

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 1997 COMMISSION MEETING OF
THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Chairman Carozza with the following members present: Commissioners Andresen, McCarthy, Mullen, Munkenbeck, Nicol and Peabody. Commissioners Chatfield, Haber, Johnson, Kowalski, Milewski, and Vendetta were excused. Staff members Morrissette, A. Ouellette, A.T. Ouellete and Piechota were present.

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

Chairman Carozza asked if Commissioners had any questions regarding the minutes of the January 28, 1997 meeting.

Chairman Carozza asked if Commissioners had any questions regarding the Staff Report for January 15 through February 14, 1997.

Moving to item 4 a.) Mr. Morrissette gave a facility update. He stated that a three-year janitorial contract with Connecticut Community Providers' Association (CCPA) has been finalized and awarded. Contract begins March 3rd. He reported that the contract for food service at the Academy would end in July and that the agency would begin discussions with the CT Culinary Institute shortly. He indicated that he had been contacted by an Engineering Firm who was being interviewed by DOT to serve as the design contractor for the new larger airplane prop to be built near the Academy. A contractor should be in place on this project shortly. Mr. Morrissette indicated he would check back with DOT Administration concerning his request for travel/study funds.

Moving to item 4 b.) Mr. Morrissette gave an update on the Minor FF Training Task Force. He reported that the Task Force had met last week with the Labor Department to address ongoing concerns. He indicated that the Labor Department was willing to permit modifications to some of the objectives contained within the NFPA 1001 Standard. The

staff will review the Standard and recommend modifications to areas in which a safe compromise could be expected. Upon acceptance by the Labor Department, a memo of understanding will be prepared. The Task Force hopes to have the NFPA 1001 Standard broken down by next month's Commission Meeting.

Moving to item 4 c.) Mr. Morrissette gave an update to the Bills proposed for the current Legislative Session. He reported that to date approximately 25 Bills have come up for Public Hearing. He also stated that a Public Hearing was scheduled this evening with the Appropriations Committee concerning the agency's budget. Another meeting is scheduled for March 5th with the Appropriations Committee's Budget sub-committee.

Moving to item 5 a.) under New Business Mr. Morrissette asked Mr. O'Neil to give an overview of the Governor's proposed budget.

Mr. O'Neil indicated that it appeared the proposed budget would have minimal impact to agency operations. The most pressing issue is an approximate \$55,000 reduction to the personnel services account. As in the current fiscal year, funds will need to be transferred from the Extension and Auxiliary Account for the new fiscal year to cover the reduction. The recommended appropriation for equipment provides funding for all equipment items requested. Some of the funding will be through bonding rather than a general fund appropriation. The Limited Access Highway account has a recommended increase of \$60,000 each year of the biennium.

Commissioner Peabody inquired what the agency had to do to obtain funds from the CEPF Bond.

Mr. Morrissette stated these monies are generally not available until August or September of the applicable fiscal year. An allotment request is submitted and the money is committed. These funds are permitted to roll over to the next fiscal year if necessary.

Commissioner Peabody inquired how the agency would recover from a reduction in the personal services account.

Mr. Morrissette stated as in the current fiscal year funds are transferred from the part-time salary account to cover full time positions. It is anticipated this will create a shortfall of approximately \$55,000 which will be covered by a transfer from the Extension and Auxiliary Account.

Commissioner Peabody inquired what effect the proposed budget shortfall had on the Limited Access Highway account.

Mr. Morrissette reported that all funds in the Limited Access Highway account were depleted as of this date and that the agency was already accumulating pending claims. He

added that a letter would be mailed out shortly to Fire Chiefs of Volunteer Fire departments/companies to explain the situation. At the current rate of claims receipt, the shortfall is projected to be approximately \$100,000. In the short term OPM has been notified. The Budget Analyst has indicated the possibility of a deficiency appropriation to cover the shortfall. If not, claims will be held for processing until next fiscal year. If claims are rolled over to the new fiscal year, the proposed \$60,000 increase will be wiped out immediately causing the problem to reoccur.

