attendees and the keynote speakers were Dr. Denis Onieal, Superintendent of the National Fire Academy (NFA) who spoke on the Future of the Fire Service followed by Dr. Robert Fleming who spoke on Fire Commissioners as Agents of Change. Kentucky reported that EMS will become part of their fire service programs as of next month and they placed into operation a \$600,000 Driver Training Simulator Trailer this past month, one of the first in the nation of that sophistication. North Carolina reported that they conducted a Rookie class for volunteer firefighters without regular employment jobs which was held as an incentive to encourage them to enter into the career fire service. He said they are also planning on developing a statewide junior fire training program and there was considerable discussion regarding junior fire programs similar to the discussions we just had today. Pennsylvania has a Bill in their Legislature to regionalize fire service for the entire state to include career and volunteer fire departments. West Virginia is considering a five day boot camp similar to what we did the past couple years and are in discussions with their labor department regarding child labor laws. There were field trips to a number of places including; the New Jersey Emergency Operations Center commonly referred to as (ROIC), the Mt. Laurel Fire Station, Historic Whitesbog Village and Burlington County College. The business meeting was held and membership for Connecticut was approved. Future conferences will be held in Virginia in 2007 and Maryland in 2008. Connecticut is tentative for 2009. Commissioner Nicol concluded by thanking the State Fire Administrator's office for all the assistance with his presentation and travel arrangements.

Chairman Carozza thanked Commissioner Nicol for representing the Commission at the conference.

Moving to item 5e.) Tri-State Planning Initiative – Mr. Morrisette called on Commissioner Walsh for a presentation.

Commissioner Walsh gave a brief overview of the Tri-State Planning initiative. He said they've been meeting with a group consisting of representatives from NY, NJ and CT in an attempt to create a tri-state Fire Response Plan. It will be patterned off of the rescue and squad system in New York City where there are rescue and HazMat companies sporadically placed throughout the tri-state region supported by squad companies. The objective is if any incident should occur within this region these rescues, HazMat squad

companies would all respond to the incident together to give a sizeable team of like trained, like equipped companies to begin operating and cover the gap until state and federal resources arrive. There is a similar system used regionally in Westchester County, NY that seems to be successful. They built it in the region and now they're trying to expand it out into the tri-state area. He said they met earlier this summer with officials who attended from the Department of Homeland Security from Washington who met with the group and must have liked what they heard because they contracted with a consulting firm named IEM Consultants whom we met with two weeks ago. Their task, is within 45 days, put together a written pilot plan that can be analyzed on how this would all be set-up and configured. The overall goal is to have 100 of these teams throughout the country. The feedback from Homeland Security and IEM was very good and they thought it was a very workable plan. The funding for the plan right now is introduced in two Bills in Washington; one by Senator Schumer and the other by Representative Nita Lowey in NY and calls for funding needs for 10 years. We are currently waiting for the pilot plan to come back from IEM. Commissioner Walsh stated that Mr. Morrisette can provide more background information on this initiative.

Mr. Morrisette stated that this is an outcropping of a group called the Northeastern States Fire Consortium which was the initial group that put forward the FIRE Act. Initially, all of the major national fire service organizations would not support the FIRE Act; this was the group that actually got it moving. Eventually, I like to say when each organization got their payoff they began supporting the FIRE Act and it came to fruition. The Tri-state initiative has a lot of horsepower behind it which is grassroots oriented.

For the Westchester County initiative, their pilot program received about a half a million dollars in federal funding initially about three to four years ago to establish this pilot. He said what we are really looking to do is to receive some support for funding of personnel in addition to the standardization of equipment. They've had successes on a small regional level and they want to duplicate that elsewhere and figured instead of going to the entire northeastern region, the Tri-state initiative would probably work best. The State Administrative Agent (SAA) for each of the three states NY, NJ, and CT signed-off to request the technical assistance which has been brought in. He said Commissioner Thomas signed-off as our SAA for CT as did his counterparts in NJ and NY which resulted in a team being dispatched. He said the consultants were supposed to be doing field visits last Friday in Stamford and Greenwich but some bad weather prevented them from doing so.

Commissioner Kowalski asked how the initiative coincides with the National Response Plan (NRP) and whether it is supplementary to the NRP.

Mr. Morrisette said the initiative builds the first responder capacity at the local level. It would establish an everyday staffing level and standardize equipment and training so it would not be a special team like USAR and doesn't take over what their role is. Mr. Morrisette also said in one of their earlier meetings, held about two years ago and hosted by FDNY Chief Hayden in New York City, it was his position that they realize they can't do it alone anymore so they were reaching out.

Chairman Carozza thanked Commissioner Walsh for his presentation.

