

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25, 2000 MEETING OF  
THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Carozza with the following members present: Commissioners Brammer, Haber, Kowalski, Maheu, Milewski, Mullen, Nicol, Stankye, Vendetta and Wilkinson. Commissioner Vendetta arrived at 9:45 a.m. and Commissioner Johnson arrived at 10:00 a.m. Commissioners Gomeau and Munkenbeck were excused. Staff members Morrissette, Lewandowski, O'Neil, Ouellette, Piechota and Piskura were present.

Chairman Carozza introduced and welcomed First Selectman for the Town of Thomaston Clifford C. Brammer, Jr., as a new member of the Commission. Mr. Brammer has been appointed by the Governor to replace Commissioner Robert Chatfield representing the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

Mr. Morrissette introduced as a guest to the meeting Michael Guerrero, Planning Specialist with the Department of Public Safety, Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunication, Mr. Guerrero was invited to provide an update on an E911 routing failure that occurred in East Hartford.

Chairman Carozza asked to move to New Business, item 5 a.) on the agenda to allow the guest to speak.

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kowalski and Seconded by Commissioner Brammer to move to allow Mr. Guerrero to give an overview of the E911 routing failure in East Hartford. Motion carried.*

Mr. Guerrero reported on a 911 call that was misrouted causing a five-minute delay in a response to a house fire in East Hartford. On the afternoon of March 30, a 911 call was made by an East Hartford resident who subscribes to AT&T for local phone service. AT&T is one of many Certified Local Exchange Carriers (CLEC) that provide phone service in the state. At one time SNET for the most part, was the only provider of phone service in the state. Now with deregulation, the DPUC has given license to many other entities giving them the ability to provide phone service in Connecticut. Some CLECs are called facilities based CLECs. They have their own infrastructure, their own wires in the street; they are not resellers of SNET service. As a result of having their own telephone switches and their own cabling they need to provide customer information to SNET for the 911 System. In this case, incorrect location data was given to SNET on this particular individual's address. On March 30

at 1:44 p.m. a resident at 47 Elm Street in East Hartford made a 911 call reporting a fire at his residence. The call instead of being routed to the East Hartford Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) was routed to the Hartford Police Department, which is the 911 answering point for the City of Hartford. The PSAP in Hartford dispatched fire apparatus to 47 Elm Street in that city. Hartford responders arrived at that address to find no fire. At that time it was determined by Hartford PD that maybe they should inform East Hartford that perhaps the fire could be there. About the same time a cellular call was placed by a passerby in East Hartford which was received by Troop H and correctly routed to the East Hartford Fire Department at 1:49 p.m. East Hartford firefighters were dispatched at 1:50 p.m. and they arrived at the scene at 1:52 p.m. and the fire was declared under control by 2:00 p.m. As a result of this incident there was an article in the Hartford Courant that shed a negative light on the 911 System. According to Mr. Guerrero SNET has done a wonderful job in maintaining the accuracy of its database for selectively routing calls to the proper PSAP along with providing address information for those locations. With CLECs in the mix, errors are sometime made when incorrect customer information is entered into the database.

The fallout from this incident caused four legislators to write a letter to Commissioner Lee requesting that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) assist in a DPUC investigation of the incident. A 911 Commission meeting was held on April 7. Invited to attend this meeting was AT&T who was the CLEC provider in this event along with the other CLECs. AT&T representatives attended and explained that the reason for the error or missed directed call was due to a duplicate address error. They've assured the 911 Commission that this has been corrected and they are going to implement crosschecks to avoid a repeat of the error. OSET is going to assist the DPUC in any way to investigate this further and to prevent it from happening again. Currently the DPUC has a Docket that has been open for two years (i.e. Docket #980426) which involves an investigation into the treatment of emergency situations by local exchange carriers and certified local exchange carriers in Connecticut. This docket was to insure that the CLECs provide equal service to their customers regarding 911. About a year ago, a technical meeting was held for this Docket. All CLECs were informed that they were required to provide emergency call trace numbers so that PSAPs could contact them in the event a call trace on a 911 call had to be performed as a result of a lost call or when no verbal communication with the caller is achieved. All CLECs were asked to provide updates to the SNET database within the stated DPUC requirements, which is two or three days depending upon the database involved. Any further errors that occur hopefully will be minimized as a result of this occurrence in East Hartford.

