



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



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MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 30, 2001 MEETING OF  
THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m. by Vice Chairman Kowalski with the following members present: Commissioners, Haber, Maheu, Milewski, Mullen Nicol, Stankye and Wilkinson. Commissioners' Brammer, Carozza, Gomeau, McDonald and Vendetta were excused. Commissioner Johnson arrived at 9:45 a.m. Staff members Morrissette, Lewandowski, Mancino, O'Neil, Piechota and Piskura were present.

Vice Chairman Kowalski thanked everyone for attending enabling the meeting to proceed with a quorum.

Vice Chairman Kowalski asked that before he introduced the guest, he would like to remind members that when a motion is made or seconded, please state your name for the record. This makes it easier to transcribe the minutes.

Vice Chairman stated that Chairman Carozza sent his regards. He is on business travel to California, and stated that he appreciated the Commissions indulgence in him operating the meeting.

Moving item 5. a.) Mr. Morrissette stated that a representative from WVIT NBC 30 was here to conduct a presentation on a program for which they are soliciting our possible support. He stated that has a couple of general ideas of how the Commission could support WVIT's initiative if there is interest. One benefit of supporting this initiative would be to build goodwill within the fire service by recognizing the job Connecticut firefighters do every day. Secondly, it could be used to promote the Fire-Line Program promoting volunteer fire service recruitment.

Mr. Morrissette introduced Todd Root from WVIT NBC 30.

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Mr. Root did a presentation on a program called "The Bravest of CT", which NBC 30 is airing on Sunday evenings at 12:15 a.m. They are looking to promote a Connecticut spin on the program calling it Connecticut's Bravest as illustrated in the handout provided to Commissioners.

A question and answer period followed.

Mr. Morrisette asked if any statistics on viewership were available.

Mr. Root stated that the Nielson Rating compiles a ratings report during November. At that time, they will be looking at the ratings to see exactly who are watching the show, and what the age groups are.

Mr. Morrisette asked Mr. Root in terms of the sponsorship, what kind of a commitment has Whalen Engineering made. He also stated that when he had spoken with Mr. Root's associate, she indicated that an advertising sponsorship could be shared with other groups minimizing the fiscal impact to as little as \$3,000.

Mr. Root stated he was not sure how she described that, it could have been a monthly cost. Whalen's commitment is pretty significant. It is for a full first quarter package. The packages are \$23,000 a quarter. When broken down to a monthly basis that is more like \$8,000. He stated his associate might have been talking to Mr. Morrisette about dividing the cost of that among two organizations.

Commissioner Stankye asked if the \$23,000 was for the entire one-hour sponsorship, for a quarter or were they looking for three or four sponsors per quarter each that would pay \$23,000.

Mr. Root stated that they are looking for three sponsors per quarter that will sponsor the show as well as the promotional/awareness messages that will air. The lowest that they can accommodate for sponsorship funding would be about \$15,000. The original package was billed as a \$23,000 program. It can be scaled back. They are looking for three organizations to become partners. They are open to suggestions.

Mr. Morrisette stated that at minimum, we could probably assist in pointing WVIT towards potential sponsors.

Commissioner Wilkinson stated that it appears to be a good program and he was comparing this to what the show Cops has done for police officers. This could potentially do the same for firefighters, not only on the business end but also from a practicality sense. One of the focuses of the programming is to educate the general public about the multi functions of firefighters in the United States. Unfortunately at 12:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings probably the only people that are watching that show are the firefighters that just came back from their fourth or fifth run of the night and everyone else is sound asleep. The firefighters could write the script, the time slot is something that really needs to be looked at.

Mr. Root stated that what they have done is developed a promotional/advertising schedule that stretches across all time slots. They cannot rely on just the show to bring that awareness. They have included a schedule of advertising and a schedule of these awareness vignettes that are topical. These

will be aired during newscasts, during the prime-time show Third Watch, which is a show that they feel that will be appropriate for people that are interested in firefighters and fire safety and are looking to see how they can support something locally. The goal is to try to take this message and put it across more traditional day parts. They have also included advertising during the Today Show because they feel that is a good time period to reach viewers who may not view during prime time. They are looking to try to place the show into a different part of the day.