He said if there was no objection he would like to hold item 5f. to give our host the necessary time for their presentation and finish up with item 6 comments from the public.

Moving to item 6- Comments from the public – Mr. Maheu gave an update on Commissioner John Blashchik who had hip replacement surgery a few weeks ago. He said Commissioner Blashchik is doing really well and is walking up and down stairs although he's unable to drive. He said he spoke to him yesterday and Mr. Blashchik said he will try to make it to the office sometime this afternoon for an hour or so. He's feeling physically better and is doing really well.

Chairman Carozza asked Mr. Maheu to extend our best wishes to Commissioner Blashchik.

Lt. John Ricci of Middletown fire department commented regarding the minor firefighter document. He said it was long overdue and that he started in an Explorer program back in 1982 with a volunteer fire department going the route of not looking into that direction of the health hazards, the risks is not the way to go. He said when he began in 1982 there were 12 of them and 9 are now career officers throughout the state. He said it is his personal belief that if it wasn't for the Explorer program he would probably be on the streets doing drugs and alcohol and this kept a small group of guys from not going in that direction. He said the program worked for 12 of them years ago so he's sure it can help today.

Moving to item 7 – Matters to be raised by Commissioners and staff – Commissioner Nicol reminded Commissioners about the retirement party for Fred Piechota on November 10<sup>th</sup>. He said he plans to attend and hopes other members will try to attend as well.

Commissioner Wilkinson read correspondence addressed to Chairman Carozza regarding a CT Chapter Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters (CPCU) 2006 donation. A donation of \$1,000 was received from the CPCU, a non-profit organization comprised of insurance professional who have a long proud tradition of promoting excellence in education, ethics and leadership. The donation will be used to purchase software to train fire officers to develop skills and techniques that are needed in supervising firefighters at emergency scenes.

Mr. Morrisette reminded Commissioners that following this meeting there will be a fact finding forum scheduled for 1:30 pm at the Legislative Office Building (LOB), hearing room 1C relative to Public Act 06-22. He said Chief Teale is out of the country this week however there are a number of people who will be there to speak on the issue. He said he had also extended an invite to Lee Erdman, the City of Hartford Chief Operating Officer but he did not return his call so he's not sure if he will attend.

He also said Jim Carroll from the staff and a member of the North Farms Volunteer fire department extended an invite to a representative of the Commission to attend their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event scheduled to be held on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Mountain Side Resort facility in Wallingford.

Mr. Morrissette also distributed a save the date flyer for the upcoming SERC conference scheduled to be held December 7 at the LOB in Hartford.

He also gave an update on the Foam Trailers. He said he and Commissioner Johnson along with Jack Regier and possibly Chief Grant will be traveling to Massachusetts to conduct an inspection of the three Foam Trailer units. They are still working on identifying the host locations for them and he believes one will be placed in lower Fairfield County to support the operations there and Litchfield County is another area being looked at as well as somewhere in the northeastern part of the state.

Lastly, Mr. Morrissette stated as a follow-up to Commissioner Kowalski's earlier inquiry related to CFA Policy 06-54 regarding the employment of new Adjunct Instructors. He said there were some concerns raised on the part of the Regional Fire Schools at the end of the last CSFA Education Committee meeting that instructors hired by the CFA would not be able to work for Regional Fire Schools and that this may contradict the Mission Delineation Agreement. He asked Mr. Lewandowski to comment on it. Also, there were three Commissioners present at that meeting and may have some follow-up.

Commissioner Stankye remarked that in reading the policy today, it is not the way it was communicated at the CSFA Education Committee meeting. He said they are very concerned that the CFA is cutting off the so called cooperation between the CFA and the Regional Schools in not allowing CFA Instructors to teach at the Regional Schools but he doesn't see that in his initial reading of the policy.

Mr. Lewandowski said one of the things we're faced with is the fact that as we get busier we're not able to meet our commitments with the staff that we have. At the present time we're conducting Adjunct interviews to fill vacancies. He said in looking at Mission Delineation there are times it is followed and times when it is not depending on who is looking at Mission Delineation and how they are interpreting it so that is something that may need revisiting. He said a lot of the Instructors are competing for time being involved with so many things out there but we need people that we hire to work at the CFA to be available when we need them. He said this was not just about the Regional Schools but other competing things. The policy does not apply to any of our current Instructors and is being looked at for new hires. He said DAS reviewed the policy and it is an off shoot of the state Ethics policy. They are the ones that communicate it at the interview sessions. The bottom line is personal choices and it's nothing against the Regional Schools. It's about having people available to do the work we're supposed to do.