Mr. Morrissette stated that he invited Mr. Guerrero to come before the Commission because he received inquiries about the East Hartford incident from two Commissioners. The CLEC issue has been before the 911 Commission for about two years and remains as an open docket within the DPUC.

Commissioner Nicol inquired when this docket would be acted upon.

Mr. Guerrero stated that the DPS is also wondering why this docket has been open for two years and no decision made. Recently DPUC contacted DPS requesting they resubmit information that was submitted one year ago. DPS assumed in light of the particular problem that just occurred some decision will be made soon.

Commissioner Kowalski inquired if the CLECs were required to notify the emergency services or the towns that a secondary phone provider is being used in that community?

Mr. Guerrara stated that there was no specific requirement that they do so.

Chairman Carozza asked for a motion to return to the regular order of business.

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kowalski and SECONDED by Commissioner Stankye to return to the regular order of business. Motion carried.*

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Wilkinson and SECONDED by Commissioner Milewski to approve the minutes of the February 29, 2000 meeting. Motion carried.*

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kowalski and SECONDED by Commissioner Milewski to approve the Staff Report for the period of February 15, 2000 - March 14, 2000 and March 15, 2000 – April 14, 2000. Motion carried.*

Moving to item 4 a.) Mr. Piechota reported on the IFSAC annual meeting that he attended two weeks prior in Lexington, Kentucky. IFSAC was very pleased to have the Commission represented at this meeting. He stated that it was a very fruitful meeting and he thought that as an organization, IFSAC takes a great deal of pride in the process they employ. A certificate of accreditation was presented to us at this meeting.

Pursuant to the Commission's direction two months ago, a letter from the State Fire Administrator was sent out to all Fire Service Organizations and Fire Departments/Companies. This letter informs that the Commission has received IFSAC accreditation and is now allowing those previously certified by us apply for grandfathering by IFSAC.

The Training Division is moving forward on the new Officer curriculum and thus the Certification Division will apply shortly to IFSAC for accreditation to these new levels. We are currently accredited for Officer I. We can be accredited to Officer II, III & IV administratively with no additional site visit required.

Commissioner Kowalski inquired if the agency had done a press release announcing the Commission's IFSAC accreditation. He indicated this should be publicized not just to our customers but also to the general public.

Mr. Morrissette stated that the letter and the application have been posted on the Web site. He also added that his article in one of the recent editions of the First Responder Newspaper included information on the Commission's IFSAC accreditation.

Moving to item 4 b.) Mr. Morrissette gave a brief legislative update. He stated that there was a lot of activity at the Capitol. Over the past two months' his Staff Reports have contained updates on action taken such as passage of the open burning bill. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has promised to release an informational letter to fire marshals on this amended legislation. Mr. Morrissette indicated he offered to review the letter prior to mailing. To date no draft has been

provided. The fire marshals have a couple more outstanding issues if Commissioners Kowalski or Vendetta wish to speak.

Commissioner Kowalski stated that there's another Bill in the Senate (Bill #557) which is an act allowing the legalization of sparklers and non-aerial devices including smoke bombs, snakes, sparklers and things of that nature. The Fire Marshals' Association is actively working to stop this legislation because they feel it would be open season for anyone of any age to go to a drugstore and be able to buy these products. He thanked Commissioner Maheu from the Department of Public Safety for his assistance in fighting this legislation.