Commissioner Johnson stated that he thought he was missing the point. He asked if NBC 30 wants the Commission or the fire service to go out and solicit sponsorships for them or recommend potential sponsors to them. He inquired if Mr. Root would want him to go to a company like Bayer Pharmaceuticals?

Mr. Root stated that he was hoping for two different things. The goal is to try to get two paid sponsors in addition to Whalen Engineering. They are looking for the Commission if possible to make a contribution toward this initiative. In addition, they would like to have the Commission recommend to them individuals or groups, companies, organizations who maybe interested, Mr. Root would be willing to do a presentation for them. Mr. Root stated that he felt that the Commission is the ideal organization to fund the program. Mr. Root stated that if the Commission did not have the recognition as a sponsor of the program it would be a missed opportunity.

Mr. Morrissette stated that if Bayer or a similar company wants to sponsor the Commission in this endeavor, then we would be happy to have them as a sponsor. Mr. Root agreed.

Commissioner Nicol asked if this was a weekly program.

Mr. Root stated that this campaign includes a sponsorship of that show which airs every week.

Mr. Nicol inquired as to whether it would feature Connecticut fire people or New York as well as CT.

Mr. Root stated that not specifically, the show covers firefighting and the role of firefighters by showing firefighters from across the country. What NBC 30 is looking to do is profile firefighters or fire-safety issues in Connecticut and take footage to create 30-second spots they are calling vignettes to air during the show as well as across different parts of the day.

Commissioner Nicol stated he was hopeful that maybe there was a potential sponsor that could underwrite this. That would be a method by which the Commission could get involved.

Mr. Root stated that he would leave that to Jeff to discuss. He stated that he was open to that. They are looking for corporate support of the initiative and have been lucky enough to have Whalen Engineering in Chester come aboard.

Chairman Kowalski stated that the meeting would return to the regular agenda and asked for approval of the September 25, 2001 minutes.

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Wilkinson and SECONDED by Commissioner Maheu to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2001 meeting. Motion carried*

Moving to item 3) Vice Chairman Kowalski asked for approval of the Staff Report for September 15, 2001 – October 14, 2001.

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Milewski and SECONDED by Commissioner Stankye to approve the Staff Report for the period of September 15, 2001 – October 14, 2001. Motion carried.*

Commissioner Nicol inquired what WMD stood for in the item listed as Governor's Briefing WMD (Hartford) on 10/16.

Mr. Morrissette stated that WMD is the acronym for Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Moving to Item No. 4 a.) Mr. Morrissette gave an update on the Fallen Firefighters Memorial project. Mr. Morrissette reported that a committee meeting was held last week with six members of the committee in attendance. At that time the Chairman informed them that the project would not be completed this fall. Originally, at the last meeting it was discussed there was hope that all of the site work could be done this fall, and then hold off until the spring or next fall for the actual dedication ceremony. However, the Chairman had entered into some discussions with several major construction firms who he had hoped to work on the job. Unfortunately most of them are finishing other jobs, trying to close out prior to winter. The Committee was also informed that the granite stone and engraving should be complete by the end of this week or early next week. Thus, the stone will be completed and they are looking to have it stored in Vermont over the winter. The Chairman indicated that the stone company was looking for full payment at the completion of the job, which essentially could be the end of this week.

The Administrator indicated he and others raised concern that there should have been a contract in place that spelled all the terms. The Chairman was going to go back and negotiate with the Stone Company regarding a hold back until the stone is transported and set on the foundation. Mr. Morrissette stated that he was just making the Commission aware about this concern.

Commissioner Maheu asked Mr. Morrissette how much additional money was owed the Stone Company.

Mr. Morrissette stated that he thought they had already paid out fifty or sixty thousand dollars.

