

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

February 16, 2005 – 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelliher Court

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

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn

Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Lloyd Niles, Al Hawkins

Stamford Fire Department Regional School – Robert McGrath, John McCabe

Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School – Peter Wols, Jim Gies

Wolcott Regional Fire School – Bob Massicotte, Jim Trzaski, Paul Perrotti

Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Scott Potter, Ted Schroll (arrived late from another mtg.)

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

Connecticut Fire Academy – Jeff Morrisette

There were no representatives present from the Fairfield Regional Fire School, Hartford Fire School, Middlesex County Fire School, and New Haven Regional Fire Academy

1. Status of properties acquisitions

Wolcott School – The Waterbury Area Fire Chiefs have a meeting scheduled with the new Waterbury Fire Chief next week to discuss their plans.

Eastern Ct. Fire School – Appraisals on current property are complete and under review by D.P.W.

Middlesex Fire School – The School Committee is pursuing property on Newfield Street in conjunction with the Middletown Mayor / Middletown Fire Department. The concept is to co-locate a satellite Middletown fire station with the fire school.

Hartford Fire School – Continuing to work with D.O.T. to secure property to the east of the existing C.F.A. administrative building.

Valley Chiefs Fire School – Have investigated several potential properties, no substantive progress on any.

2. New Haven Burn Building/Renovation – status

Al Hawkins reported that there were eleven submittals by design teams to work on the project design. There is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning at D.P.W. offices in Hartford to review the selection criteria. Short-listing ballots are due by 2:00 p.m. on February 18, 2005.

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

The committee is continuing to work. Most of the communications have been by emails.

4. Legislative Session 2005 – luncheon in Willimantic Mar. 12

An invitation was distributed by Senator Williams and Representative Pawelkiewicz for recognition of the fifty year anniversary of operations of the Eastern Connecticut Fire School. They are both scheduled to host an event on March 12, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. at the school in Willimantic. Any interest committee members are welcome to attend.

5. Letter regarding JPRs for skills testing – discussion

A draft letter was distributed by Al Hawkins regarding the use of JPRs for performing practical skills testing. There was discussion about whether this initiative is being driven by the accrediting agency or by the certification division of the C.F.P.C.

By consensus of those present the issue will be tabled until Fred Piechota, Director of Certification, can join us at a future meeting for input into the discussion.

6. Other items from membership

A bill has been submitted to appropriate state funds for a training tower for the Branford Fire Department.

Bob Massicotte asked representatives about the current tuition costs for various Firefighter I programs. Burrville is currently charging \$400 per student, Eastern Ct. Fire School \$310, Derby \$300 for members and \$350 for non members (member towns pay \$200 per town in dues), there is a Firefighter I running at the Stamford School with the tuition of \$600 per student.

There was discussion about the difference in course offerings. The program at Willimantic includes the IFSTA Essentials text and workbooks and a catered lunch for each of the sixteen days of class.

Chief McGrath from Stamford reported that the Police Chief in Stamford received grant funding to purchase AEDs for each city police car. None of the police officers have any current medical training. Their plan is to have each officer complete a three hour course put on by the AED manufacturer and then begin responding to all dispatches that are categorized as cardiac emergencies. The Stamford Fire Department holds the R-1 certification and there is concern that the response by substantially un-trained first responders could be problematic.

General suggestions were to discuss this issue with the Ct. O.E.M.S. and the hospital emergency department director as the pre-hospital medical control authority.

There was discussion about selection of various texts, lesson plans and other course materials for Firefighter I and Firefighter II course deliveries. With the introduction of the Jones and Bartlett program there are not three alternatives. Del-Mar and IFSTA programs are also available. Jeff Morrissette suggested inviting all three publishers to one forum to provide presentation on their respective programs.

Representatives of the Wolcott school asked about changing the sequence of the implementation for the capital improvement project. They are interested in receiving funding before year five, where the current implementation schedule shows their project. Al Hawkins reminded them that the upcoming fiscal year is already year two of the five-year implementation schedule. He further offered that the best way to accelerate the project would be to solicit the General Assembly for addition funding.

Lloyd Niles suggested that federal money for homeland security training initiatives should provide some funding for regional fire schools. There was discussion about the administration of all DOD and Homeland Security programs by an extension office of the University of Connecticut.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2005 tentatively in Wethersfield.

Submitted by:

Al Hawkins, chairman