Mr. Morrisette stated there is action pending to amend the tax abatement legislation passed last year. The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is trying to offer a couple of amendments that would in addition to permitting the abatement of up to \$1,000 in property taxes, an option to permit an exemption applicable to the assessed value of real or personal property up to an amount equal to the quotient of \$1 million divided by the mill rate. They also wish to have a provision where a municipality can negotiate a reciprocal credit clause for individuals living in one town but volunteering in another. This would be by inter-local agreement. There is a problem with the language right now. A number of definitions were included such as defining a firefighter as an unpaid member of an organized fire district. We are not quite sure if that's going to cause a problem for volunteers who are not part of a fire district. We have notified CCM's legislation representative on that issue.

Moving to item 4 c.) Mr. Morrisette gave an update on the Firefighters' Memorial. The Committee sent out a mailing a few weeks ago, which has generated approximately \$7,000 in additional donations. He stated that he received a telephone call from the Lieutenant Governor's Office yesterday seeking to schedule a meeting to discuss the possibility of her taking a role to support this project. They wish to set up a meeting this week with the Chairman of the committee. An invitation was also extended to Chairman Carozza. The main concern of the LT. Governor is that this be a viable project.

A discussion period followed.

Moving to item 5 b.) Business and Industry Activity Report Chairman Carozza stated that he would entertain a motion to table this item at this time.

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Haber and SECONDED by Commissioner Milewski to table the Business and Industry Activity Report. Motion carried.*

Moving to item 5 c.) Commissioner Haber read a letter from David M. Bowen, Rodeo Chairman, Connecticut Fire Department Instructors' Association requesting the Commission's support of this event.

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Stankye and SECONDED by Commissioner Wilkinson to in support of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire Apparatus Drivers' Rodeo on Sunday, May 21, 2000. Motion carried.*

Moving to item 5 d.) Mr. Morrisette stated that he would, at this time, entertain questions on the Draft Audit Report for FY 1998-99. He stated that he received a call just yesterday from the Principal Auditor indicating they did not concur with one of our responses. They asked him to take another look

at the response and submit amended language. An amended reply will be submitted shortly. Once received, they will incorporate our response into the final report and issue the report within the next 30 days. The agency has already begun instituting some of the recommendations. Mr. Morrisette extended thanks to the staff for all their assistance during the audit period.

Moving to item 5 e.) Mr. Morrisette gave an overview of a legislative proposal to fund a training facility in the town of Rocky Hill. He stated that he had extended an invitation to the Fire Chief to attend today's meeting to discuss this issue.

It was noticed that a Bill was proposed in the legislature to provide funding to the Rocky Hill Fire Department to establish a training facility. As soon as the Bill was published, Mr. Morrisette sent a copy of the proposed Bill to the Fire Chief and extended an offer of technical assistance. This offer of assistance is quite customary and no different than an offer to any fire department or regional fire school. Several weeks later we received a request from Rocky Hill's Training Officer to meet to discuss the proposal.

On March 3<sup>rd</sup> a meeting was held with the Chief and Training Officer. During this meeting we discussed the Regional Fire School system and training in general. A follow-up meeting was held between Rocky Hill's Training Officer and Director of Training Piskura. Two weeks later we received a call requesting a letter of support for this project to be sent from the Commission to Rep. Tulisano, sponsor of the proposal. Due to a scheduling conflict, Mr. Morrisette was unable to meet with the Rocky Hill representatives. Training Director Piskura met with them once again to determine specifically what was being requested. Language for a model fire school initiative was discussed however Mr. Piskura explained the Commission would need to review the document and authorize its transmittal. Due to the need for a 24-hour turnaround this request was impossible to meet. In consultation with Chairman Carozza and Vice Chair Kowalski it was determined the request could not be acted upon until discussion at the Commission's next meeting. Also, the general feeling was the Commission's participation in such a project would be problematic to the Regional Fire School System.

Mr. Morrisette contacted the Chief and told him we could not go on record to support this project. The Chief was extremely disappointed and could not understand why the Commission would not support this model initiative. A subsequent meeting was held with the Chief, Town Manager and a member of the Town Council's Public Safety Committee to discuss this issue.