Commissioner Haber stated that \$60,000 has been paid out. The stone cost is \$80,000. There is a balance owed of \$20,000. The committee felt that they could negotiate with the Stone Company to hold back at least \$10,000 of the total cost until the stone is transported and set in place. It may cost us about \$100 per month to store the stone.

Vice Chairman Kowalski asked if the original cost included delivery and installation.

Commissioner Haber stated that the \$80,000 includes delivery and installation on our foundation.

Commissioner Haber stated that they expect fill for the site to be donated including the silt fence.

Commissioner Haber stated that prior to this last meeting he personally raised questions with the architect as to how long it would take for the concrete to cure. He was told seven days. Commissioner Haber stated that in his personal experience he knows that if you are going to put a 30 thousand-pound stone on a foundation it better be cured and cured properly. That is one of the delays.

In addition, Mr. Morrisette stated that the contractors needed to finish up all of their work prior to starting this job. They will be donating a lot of their time.

Commissioner Haber stated that he also asked how many bricks have been sold. The answer was approximately 100 bricks have been sold.

Commissioner Haber stated that Yankee Gas is expected to provide all of the hardware and bring the gas from the street up to the site for the decorative eternal flame. CFA Staff will provide all electrical work.

Mr. Morrisette stated that there was one request from the committee to transfer the current flagpoles from the front of the facility to the Memorial site. Commission approval will need to take place today. Commissioner Haber stated that rather than have four flagpoles we would have just two.

Vice Chairman Kowalski asked if there were any other questions regarding the Memorial.

Commissioner Nicol stated if we run into a problem with the stone, we have no contract. Should we look into some form of insurance? He suggested that maybe we should get something in writing in the event that something happens.

Commissioner Haber stated that according to all the reports that he has gotten, the Stone Company is willing to negotiate and take full responsibility for the stone. It will be in writing.

Commissioner Milewski stated that if they are a reputable company they should be able to put it in writing and they would pay the insurance. Until this is settled he would definitely hold back at least the \$20,000 and he would definitely obtain in writing, that they are supplying insurance until the stone is delivered and placed.

Commissioner Maheu asked if there was a time-line put on to establishes this contract. In other words by the next time the committee meets there would be a contract in place.

Commissioner Haber stated that a trip to Vermont is being planned to inspect the stone and discuss storage arrangements.

Commissioner Maheu asked who was writing the contract, the company or the committee.

Commissioner Haber stated that the company was writing the contract but that we would have to agree to what they put in it. If it is not agreeable we will not sign it.

Commissioner Maheu stated that he understood that, but if he wanted a contract, he would write it and have the company sign it.

Moving to item 4b.) Mr. Morrisette gave an update on the CSFA Education Committee Overview. Mr. Morrisette reminded Commissioners that this item deals with the Regional Fire Schools. He reported that a meeting is scheduled for this Thursday evening in Wethersfield. The primary agenda consists of formalizing the scope of the contract that the consultant will be guided by in reviewing the eight Regional Fire Schools. In addition, contract deliverables will be discussed. Other items planned for discussion includes delineation of responsibilities of the Connecticut Fire Academy and of the Regional Fire Schools.

Commissioner Wilkinson stated that Mr. Morrisette also informed him that \$200,000 was just released by the Bond Commission for the Regional School Study on September 28, 2001.

Mr. Morrisette also reported that it was brought to his attention that an article appeared recently in the New London Day newspaper that caused concern. It was reported there was interest in developing a new Regional Fire School at the site of the state's now closed Mystic Oral School. Mr. Morrisette stated that he never saw the article but he received a couple of calls on it. Mr. Morrisette said that he believed that the Old Mystic Fire Department had been negotiating with the State Department of Public Works for use of some of the property for the purpose of training. Originally, when Mr. Morrisette checked with DPW they said that the land use request was denied. He stated further that he had heard subsequent to that a shorter term had been agreed to although he had no official information. It is not the intended scope of the \$200,000 to look at possible Regional Schools expansion. It is not unusual however to receive several calls from departments or regions interested in establishing new schools

Moving to item 4 c.) Mr. Morrisette gave a Recruit Training Program update. He asked if Chief Johnson had anything new to report from the Career Chiefs' Committee.

