

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

February 22, 2007 – 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:08 with the following representatives present:

Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Charles Stankye, Jr., Ted Schroll

Burrville Fire School – Rich Winn

Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins, Les Shull

Hartford Fire School - Chet Haber

Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School - Charles Stankye, Jr

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

Connecticut Fire Academy – Jeff Morrissette

Guest: Ct. Department of Public Works - Don Ouillette

No one was present from: Middlesex County Fire School, Fairfield Regional Fire School , New Haven Regional Fire Academy, Stamford Fire Department Regional School or Wolcott Regional Fire School

The minutes of the January 25, 2007 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved – motion by Haber second by Winn.

1. Status of properties acquisitions

Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Don Ouillette reported that Rogers Corporation would like to implement some minor changes to the draft sales agreement for their property on Route 32. They will meet with staff and council from D.P.W. next week.

Middlesex County Fire School – Don Ouillette reported that there is still no progress on the M.O.U. between the City of Middletown and the Ct. D.P.W. A second copy of the agreement was sent to the city. The city council doesn't seem to know what to do with the M.O.U.

Valley Fire Chiefs' Regional Fire School – The D.P.W. is working on a purchase agreement for the site in Oxford.

Wolcott State Fire School – A bill has been introduced this legislative session to transfer the Cheshire Corrections property to the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control.

Don also reported that the February Bond Commission has been canceled.

2. New Haven Renovation - Design

Don reported that the schematic is approximately one third complete. There is still no M.O.U. between the City of New Haven and the Ct. D.P.W.

3. Hartford County - Design

Don reported that the shortlist committee met today. The D.P.W. received proposals from four architectural and engineering firms. They may interview all four. A site visit is scheduled for March 13 with interviews scheduled for March 20. There is some flexibility on the site layout. Don recommended that the site engineer complete a suggested site lay-out prior to finalizing the lease parcel limits.

4. Bond funding update

Don reported that the first three projects are anticipated to be the most time-consuming to complete. He hopes that the subsequent projects will be completed using a design-build process.

Ted Schroll reported that there were several draft bills that have been submitted with similar language. He expects that the language contained in bill #6347 is that which will advance.

Ted expressed concern for our lobbying efforts if none of the authorized bonding is released prior to the end of this session.

5. Operational Budgets

A meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 26, 2007 with the Appropriations Subcommittee on Regulation and Protection at 1:30 p.m. in the L.O.B. in room 1B.

Al Hawkins passed around copies of a draft for submission at that meeting for review and discussion. The following committee members indicated that they would attend the meeting: Rich Winn, Chet Haber, Les Shull, Al Hawkins, Jeff Morrissette, Ted Schroll.

6. 2007 legislative initiatives – Training bill

The Training Bill has now been drafted as a Public Safety Committee Bill. There was a brief discussion about the process for distribution of the funding if this bill should pass. Quality control was also discussed.

7. Other items from membership

Chet Haber reported on the recent site visits to the Worcester and New Hampshire burn buildings.

Rich Nicol discussed the effort to form a Fire Service Legislative Caucus.

Tom McGowan has been selected to replace Fred Piechota as the Director of Certification. Tom is scheduled to start on March 16th.

Jeff Morrissette reported on a presentation by Pennsylvania officials on live fire training. The presentation will be given on February 26 and March 25.

There was a brief discussion about the lack of participation by some of the regional fire schools. Several committee members in attendance expressed disappointment that the bulk of the work is being done by a minority of the regional school directors.

8. Next meeting date

The next meeting will be March 22, 2006 at 19:00 at Wethersfield Company #3.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:10 (motion by Haber second by Stankye)

Submitted by:
Al Hawkins, chairman