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Vendetta and SECONDED by Commissioner Haber that the Commission wishes to go on record stating that the State Fire Administrator and staff acted appropriately and they support the decision and actions taken on the Rocky Hill matter.*

Further discussion ensued on the Rocky Hill matter.

*The MOTION was AMENDED by Commissioner Vendetta and SECONDED by Commissioner Haber that the Commission conveys with the action taken by the State Fire Administrator on the Rocky Hill matter. Motion carried.*

Moving to item 5 f.) Mr. Piskura gave an overview of the proposed fee schedule for the Kid's Fire Safety House for the Year 2000. He stated that after careful consideration and review of expenses and in consideration of our clients the following fee schedule is being proposed:

Schools, Camps, Educational Institutions, etc. (Full Day)	\$175.
Fairs, Carnivals, Fee Charging Events (less than 5 hours)	\$200.
Corporate Events (6-8 hours)	\$250.
Greater than 8 hour (charge per hour)	\$ 30.

It is also proposed that the penalty clause be removed for multiple day assignments and arrangements be made for housing the trailer in other parts of the state when warranted. In addition, in the case where trained firefighters in a host town volunteer their service to operate the Kid's Fire Safety House, reduced fees may be able to be established for delivery, set up and return. This may be challenging at first, but could prove to be a solution to our problem of canceling programs due to a lack of drivers/operators.

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kowalski and SECONDED by Commissioner Milewski to approve the proposed Kid's Fire Safety House fees for Year 2000. Motion carried.*

A discussion period followed concerning fees charged for all training programs delivered by the Academy.

Commissioner Kowalski stated that he has had discussions with the State Fire Administrator regarding the substantial increase of fees for training programs. Some customers have expressed their concern to him because they have needs that are required and financially they just can't afford to do it. His recommendation, to show that we're proactive, is to establish a subcommittee to review course fees.

Chairman Carozza asked if anyone was interested in serving on the subcommittee to review training fees.

Commissioners Kowalski, Stankye and Vendetta volunteered to serve on the subcommittee to review training fees. The Subcommittee along with the State Fire Administrator and Training Division should be prepared to report at the next Commission meeting.

Moving to item 5 g.) Mr. Morrissette gave an overview of the Domestic Preparedness Equipment Program Grant. The March, 2000 Commission meeting was cancelled to allow the State Fire Administrator and Chief Massicotte, Waterbury Fire Department to attend a planning meeting in Philadelphia. These individuals serve on the state's planning committee, which will apply for a \$750,000 grant in Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) equipment funding. The intent of this grant program, as we understand it, is that about \$620,000 is available as direct equipment grants to local first responders. Another \$130,000 is available as planning grants. There were 10 representatives from the State of Connecticut at this planning meeting. One of the key problems that we face is that there is no statewide response plan that addresses weapons of mass destruction incidents. To our knowledge, no fire service plan exists. There are a lot of people trying to spin their own definition of first responder. Representatives on the Planning Group Committee include the Department of Public Safety, State Department of Health, the fire service, local law enforcement and the Office of Emergency

Management who identified their role as advisory. OEM has stated several times that the Military Department (who they fall under administratively) understands that they are not first responders. There's going to be a lot of positioning for this very limited funding. The other problem is that the grant application process is one of the most comprehensive processes that the Office of Policy and Management has ever seen. It's really not a bad process but it will be very time consuming, very detailed oriented. The group has been broken into a several subcommittees. On a local level, fire and police chiefs along with local town officials will be asked to supply information. A local threat and risk assessment and a capability and needs assessment needs to be done statewide. The problem is that most states will do this on a county level but in Connecticut we have to do it on a community level.