Chief Johnson had nothing to report.

Mr. Morrisette stated that it was his understanding this Committee wanted to re-engage to review some of the requests and recommendations.

Mr. Piskura stated that he would like to generally point out that we had some significant concerns in the past about discipline and behavior. We just graduated a group of people; the complete department of this class was different. We thought that some of that might be due to the fact that it was a smaller class, and pretty much an older group. Now we have a very large class here. There are 39 individuals in this class and we are happy to report that we are seeing the same adult level of responsibility. Some of the changes that we have invoked are evidently a success.

Commissioner Nicol stated that one item he noticed that needs to be clarified is the issue of mandatory lodging.

Mr. Piskura stated that he believed there were originally six recommendations. We have to wait until the subcommittee of Career Chiefs gets together to discuss those.

Commissioner Nicol asked if the mandatory lodging was the only outstanding item.

Mr. Piskura stated that he believed they had other concerns. The Career Chiefs as a group are very concerned with discipline. That continues to be a focus of interest. Discussion ended.

Moving to item 4 d.) Vice Chairman Kowalski gave an update of the NFPA Risk Watch Champion Program. He stated that he, Russ Emons, Jeff Morrissette and John Vendetta made a trip to the NFPA to discuss the potential of the Risk Watch Grant Program. Some of the concerns that were brought up at the last meeting, were actually misinterpretations of some of the information from last month's meeting. We thought if we did not get 200 classrooms participating that we would be liable for the cost of the grant. They assured us that is a target and that it wasn't the point of us having to foot a tab or having to sell products for them. They would handle that end. We would merely have to coordinate the governing team for Risk Watch in our state. Once that occurred, then the five towns that were selected would go through a pilot program over a three-year period in which some of the funding is available for putting packages in the schools at no cost to the schools. The only cost to us would be approximately \$2,000 for the initial cost of sending our committee and giving them the information. They felt very comfortable as a committee when they left. They are still pursuing five communities that will take this project on. He believes they have two or three interested to date.

Mr. Morrissette stated that he solicited participation at the last Chiefs' meeting.

Vice Chairman Kowalski stated that they would pursue potential participation through the Fire Marshal's organizations as well.

Mr. Morrissette mentioned the difficulties in getting a representative from the State Department of Education and some other alternatives to that. Mr. Morrissette stated that essentially the NFPA told them that this is a good faith agreement. They said the program is not perfect and they try to utilize their web-site to make corrections and offer updates. As the program goes through regular revision process they should be able to capture most of the major recommendations. Russ Emons had some specific concerns as it relates to particular issues. In response, NFPA indicated items Mr. Emons has concern with were added because the majority of users requested them. They try to make improvements on programs that are already out there and provide a one-stop shop.

Commissioner Maheu asked what the \$2,000 was for.

Mr. Morrissette stated that it was to provide a set of Risk Watch materials for each team member attending the two-day training program. It's a total of nine sets at \$250 totaling \$2,600.

Commissioner Maheu asked if we would have to pay that and send representatives.

Vice Chairman Kowalski stated that the comment that they made in discussing this on the way back, is that the investment would be a trial to see how it works over the next two or three years. At minimum, the pilot program would probably take two years.

Vice Chairman Kowalski stated further that one of the issues that he brought to the table was the fact that as a Fire Marshal out in the community is that they are all competing for time in the schools. They are all getting the same answer from the schools. They all indicate they have to cover so many things

that they can't give a time allotment for a Learn Not To Burn program or anything like that. The feeling in the fire & life safety community is that if they can get in by creating a coalition of health and public safety experts such as police, fire, Red Cross, etc., with a totally inclusive operation, a school system is going to want it. They can eliminate a lot of the small programs that they have to put in schools and replace them with this program.