A question and answer period followed on the Limited Access Highway Account.

Moving to item 5b.) Mr. Morrissette reported that the Pumper was delivered on 2/6. A punch list of about a dozen deficiencies has been developed and a pump test will be performed prior to final acceptance and payment. The agency plans to purchase protective clothing with the balance of money in the facility construction equipment account.

Money has been made available in this year's CEPF for the agency to replace the maze tractor. A request for bid has gone out for a tow vehicle which will be purchased with the funds donated by Hartford Insurance. As previously discussed, when the tow vehicle is delivered the agency anticipates planning a ceremony to be held at the Capitol to showcase the new Pub-Ed trailer.

Mr. Morrissette reported on the status of the agency's overdue accounts receivable. He stated that accounts with a balance of less than \$200 cannot be turned over to DAS for collection. He inquired whether the Commissioners were in agreement with a recommendation to write off these accounts.

Commissioner McCarthy inquired if the agency could hold up agency services to individuals with unpaid accounts.

Mr. Morrissette stated that withholding services is the agency policy and this would somehow be noted in the database to indicate to staff a hold has been placed on delinquent accounts.

Commissioner Munkenbeck reported that the Technical College was going forward with the proposed fire technology program revision for implementation in March.

Commissioner Peabody inquired whether the Administrator was making plans to develop a long range plan for capitol improvement/replacement of office and/or training equipment.

Mr. Morrissette indicated that the agency had developed a five-year technology plan to upgrade current data processing hardware.

Commissioner Peabody stated that the agency needs to try to stay in the forefront with technology changing so rapidly.

Mr. Morrisette responded that equipment replacement has generally been funded through agency budget requests. He stated he would review the need to develop a more comprehensive plan for regular equipment replacement.

Commissioners Andresen and Munkenbeck stated that they were in agreement with Commissioner Peabody that the agency should develop a long range plan for the improvement/replacement of equipment.

Chairman Carozza read a thank you note from Chief John Rivosa on the occasion of his retirement from the Town of Manchester Fire Department.

Chairman Carozza gave an update on activities of the Joint Council of CT Fire Service Organizations. He reported that the group had recently met with Lieutenant Governor Rell to explain what the organization was about and to discuss their future plans and goals. He extended an invitation to Commissioners to attend a legislative reception to be held on March 19th at the Officers' Club at the State Armory.

Commissioner Nicol inquired about the E911 Bill.

Mr. Morrisette stated the regulations proposed by the Department of Public Safety, Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications recently passed. These regulations enable the telephone company to begin assessing a fee to support PSAP equipment upgrades and funding for regional dispatch centers. He reported that there was an error in the Governor's proposed budget by showing all regional dispatch centers as line items with an appropriation. Funding for these centers will be provided from the new dedicated fund.

A question and answer period followed regarding E911

Commissioner Nicol inquired whether any grant money was available for the upgrade of PSAP equipment.

Mr. Morrisette stated a plan is nearing completion to provide for the systematic replacement of equipment by the year 2000. OSET and the E911 Commission are reviewing draft specifications for new equipment to be put out for bid. A formal timeline for the process has been developed.

Commissioner Nicol inquired about new upgrades from the telephone company.

Mr. Morrisette stated the technology issue of whether the new network should be digital or analog has been reviewed. Also the issue of whether or not SNET will be the network provider has been discussed.

Commissioner Munkenbeck inquired if there was a cap on the funding approved to support PSAP equipment upgrades for Regional Dispatch Centers and if this fund was allowed to roll over to successive years.

Mr. Morrisette stated he did not know if there was a cap on the fund and indicated that he would inquire.

Chairman Carozza adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

Dated: _____

Secretary, Commission on Fire
Prevention and Control

COMMISSION MEETING OF 2/25/97
MOTIONS

NO MOTIONS

STAFF FOLLOW-UPS REQUIRED

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