Today there is a meeting taking place at the Department of Public Safety to develop a threat assessment tool. Public Safety will work with the FBI and the Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association to develop this tool. They feel that they have most of the information on file as they have already done a threat assessment on a local, regional and state level. More information will be forthcoming about this in the very near future. Equipment grant funding should be available sometime in the fall. Right now this looks to be about a three-year grant program with the possibility of increased funding in future years.

Moving to item 5 h.) Mr. Morrisette stated that it was brought to the agency's attention by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) that they were soliciting reuse proposals for surplus state property located in Seymour. The property encompasses about .6 acres of land and a six bay fleet operations repair garage consisting of approximately 4,000 square feet. As the Commission is aware, we have been in dire need of storage facilities for some time. In the winter months a lot of our trailers are left outside subject to the elements. Occasionally we'll receive approval from a local fire department to store a piece of our equipment in a vacant bay. It would be more useful for us to have a single location where we could store equipment and mobile assets. It appears from a quick review, this property may be a possible temporary solution. He stated that he contacted the Department of Public Works prior to the winter months asking for assistance in locating temporary storage. They had a couple of options that never materialized. When he saw the announcement for the Seymour property he thought this might be something the Commission may want to pursue. Mr. Piskura had an opportunity to view the property, but because it was fenced he could not get too close a look.

Mr. Piskura stated that it was a DAS fleet garage facility. The building appears to be in good shape from the fence line. It has a nice clean, paved lot except for some oil spills on the pavement where an above ground waste recovery tank was located. There is a working gas pump on the site that would be a benefit for our staff. It's located conveniently off Route 8.

Mr. Piskura stated the one thing he has been beat up on since he's been at the Academy is a lack of storage space. A lot of the modifications to the facilities that Commissioners have seen have been to gain space. We've lost classroom space to storage. We enclosed the mezzanine in the fire station and we just need a place to put "stuff". The six bays would work wonderfully for our rolling stock. We are also in process of acquiring the Department of Corrections pumper and we don't have any more space. These are valuable assets that we would like to be able to store inside. The Seymour property is not an ideal location for us, but right now it's a way of getting our rolling stock in out of the weather.

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Wilkinson and SECONDED by Commissioner Haber that the Commission supports the staff in their efforts to acquire the surplus property in Seymour.*

Commissioner Maheu inquired about the liabilities the Commission would assume on the Seymour property. Would the Commission be responsible for any clean up of oil storage?

Mr. Morrissette stated that to date, he has only submitted a notification of interest for the property. This lets OPM know we're interested. In conversations that Mr. O'Neil had with OPM he was told that there are about ten people interested in this property with only one from a state agency. We now have 90 days to submit a reuse plan. We would have to ascertain information from the previous tenant about the underground storage tanks. Obviously it's a state facility now so the state is responsible. We will have the next 90 days to investigate our liabilities.

Commissioner Maheu stated that the Commission needs to know right up front what the inherent liabilities are.

Commissioner Johnson inquired about heating and security of the facility.

Mr. Morrissette stated the reuse plan would need to address all these issues along with budget support. OPM and DAS would have to supply the numbers for the reuse plan and it would all be contingent upon funding.

Commissioner Nicol asked the Administrator whether he was aware of any other sites that might be available.

Mr. Morrissette stated that this is the first property of its kind that he has seen advertised as surplus.

Commissioner Nicol stated that DOT has a maintenance facility on the Berlin Turnpike that is not being used right now.

Mr. Morrissette stated that when he saw the notice for the Seymour property, it was the first time he saw a property like it. This is exactly what we are looking for. He passed this information on to Mr. Piskura and asked him to inspect the property. Our point collectively is that it's not in the best location but it could work for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Lewandowski stated that the property on the Berlin/Meriden line is up for sale by the Department of Transportation. This is the same type of building with standard six bays and gas pumps. There's a bit more property and it's a very good location.

Chairman Carozza stated that he thinks everyone is in agreement with the concept. Maybe more information could be obtained and explore other possibilities and report at the next meeting or sooner.