Commissioner Nicol asked if Mr. Emons had the 2000 Risk Watch report when he made comments last month.

Mr. Morrissette replied that he did not, it was presented upon our arrival at the NFPA.

Referencing this report, Mr. Nicol stated that in looking at the report, he had a couple of things he wanted to point out. Looking at table A2, last column to the right, according to the report it says that the average post-test improvement grades for K 1 through 2 are all single numbers. They go anywhere from 3 to 9%. The other grades seem to have double digit improvement, as high as up to 20%. He stated it bothers him when he looks at this. Is the curriculum so difficult for the children to learn?

Mr. Morrissette stated that minimum post-test scores could be a change from 98% to 100%. The statistics do not really show the overall success. What it essentially shows is that at the lower grade levels, parents and teachers are already doing a good job teaching kids fire safety. On a local level, the local school system can choose grades to implement this program in. You don't have to implement in every grade.

Commissioner Nicol stated that he doesn't think we know what it says. Perhaps there aren't enough curriculums. Maybe they need more material in the lower grades.

Vice Chairman Kowalski stated if you look through the report you will note that there is a 22% increase in knowledge in North Carolina's pre-K as measured by a post-test. He further stated that at least in looking at this report there was no negatives. People were not losing knowledge nor getting worse test scores.

Commissioner Nicol stated that when you look at the upper grades there is significant increase in every state. When you look at the lower grades it is in the single digits.

Mr. Morrissette stated that at the lower levels he thinks you can go only so far in terms of the learning abilities of certain age groups. Pre-school, 1<sup>st</sup>.and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders don't have the ability to be intuitive in certain areas. Kids do not have the ability to make certain decisions logically. Discussion ended.

Moving to item 4 e.) – Mr. Morrissette gave an update on the Domestic Preparedness Senior Steering Task Force. He stated that there are a lot of things happening within Federal and State Government as relates to domestic preparedness. Vinny DeRosa, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety was appointed the homeland security coordinator for Connecticut. Chairman Carozza, Chief LeVecchia, and Chief Ed Richards representing the Career Chiefs and Connecticut Fire Chiefs continue to serve on the Senior Steering Task Force that has been meeting every other week. Their primary role is to review and approve a state domestic preparedness plan and application for federal funding. About 70% of this grant will trickle down to the local first responders for equipment. It is

not a lot of money right now, only about \$2.6 million but in the near future that is probably going to grow. In addition to that, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October, each of the major state agencies were invited to make a presentation for the Governor's chiefs of staff. We joined with the chiefs' organization to do that presentation. We outlined what we felt the fire service's vulnerabilities were what our capabilities are and finally what our needs are. We are very proud to say that last Monday the Governor held a press conference announcing a number of state domestic preparedness initiatives. On a potentially negative side, it appears he put the Department of Public Safety in charge of all the planning. Most of the recommendations came from the fire service's presentation. Mr. Morrisette stated we would work cooperatively with the Department of Public Safety. They have been asked to put together an overview including budgetary costs for a number of items, one being the establishment of a state USAR Team. We will be meeting this afternoon at 1:00 p.m. with representatives of Colonel Barry's office who have been tasked to do this. We are keeping an eye on some of the dynamics that are taking place. General Cugno has locked away a small group of people to finalize our state Domestic Preparedness Grant application by December 1. Mr. Morrisette stated further that essentially the chiefs have identified him as the lead contact person. On Friday, the Governor also announced that about \$10 million is going to be coming to the state for a communications system allowing all emergency services to communicate with one another. That is well and good and is one of the vulnerability areas we identified, as did every other group. Our concerns are we don't have any specific information on what is planned. At last week's CT Fire Chiefs' Association meeting Deputy Commissioner Luther attended and indicated that the Commissioner wished to express his interest to work with the fire service. They want to work as a team with the fire service. They are not trying to take over.

