

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

Meeting – December 22, 2005 – 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:17 with the following members present:

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn

Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Lloyd Niles, Al Hawkins

Hartford Fire School - Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal, Jim Baldis

Middlesex County Fire School – Fred Dudek

Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School – Peter Wols

Wolcott Regional Fire School – Kevin Engle, Paul Perrotti

Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Ted Schroll

Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol, Jim Wilkinson

Connecticut Fire Academy – Jeff Morrissette

Guests: Don Ouillette, DPW

There was no one present representing the New Haven Regional Fire Academy, Fairfield Regional Fire School or Stamford Fire Department Regional School.

The minutes of the October meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved – motion by Jepeal second by Winn.

1. Status of properties acquisitions

Don Ouillette pointed out that any site with buildings over 25,000 sq. ft. will require a Connecticut Environmental Impact Evaluation study.

Willimantic - Don Ouillette reported that the advertisement for property for the Willimantic school went out on October 14th. Three submittals were received. One parcel is in Columbia, one in Windham and one in Franklin. The property in Columbia is within the 100 year flood plain and has been removed from consideration. D.P.W. is soliciting appraisals for the other two sites. The Windham site is a former manufacturing site, D.P.W. will need a Phase III letter of intent from the current owner in order to proceed at that site. After the appraisals are complete a selection committee will be formed.

Derby - Don reported that he has received the B-100 paperwork from the Derby directors and is nearly ready to advertise for property.

New Haven - Don reported that D.P.W. representatives have met with the Mayor's chief of staff, Chief Grant, N.H. city council, and all agreed in principal to the M.O.U. The New Haven Building Official was the last hold-out and has now agreed to the process. Don pointed out that the budget in the study report could be as much as 25% short to complete that project.

Fairfield – The Fairfield school also resides on property that belongs to the city of Fairfield. Don recommended that the Fairfield Chief begin working on the various branches of local government on order to come to an understanding about the state M.O.U. process.

Burrville – D.P.W. attorney has begin working on the lease issue for the existing D.E.P. property. Don is concerned that current D.E.P. administration may be reluctant to transfer that property.

Wolcott – Naugatuck Valley Community College trustees voted against the plan to relocate the Wolcott school to the Naugatuck campus. The Waterbury Area Fire Chiefs have voted to build on the Cheshire site. No transfer of that property has taken place.

Hartford County School still does not have a M.O.U. for the property that has been discussed at Bradley Airport. The D.O.T. has requested an annual lease payment in the amount of \$36,000 for the property. The C.F.P.C. will continue to work with Hartford County to seek funding for this lease agreement. This project will probably need to wait until the Governor's proposed budget is released in February to see if funding is included.

Middlesex – New mayor is on board with respect to negotiation by Middletown to purchase property. Don Ouillette cautioned that the Middletown building inspector needs to be on-board to head off problems such as those encountered in New Haven.

Commissioner Fleming is meeting with O.P.M. staff to try to establish bonding priorities. No bond funding has been authorized for the regional fire school project.

Ted Schroll asked if D.P.W. was ready to spend any of the \$10 million budgeted. Don replied that he is ready to spend approximately \$420,000 for the design of the New Haven Fire Academy. Ted feels that with no progress made with the initial \$10 million that it could be difficult to obtain a commitment from legislators for additional funding.

There was suggestion made that we request a meeting with Representatives Pawelkiewicz and Orange to develop an action plan in January. Rich Winn suggested adding Representative Willis to the list. The hope is that we can develop two separate action plans, one to pursue the timely release of the bond funding and another to work on developing realistic operations budgets for each of the schools and then getting a commitment by legislators to increase the funding to realistic levels.

Paul Perrotti asked Don if this is the only project that he was working on. Don replied that it was not. Paul asked if the project managers assigned to the regional school rebuild would have other projects also assigned. Don replied that they will.

Don would like the Education Committee to review the priorities assigned to the various phases of the project. Al Hawkins will try to get the directors of the regional schools together for a separate budget workshop. Don agreed to take the results of this workshop and enter updated data into a project tracking program that would show the multiple project design and construction costs projections for a new five year implementation. Don suggested that the original \$60.3 million project could cost \$100 million.

2. New Haven Burn Building/Renovation - status

There is still no indication of when funding for the design will be released by the bond commission.

3. Homeland Security Training opportunities

Jeff Morrissette discussed the letter sent by Commissioner Thomas to elected officials and emergency managers. That letter listed the training resources available to the municipalities and included the regional fire schools, along with POST and the Connecticut Fire Academy.

Paul Benyeda has pilot tested the powerpoint program that he has been working on to combine I-100, I-200 and I-700. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has just released a new I-200 program that is a two and one half day delivery. This has derailed Benyeda's effort for the short term. Jeff related that Paul is not favorably impressed with the new I-200 program.

4. Standardization Committee – S.O.P., injury management, forms

No report.

5. Other items from membership

Al Hawkins reported that Fred Piechota would like to address this committee at our January meeting to discuss changes in the Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operational programs.

O’Niel Burrows will be retiring from Watertown, there is a dinner scheduled for January 12, 2006.

Chet Haber announced that he has a new email address: chesterhaber@sbcglobal.net

The regular meeting date will fall on January 26, 2006. That meeting will be at 19:00 at Wethersfield.

Submitted by:
Al Hawkins, chairman