Commissioner Nicol stated this appears to be a relatively short-term solution to the Academy's storage problems. In looking at a master plan for this facility, this is an area that we certainly should look at and try to get some type of storage area or large garage to accommodate all our rolling stock equipment.

Mr. Morrisette stated that he concurs with Commissioner Nicol. We see this as a temporary solution until something could be built permanently at the Academy.

Commissioner Nicol inquired when the next budget development process would start.

Mr. O'Neil indicated that submittal of the forms is usually scheduled for September 1.

Chairman Carozza asked if there was any further discussion on the motion.

*Motion carried.*

Commissioner Nicol stated that while at the Connecticut Officers Weekend at the National Fire Academy (NFA) Superintendent Onieal asked him to convey two issues to the Commission. Superintendent Onieal spoke about an issue on the use of programs delivered at the NFA for local delivery and also about some money (\$25,000) that the NFA wants to give to the states to enhance their programs locally. Superintendent Onieal asked Mr. Piskura to speak to the NFA Board of Visitors. Dr. Onieal reported that Mr. Piskura was very convincing to the Board and because of his presentation the Board later voted positively in support of this initiative.

Mr. Lewandowski spoke to the Commission representing himself as Fire Chief for the Kensington Fire Department. He stated that recently the departments in his town contracted for a FF-II class through the Hartford County Regional Fire School. Many of his department members taking this class have several years of experience. Mr. Lewandowski stated that in his dealing with training we allow individuals to enter a class at a level higher than FF-II level without having received certification at the FF-I level. The grandfather clause used for prerequisites states "if you were a firefighter prior to July 1, 1977". This clause is referenced in several places in the Academy's course catalog. Two individuals informed him that they were not able to take the practical exam nor the written test because they were not certified FF-I. One of these individuals has 23-1/2 years in the department and another has 27 years. Mr. Lewandowski stated that he discussed this issue with Messrs. Morrisette and Piechota who were very helpful and advised him to bring this matter before the Commission. He stated that maybe we need to have everything standardized because the FF-II requirement seem to be polarized amongst all the other levels of certification. He requested that we take a look at streamlining certification prerequisites so that there is not just one level that is left out in left field vs. all the other programs that we offer.

Mr. Piechota explained the prerequisites for the different levels of certification and the Commission's challenge process.

Commissioner Kowalski suggested that Messrs. Piechota and Piskura come before the Commission next month with a report on what their official recommendation is pertaining to this situation.

A discussion period followed.

Mr. Piskura addressed the Commission on the subject of adjunct instructors freelancing. He defined freelancing as an adjunct employee of the Academy who also offers instructional services on their

own. This has not been a particular issue until approximately six months ago when he first received a phone call from a career fire chief who wanted to know where his firefighter was teaching on a particular day. It turned out that the person was not teaching for the Academy that day, but the person was teaching at a private job. As recently as two weeks ago, Mr. Piskura stated while he was investigating a delivery problem with a Haz-Mat course, two instructors meeting with him asked for additional time to talk about freelancing. They indicated that they were being tapped by individual fire departments to teach for them. These departments did not want the Connecticut Fire Academy called. This presents all kinds of problems. One of the actions he took was to survey the other 50 state training agencies via the internet. He indicated that he received responses from about 12 states of which maybe 5 have content that is worthy of conversation. This area requires examination. We do not have a specific stated policy in our current handbook and he thinks we need to have a policy. He suggested that possibly another sub-committee could be set up to look at this issue.

Chairman Carozza inquired if any Commissioners were interested.

Commissioner Kowalski stated that based on the other subcommittee task discussed previously there's quite a parallel here with that project. Clearly if a person sees that we're charging \$200 for a class and you get an adjunct instructor offers to do it for \$150 that's a problem. We may want to combine the two issues discussed today for the same subcommittee to review.

A discussion period followed.

Chairman Carozza inquired if there was any objections to charging the subcommittee with this issue also.