Commissioner Johnson stated that to follow up on what Mr. Morrisette discussed, last Wednesday or Thursday along with his mayor and police chief, he attended the National Conference of Mayors' Summit Meeting in Washington. It was a very high powered meeting. The Attorney General, Tom Ridge and the Senate Majority Leader spoke. There were many mayors in attendance including three mayors from Connecticut (i.e. Stamford, West Haven, and Bridgeport.) There were three breakout sessions, the purpose of which was to make recommendations to Attorney General Ashcroft the following day relative to funding for cities. The breakout sessions were made up of law enforcement, emergency preparedness, and transportation personnel. Emergency preparedness had the largest attendance and lasted 3 1/2 hours. The Mayor of Virginia Beach and the Mayor of Beaumont, Texas chaired the session. There were four fire chiefs in the group. The Virginia Beach Chief stated that the Federal Government should fund Urban Search and Rescue teams as they are currently funded locally

Commissioner Johnson stated that as he sat there, the word fire was only mentioned once. Public Health received a big play. Commissioner Johnson stated that he finally had heard enough and commented publicly that "we send our first line military into combat with the best training, best-equipped, best military service the world has ever seen. Yet we send our homeland first responders (fire service) into combat poorly manned, poorly trained and in some cases poorly equipped in some cases." Not because we want it to be that way, but we don't have the funding at our level to get that work done. Then he reiterated what the police departments have been doing for years. He stated that he thought it was a pretty good speech until the Mayor of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Susan Savage totally disagreed and said that in no way was the Federal Government going to tell her how to run her fire department. Commissioner Johnson told Mayor Savage that she missed his point. The Federal Government doesn't tell you how to run your police department.

Commissioner Johnson stated that many people supported him through his statements. After the meeting, his four fellow fire chiefs said he did a great job. He asked why they didn't stand up when he was speaking. It upset him that no one from the International was there, as it is only ten miles away. Commissioner Johnson stated further that the day before he contacted IAFC President, John Buckman who sent him a position paper that was drafted to be sent to Tom Ridge for consideration of federal funding. Commissioner Johnson stated that he made the statement; "What more do we have to do, it is unfortunate we have to lose 342 firefighters to prove to them that we are first responders." He stated that he does not see any overwhelming support for the fire service.

Mr. Morrissette stated that he was just trying to make the Commission aware that there is money coming in from different areas and he believes that the Governor is looking for input prior to the beginning of the Special Legislative Session later in November. What the state may be looking to do is fund some things such as regional Haz-Mat Teams and USAR Team.

Vice Chairman Kowalski stated that we saw the overview that WVIT NBC 30 provided on The Bravest Program, he asked if there were any comments from the floor.

Mr. Morrissette stated that if anyone was aware of any potential sponsors to let him know.

Commissioner Maheu stated that he felt one of the problems that Todd had was comprehending that we as a state agency can't spend that kind of money. If we could go out and solicit corporate sponsorship on our behalf certainly it is going to benefit us as a Commission and the fire service as a whole. It was clear in his mind that when Todd left, he did not understand that we as a Commission couldn't expend that kind of money.

Mr. Morrissette stated that he had talked to one of Todd's co-workers who called him a couple of weeks ago, she had indicated to him that they could break up sponsorships into smaller pieces.

Commissioner Maheu stated that in his conversation prior to the meeting, Todd also seemed to be focused on having the sponsorship being directly related somehow to the fire service. He stated that somehow we have to get back to Todd and educate him as to what we can do and what we can't do. That we are fully in support of this but we have to find other initiatives so that we can pick up support.

Commissioner Nicol asked who sponsored the first two shows.

Mr. Morrissette stated that they might not have had the CT Bravest theme they are looking to promote. Mr. Morrissette stated that he had never talked to or met with Todd until today. He had only spoken once with his coworker. She was excited about their work with us on promoting the 800 Fire-Line Program through PSA's. That is how she was able to make the connection back to us as a possible sponsor.

Commissioner Nicol asked if it would be permissible for us as an agency to participate.

