

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 29, 1997 COMMISSION MEETING OF
THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The meeting was called to order at 9:43 a.m. by Vice Chairman Vendetta with the following members present: Commissioners Andresen, Chatfield, Haber, Kowalski, and Peabody. Commissioners Carozza, Johnson, McCarthy, Milewski, Mullen, Munkenbeck and Nicol were excused. Staff members Morrissette, O'Neil, A. Ouellette, A.T. Ouellette and Piechota were present.

Vice Chairman Vendetta indicated that the meeting would proceed on an informational basis due to the lack of a quorum.

Vice Chairman Vendetta asked if Commissioners had any questions regarding the minutes of the March 25, 1997 meeting.

Vice Chairman Vendetta asked if Commissioners had any questions regarding the Staff Report for March 15, 1997 through April 14, 1997.

Moving to item 4 a.) Mr. Morrissette gave a staffing update. Effective Friday, April 25 John Gamble was hired as a Trainer to replace Wayne Bindas who resigned. In addition, we received a call from the Governor's office indicating that former Commissioner Gomeau would be reappointed to fill the vacancy for the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

Moving to item 4 b.) Mr. Morrissette gave a facility update. He stated as reported in previous updates, the manufacturer of the Academy's roofing system flew out here to perform an on-site inspection. The Facility Maintenance personnel are concerned about bubbling of the roof's rubber membrane. We have not experienced any problems as a result of this other than the fact that it very much concerns us. The indication from the manufacturer was that it's not a normal situation; however, since there's no leakage problems to date there isn't much they can do. They are going to send the Sub-Contractor, Hartford Roofing to take a look to see if they can bleed off some of these bubbles. The

concern is that once you start bleeding and re-tarring it will probably cause more potential for leakage. The manufacturer's rep. took pictures of the roof and reiterated the twenty year warranty. Mr. Morrissette stated he was waiting for a full report.

The Engineering Division of the Department of Transportation called regarding setting up a meeting on the future development of a large airplane training prop. The scheduled meeting was then cancelled with no rescheduled date.

Commissioner Kowalski stated that he was a bit concerned because it appears they are holding back on giving the Commission information. As far as visits to other facilities that have this type of prop, that is also on hold because we do not want to expend Commission funds for something that may not occur.

Commissioner Peabody stated that the Commission should insist on being involved and demand to be involved in this project with the Engineering Consultant.

Commissioner Kowalski inquired about the link roof and it's status.

Mr. Morrissette stated that he was waiting for a letter from Suffolk, who has tested a temporary solution of a rubber membrane on plywood cover with some degree of success. Leaks have been almost non-existent. Suffolk feels the problem is a design error and will respond accordingly.

Moving to item 4c.) Mr. Morrissette gave an update of the Minor Firefighter Training Study Committee and explained the Minor Firefighter Training Standard Proposal incorporates safety modifications to permit a larger number of skills to be performed by minors.

A lengthy discussion took place with a number of Commissioners noting they felt the document remains too restrictive

A question and answer period followed. Commissioners suggested that representatives from the Labor Department be invited to come before the Commission.

Moving to item 4 d.) Mr. Morrissette gave an update of the Legislative Session. He stated that most of the bills that were of interest to the Commission are now dead unless brought up as an amendment on the floor.

Moving to item 4 e.) Mr. Morrissette stated that a Public Hearing was held on the deficiency appropriation for the Limited Access Highway (LAH) account. He reported that \$80,000 has been requested to cover the projected shortfall. The Appropriation's Committee approved the bill, it now is assigned a file number for action by the legislature

in mid May. It is expected to pass and the Business Office is gearing up to process the backlog of claims.

Commissioner Chatfield inquired whether any federal reimbursement monies were available for LAH claims.

Mr. Morrissette replied that he was not aware of any federal monies available for this type of program.

Moving to 5 a.) under New Business Mr. Morrissette gave an overview of the Certification Fee Increase Proposal. He stated the proposal was submitted to the Commission who requested fee policies be reviewed on a more regular basis.

A question and answer period followed. It was the unanimous recommendation of the Commissioners present that the staff further expand the proposal and illustrate the cost of operating and incorporate \$7.50 as a proposed fee option.

Moving to item 5 c.) Mr. Morrissette directed the attention of the Commissioners to the IFSAC Letter of Intention concerning Accreditation.

Following a discussion the Commissioners suggested that the State Fire Administrator send a letter to IFSAC expressing the interest of the Commission.

Commissioner Chatfield inquired about the status of EMS in Connecticut.

Mr. Morrissette and Commissioner Kowalski gave an update of the EMS sub-committee activities to date.

Mr. Morrissette stated that he had received a letter from the CFDIA looking for support and sponsorship during their annual Apparatus Rodeo event.

Mr. Morrissette gave a brief overview of the letter from Alan K. Hutchinson, Human Services Director, regarding the status of the Fire Hawk Program in Farmington.

Mr. Morrissette reported that an Introduction to the Fire Service program for Juniors/Cadets/Explorers would be presented for the first time at the Academy July 14 through July 18, 1997. It is expected a grant will be received from the CSFA to help support this program.

Mr. Ouellette reported that the first Annual Fire Officer Conference was held April 25 and 26 and was very successful with approximately 125 persons in attendance over the two days.

Mr. Ouellette introduced John Gamble the Academy's recently hired Trainer to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Andresen inquired if an individual who received a scholarship from the Andy Flannagan Fund would be granted college credits for courses he attends at the Academy.

Mr. Morrisette stated that an individual can receive college credits for some of the Academy courses.

Vice Chairman Vendetta adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Dated: _____

Secretary, Commission on Fire
Prevention and Control

COMMISSION MEETING OF 4/29/97
MOTIONS

N/A

STAFF FOLLOW-UPS REQUIRED

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