Commissioners Johnson and Nicol volunteered to work on the subcommittee to review the issue of course fees and to develop an adjunct instructor freelancing policy.

Mr. Morrisette stated that the Department of Public Health did forward to us a copy of the successful bid for paramedic testing. If anybody would like a copy of that document we would be happy to provide it to you. After a quick review, it appears that our bid was 100% higher than the Capitol Community Technical College bid. One of our questions was how could they offer the service so cheap?

Mr. Morrisette spoke about an issue Mr. Piechota had with the City of Norwalk and their entry-level training program.

Mr. Piechota gave an overview of an issue relating to the City of Norwalk and their entry-level training program offered in conjunction with Norwalk Community Technical College. Approximately one year ago the City of Norwalk sought permission from the Commission to allow a recruit training class, of non-fire service people, to be trained and ultimately certified. Permission was granted with the proviso that at the conclusion of the training program the people be tested to the level of FF-I, but they would not be granted certification until they become a member of a fire department. That process has gone forward and most of those people have been subsequently employed and granted their FF-I certification. The City of Norwalk has now taken it upon themselves to do a similar training program

for non-fire service people in-house without the community technical college. It is our opinion that they are expecting the same testing process to be administered for this program.

A discussion period followed.

Chairman Carozza asked to have the minutes researched for the Norwalk issue and report at the next meeting.

Chairman Carozza reminded the Commissioners that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 30 at 7:00 p.m. in Middlebury.

Mr. Morrissette stated that an invitation would be extended to former Commissioner Bob Chatfield to attend the meeting and be recognized.

Chairman Carozza presented a citation to State Fire Administrator Morrissette for his 15 years of service. He stated that he knows everyone is in agreement that Mr. Morrissette does an outstanding job as the State Fire Administrator. He stated that in his dealings with Mr. Morrissette he has always been very accommodating. Again he's a great example for the fire service and the State of Connecticut, here at the Academy, at the Legislature and certainly in his travels around the state.

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

Chairman Carozza adjourned the meeting at 12:00 a.m.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

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Edward F. Haber, Secretary  
Commission on Fire  
Prevention and Control

MOTIONS

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kowalski and Seconded by Commissioner Brammer to move to allow Mr. Guerrero to give an overview of the E911 routing failure in East Hartford. Motion carried.*

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kowalski and SECONDED by Commissioner Stankye to return to the regular order of business. Motion carried.*

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Wilkinson and SECONDED by Commissioner Milewski to approve the minutes of the February 29, 2000 meeting. Motion carried.*

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kowalski and SECONDED by Commissioner Milewski to approve the Staff Report for the period of February 15, 2000 - March 14, 2000 and March 15, 2000 – April 14, 2000. Motion carried.*

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Haber and SECONDED by Commissioner Milewski to table the Business and Industry Activity Report. Motion carried.*

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Stankye and SECONDED by Commissioner Wilkinson to in support of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire Apparatus Drivers' Rodeo on Sunday, May 21, 2000. Motion carried.*

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Vendetta and SECONDED by Commissioner Haber that the Commission wishes to go on record stating that the State Fire Administrator and staff acted appropriately and they support the decision and actions taken on the Rocky Hill matter.*

*The MOTION was AMENDED by Commissioner Vendetta and SECONDED by Commissioner Haber that the Commission conquers with the action taken by the State Fire Administrator on the Rocky Hill matter. Motion carried.*

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kowalski and SECONDED by Commissioner Milewski to approve the proposed Kid's Fire Safety House fees for Year 2000. Motion carried.*

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Wilkinson and SECONDED by Commissioner Haber that the Commission supports the staff in their efforts to acquire the surplus property in Seymour. Motion carried.*

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

STAFF FOLLOW-UP REQUIRED

**IFSAC Accreditation** - Commissioner Kowalski inquired if the agency had done a press release announcing the Commission's IFSAC accreditation. He indicated this should be publicized not just to our customers but also to the general public.