Commissioner Stankye asked where are these new Instructors for the CFA supposed to get their experience. He said this came out of the Education Committee meeting that

Instructors approached the CFA and were told they have to get more experience before they can come in here. If they are not allowed to teach at the Regional Schools or in their Training divisions where are they going to get this experience.

Mr. Lewandowski replied that there are many opportunities to gain experience. He said we had one person that came in and had his own training company, we brought this issue up and he responded that he'd rather us go out and get the work than having to do it himself. He said of the 32 applicants that have come in over the last four months only three of them are involved with the Regional Schools. We are looking at strengthening our system and avoiding individuals who are spread out too thin.

Commissioner Stankye asked if the policy is for full-time Instructors of the CFA or for part-time Instructors.

Mr. Lewandowski said it is for part-time Adjunct Instructors.

Commissioner Kowalski added that theoretically a full-time employee would not be covered under this policy so they could work at a Regional School.

Mr. Lewandowski said theoretically they don't because it could be considered a competing conflict of interest.

Commissioner Kowalski remarked that it is a very substantial policy issue and he doesn't think it is a minor point. He said he's received calls from several people and he agrees with the fact that the CFA is singling out the Regional Fire Schools and that is the perception out there whether it is true or not by saying if you work for a Regional Fire School don't come to the CFA for work. There is a lot of talent out there in the Regional Fire Schools that is perfect for an Adjunct Instructor on the state level. He said he doesn't feel we need to be tinkering with the Regional Fire Schools at this point.

Commissioner Brady added that he has a real issue with that policy especially to the extent when there is more and more cooperation between the Commission, the CFA and the Regional Fire Schools. He said we're getting a good level of cooperation between all the organizations and he's really concerned about driving wedges within our fire service over something like this. He said he understands the point about the time demands we all have but it is imperative that the CFA get the number of Adjuncts up to where it should be as it is his understanding that it is significantly below the number. He said if that can be achieved then part of the time demand issue might not be so prevalent and he understands it is a long term process but we should be real careful about driving wedges.

A discussion period followed.

Chairman Carozza said he knows this is an issue that requires further discussion so we should table this for another meeting.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Stankye and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Brady to table this item for further discussion at the next meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Morrissette stated as a follow up to the issue there is often times where people believe there is a conspiracy theory behind everything we do. The point he would like to make is that there was no malice or intent to negatively impact any entity. He said the only intent of the policy was to provide a platform for the agency to operate and function professionally and effectively. Our intent is pure and is for the betterment of the fire service as a whole. We will ask the Training Director to provide an overview and clarification.

Commissioner Johnson added that he agrees and there is a way to get this done.

Chairman Carozza reminded members that there is a tour of the USAR facility at the end of the meeting and moved to item 8.

Moving to item 8 – Adjournment – Tour of USAR Facility and Equipment Demo.

Chief John Mancini, Deputy Chief of Waterbury fire department gave a presentation on the Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce CT-TF-1. He said the taskforce was established in December of 2002 to assist local, state and emergency responders with technical rescue incidents beyond their capabilities. They are not to take the place of emergency responders. They are under the auspices of DEMHS and the team consists of volunteers from a variety of disciplines such as law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medical, healthcare, engineering and other governmental agencies and private corporations.

Following the presentation there was a brief question and answer period.

Commissioner Morris asked if the team had resources such as portable restroom facilities.

Lt. Ricci replied that they are underway.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the team had any operating engineers.

Chief Mancini said they hope to have three engineers on board very soon and have Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's) so they can operate anywhere in the state.

Commissioner Johnson also asked if there are any battery powered tools used by the team.

Lt. Ricci replied there is gas and battery powered tools.

Commissioner Brady asked if there are any members of the USAR team that is a member of the DMAT team.

Chief Mancini said no.

Sgt. Nockunas explained the concept of stipends. He said stipends are a way of the future. When a fire service personnel is working for the team they are allowed to work three days regular employment and then work for the USAR team the other days at over-time pay. The municipality is given a \$2,000 stipend from which they get their over-time pay.

Commissioner Morris asked if the team was equipped with any satellite trucks.

Lt. Ricci said not yet but they are working on it.

Chief Mancini stated that a big challenge of the team is members getting sponsorship from their organizations.

Sgt. Nockunas indicated they have received 1.7 million dollars in bonds that have not yet been approved by the Bond Commission.

Commissioner Brady asked when the team gets deployed for a period of time if members receive pay from their municipality.

Chief Mancini said only if the organization sponsors their participation.

Chief Mancini thanked the Commission for allowing them to host the meeting and said they would be happy to host another meeting in the future.

Mr. Morrissette thanked Sgt. Nockunas and the members of the team for their presentation and tour.

Chairman Carozza adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.

Dated:

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