Mr. Morrisette stated state agencies do advertise programs on a regular basis. Many have funding specifically earmarked for advertising. We do have a reservation code within our budget for the purposes of advertising.

Commissioner Nicol suggested that maybe the Commission consider this.

Mr. Morrisette stated that in the last budget submittal they did include a request for funding to promote the 800 Fire-Line Program.

Commissioner Nicol stated that that was his point, if they were going to promote the 800 Fire-Line, this would be a forum for giving some credence to expending some of our funds to support that program.

Mr. Morrisette stated that either way we will have a part in this.

Commissioner Maheu asked what the feeling of the Commission was. Where should we move from here? If possible, Commissioners should contact potential sponsors. He stated that he would hate to put this off for another month.

Commissioner Wilkinson stated another corporate player that came to mind between Commissioner Maheu and himself was Duracell. They make a lot of money replacing smoke detector batteries.

Vice Chairman Kowalski stated that there are a lot of groups that we could get interested in this program. That would be the best way in his opinion to entertain support for this program. He understands that it is a good program, unfortunately it is at 12:00 a.m. on Sunday. He questions the viewership of that.

Moving to Item 5. b.) Mr. Morrisette stated that included in the Commissioners' packages was some background information relating to the proposal for an OEMS Commission.

Mr. Piskura stated that he represents the Commission on the EMS Advisory Board. What has been discussed for the last six months is that they would like to get out from under the guise of the Health Department. What they have done in the last three months is put together some significant proposals for their legislative committee in that they would like to pursue creating a commission form of administration out from under the Connecticut State Health Department. The reason that this is significant to this group is that they allude to this group, they want to do it just like the CFPC. You may be drafted into various conversations about just exactly how does the CFPC work. The concept has legs, it is moving. The sub-committee has met with the Commissioner of the Health Department. While he did not give any particular opinions, his aid did. They are obviously not in favor of losing this appendage of the Health Dept. The people that meet consistently generally believe that they have been mistreated continually by the Health Department and would like to get out from under them.

Commissioner Johnson asked what the regional council's done. Are they for or against?

Mr. Piskura stated that they are for this because they think that that this is their best interest. They think they will be treated better under a commission form of administration.

Commissioner Nicol stated that based on this report he spoke to the EMS Region 5 Coordinator. He asked him what his feelings were. He is supportive of this concept.

Mr. Morrissette stated that he wanted to add another piece of information to EMS. We did receive contact by the Health Department's regulation division this past week. Over a year ago we were asked to submit a bid for both EMT and Paramedic testing of whom we were not successful in receiving the award. They asked if we might still be interested in the paramedic piece as their relationship with the current contractor is not where it should be. Most of the people from Connecticut are going to New Hampshire for their paramedic testing. They asked if we may be interested to take another look at this and they shared with Mr. Morrissette some of the current problems. Mr. Morrissette stated that he told them that he would need at least 30 days to look into it and get back to them. Hopefully, by next meeting we will have more information.

Moving to item 5. c) Mr. Morrissette inquired if the Commission would entertain moving the November meeting to the Legislative Office Building. Mr. Morrissette stated that he anticipated some new Commission appointments and would like an opportunity to recognize the Commissioners who are leaving or who have left recently. We would also like to recognize some of our staff members who made significant contributions. Unfortunately right now because of the special session, it is in limbo.

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Nicol and SECONDED by Commissioner Stankye to relocate the November meeting to the Legislative Office. Motion carried*

Vice Chairman Kowalski stated that he would also like to move on one of the items from unfinished business to move the flagpoles from the current location.

*A MOTION was made by Commissioner Milewski and SECONDED by Commissioner Haber to make a physical move of the flagpoles from the current location to the Memorial Location. Motion carried.*

Vice Chairman Kowalski asked if there were any other comments from the Commission.

Vice Chairman Kowalski asked Mr. Piskura the status of the instructor freelancing policy.