Mr. Morrisette stated that the letter and the application have been posted on the Web site. He also added that his article in one of the recent editions of the First Responder Newspaper included information on the Commission's IFSAC accreditation.

**Business and Industry Activity Report** - A motion was made to table this item.

**Fees charged for all training programs delivered by the Academy** - Commissioner Kowalski stated that he has had discussions with the State Fire Administrator regarding the substantial increase of fees for training programs. Some customers have expressed their concern to him because they have needs that are required and financially they just can't afford to do it. His recommendation, to show that we're proactive, is to establish a subcommittee to review course fees.

Chairman Carozza asked if anyone was interested in serving on the subcommittee to review training fees.

Commissioners Kowalski, Stankye and Vendetta volunteered to serve on the subcommittee to review training fees. The Subcommittee along with the State Fire Administrator and Training Division should be prepared to report at the next Commission meeting.

**Acquisition of State surplus property** -

Chairman Carozza stated that he thinks everyone is in agreement with the concept. Maybe more information could be obtained and explore other possibilities and report at the next meeting or sooner.

**Certification grandfathering issue** -Mr. Piechota explained the prerequisites for the different levels of certification and the Commission's challenge process.

Commissioner Kowalski suggested that Messrs. Piechota and Piskura come before the Commission next month with a report on what their official recommendation is pertaining to this situation.

**Adjunct instructors freelancing** -

Mr. Piskura addressed the Commission on the subject of adjunct instructors freelancing. He defined freelancing as an adjunct employee of the Academy who also offers instructional services on their own. This has not been a particular issue until approximately six months ago when he first received a phone call from a career fire chief who wanted to know where his firefighter was teaching on a

particular day. It turned out that the person was not teaching for the Academy that day, but the person was teaching at a private job. As recently as two weeks ago, Mr. Piskura stated while he was investigating a delivery problem with a Haz-Mat course, two instructors meeting with him asked for additional time to talk about freelancing. They indicated that they were being tapped by individual fire departments to teach for them. These departments did not want the Connecticut Fire Academy called. This presents all kinds of problems. One of the actions he took was to survey the other 50 state training agencies via the internet. He indicated that he received responses from about 12 states of which maybe 5 have content that is worthy of conversation. This area requires examination. We do not have a specific stated policy in our current handbook and he thinks we need to have a policy. He suggested that possibly another sub-committee could be set up to look at this issue.

Chairman Carozza inquired if any Commissioners were interested.

Commissioner Kowalski stated that based on the other subcommittee task discussed previously there's quite a parallel here with that project. Clearly if a person sees that we're charging \$200 for a class and you get an adjunct instructor offers to do it for \$150 that's a problem. We may want to combine the two issues discussed today for the same subcommittee to review.

Chairman Carozza inquired if there was any objections to charging the subcommittee with this issue also.

Commissioners Johnson and Nicol volunteered to work on the subcommittee to review the issue of course fees and to develop an adjunct instructor freelancing policy.

**Entry level training for non-fire service people** - Mr. Piechota gave an overview of an issue relating to the City of Norwalk and their entry-level training program offered in conjunction with Norwalk Community Technical College. Approximately one year ago the City of Norwalk sought permission from the Commission to allow a recruit training class, of non-fire service people, to be trained and ultimately certified. Permission was granted with the proviso that at the conclusion of the training program the people be tested to the level of FF-I, but they would not be granted certification until they become a member of a fire department. That process has gone forward and most of those people have been subsequently employed and granted their FF-I certification. The City of Norwalk has now taken it upon themselves to do a similar training program for non-fire service people in-house without the community technical college. It is our opinion that they are expecting the same testing process to be administered for this program.

Chairman Carozza asked to have the minutes researched for the Norwalk issue and report at the next meeting.

**Former Commissioner Chatfield invite** - Mr. Morrisette stated that an invitation would be extended to former Commissioner Bob Chatfield to attend the meeting and be recognized.