Mr. Piskura stated that they have not promulgated anything yet. The staff member who was working on revising our operations policy suffered the loss of his spouse and has since resigned. What we have done at this point is in the final review of an abbreviated version of the revision of the entire Operation Manual. Once that is done, then we will promulgate the policy that was voted on seven or eight months ago.

Vice Chairman Kowalski asked if Mr. Piskura had any idea as far as timetable.

Mr. Piskura stated that he used to, but now it was even worse. Right now we are being pulled so much for terrorism and hazardous materials training that quite frankly it returned itself to a low priority. Mr. Piskura stated that he feels his priorities are satisfying our current issues driven by the September 11 incident. Mr. Piskura stated that he would say before the end of the year.

Commissioner Haber stated that he would like to direct this question to Mr. Morrissette. In the newspapers, radio and on TV it has been stated the State Office of Emergency Management has been activated.

Mr. Morrissette stated that he had just heard that on the evening news. It is his understanding there is a small skeleton staff on duty 24/7 at the Emergency Operations Center.

Mr. Morrissette stated that just recently the Department of Administrative Services posted the vendor award for the Thermal Imaging Camera initiative. He went on to say that he would be meeting this afternoon with the Under Secretary of OPM and DAS to hopefully finalize the application procedure. Because this is a multiple award it creates a whole bunch of problems for whoever is going to manage this. He hopes to have a better sense on who is going to manage the program and how.

Commissioner Stankye stated that he saw a press release over the weekend that there may be some additional units available free of charge.

Mr. Morrissette stated that out of the seven or so vendors that supplied a bid, three or four fall under \$8,000 as long as a certain number of units are purchased. If departments want those units they probably won't have to contribute anything for them. If you want a more expensive model or something with special options then there is going to be some out of pocket expense. That is what complicates the process.

Commissioner Stankye inquired who is going to determine who will get the extra free one

Mr. Morrissette stated that this was going to provide them a final opportunity to conduct a fire department census in the state of Connecticut.

Mr. Morrissette stated that he would also like to bring to everyone's attention once again, the Connecticut Public Safety Appreciation Night on November 6<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested he has tickets. A head count is needed while some tickets will be available at the door.

Mr. Morrissette stated that our agency is sponsoring a forum in Cromwell on Friday, November 2nd on Bio-Terrorism. We have assembled a panel of all the state response agencies that have a stake in this.

Mr. Morrissette stated that the last point he wanted to make was in line with the report on the Education Committee. He stated that the agency is being asked more and more by local instructors, Regional Schools and others for the ability to train students to higher levels of certification, this dovetails with the mission delineation issue. This is an issue that the Commission needs to look at. When a student attends a certification based training program the testing fee is included in the tuition. If we were to actually calculate the real cost of administering tests at a college/university or Regional Fire School, the cost would be much more significant than the current \$5 or \$7.50. This is something that we would ask the Commission to begin thinking about for future discussion.

Mr. Piskura stated that he thinks this issue is significant that most people do not understand. As an example, when you take Fire Service Instructor I currently. During the class, the certification component is occurring concurrently. There are observations being made and documents being filed on

the students progress through the certification office. This has been approved as part of the evaluation process. When outsiders who want to get involved approach the agency, they don't fully understand the components. When you try to tell them that there are certain up-charges because of that loss of that internal evaluation they do not comprehend that.

Mr. Piechota stated that this came to light when they had a request from an individual to conduct a local Fire Officer I training program. We provided that individual with the real cost of conducting the evaluation. We want to be sure that everybody understands why there is a need for a consistent evaluation process. The Pro Board and IFSAC require it. There is independent evaluation done. We would like to put together a small sub-committee to review this further.

Mr. Morrissette stated that he thought we could use the Education Sub-Committee.

Vice Chairman Kowalski asked if there were any other comments.

Commissioner Mahue stated he feels confident that as long as John Blaschik, and Deputy Commissioner Luther are involved the fire service will be represented and fully heard on all of the proposed terrorism initiatives taking place.

Since there were no more comments, Vice Chairman Kowalski asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

Vice Chairman Kowalski adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

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

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