

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

Meeting – March 23, 2006 – 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:20 with the following members present:

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Lloyd Niles, Al Hawkins
Fairfield Regional Fire School – Scott Bisson
Hartford Fire School - Chet Haber, James Baldis
Middlesex County Fire School – Fred Dudek, Jay Woron
Stamford Fire Department Regional School – Tony Conte
Valley Fire Chief’s Regional Fire School – Peter Wols, Jr.
Wolcott Regional Fire School – Paul Perrotti
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jim Wilkinson
Connecticut Fire Academy – Jeff Morrisette
Guests: Ed O’Hurley, Fred Piechota, C.F.A.

There was no one present representing the New Haven Regional Fire Academy

The minutes of the February 23, 2006 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved – motion by Haber second by Wols.

1. Hazardous Materials Certification – Fred Piechota

Mr. Piechota reported that the C.F.P.C. voted to create certification for both Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operational programs. IFSAC suggested this at their last audit. The ProBoard has approved and extension. The plan is to imbed the testing in the Firefighter I and Firefighter II certification exams. The C.F.A. will issue certificates upon successful exam results. There is no current plan to offer certification testing for stand alone programs.

Al Hawkins commented that he felt that the lack of testing for the stand-alone programs would be a shortcoming that would result in varied programs with inconsistent levels of training.

Jay Woron reported that the Middlesex school will incorporate Hazardous Materials Operational into their Firefighter I program beginning next year. The NFPA 1001 committee draft has incorporated HMO into the 2008 version of the Firefighter I program.

It was also observed that all performance requirements for knots have been removed from the draft standard for Firefighter I. There was discussion about the impact that this move could have on rescue programs. If firefighters that attained certification to the Firefighter I level did not have any knowledge of knots it could have a detrimental impact on programs for technical rescue, RIT, bail-outs, etc. Mr. Piechota noted that Connecticut could continue to incorporate elements into their certification program that were not incorporated into the standard.

2. Firefighter I certification testing – Ed O’Hurley

Mr. O’Hurley reported that the certification division has now developed eight different sets of practical skills testing days. These will incorporate six different JPRs. Additionally, live burns will include fires seated at entry level, above entry level and below entry level for Firefighter I burn verification. Other skills added include forward hose lays, reverse hose lays, tool hoisting, securing an area, ventilation, generator operation, sump pump operation and controlling building utilities including gas, and electrical.

There was discussion about the need for the certification personnel to provide advance notice to the regional fire schools relative to the exact equipment that would be required to facilitate practical skills testing.

3. Status of properties acquisitions

Burrville – D.P.W. is still working on the D.E.P. permit issue. The D.P.W. staff attorney is attempting to set up a meeting with the regional manager from D.E.P.

Hartford – O.P.M. has reviewed the draft agreement with Bradley. Parties have been advised not to commit to any agreement until the funding source is committed.

Middlesex – The city of Middletown has surveyed a 13 acre parcel. The Mayor and Council are in favor of the purchase and are working on a sales agreement and M.O.U. with D.P.W. for the construction.

Willimantic – Two of the parcels that were submitted in response to the advertisement for property are currently being appraised under direction of D.P.W.

Wolcott – D.P.W. is looking for assurance that the Wolcott school directors are committed to moving to the Cheshire site before they proceed with the transfer of the property from the Department of Corrections.

Derby – A site has been submitted in response to the advertisement. That site consists of approximately 15 acres. Don Ouillette from D.P.W. is attempting to coordinate a site visit but early indications show that this is an exceptional site.

4. New Haven Burn Building/Renovation – status

All indications are that the design funds will be released at the Bond Commission meeting next week. A discussion was held about how this committee should proceed if the funds are not released.

The consensus of those present was that our first step if the funding is not released should be to set up a meeting with the Governor. The action plan prepared by Jim Baldis was endorsed by the group with the modification that item #9 (the meeting with the Governor) should move to item #1.

5. Operational Budget – update

All indications are that the leadership of the Appropriations Committee was committed to provide for the requested increase in operational funding for the regional fire schools. We will have to wait to see whether or not the funding is included in the approved budget.

6. Other items from membership

Jeff Morrisette reported that he had an offer of 6 or 7 overhead projectors if any of the regional had any need for them. Anyone interested please contact Jeff.

Paul Benyada has aborted his attempt to develop a combined NIMS combined I-100, I-200, I-700 program. The feds want to provide the established numbers of contact hours. The DEMHS Training Committee will review this issue at their upcoming meeting.

Jim Baldis observed that each of the regional fire schools should develop a catch of necessary equipment to have on hand for practical skills testing. Several directors reported that they were forced to make choices whether to purchase the necessary equipment or to pay their utility bills.

Jeff Morrisette reported that equipment offered to the regional fire schools by DEMHS (notebook P.C.s, LCD projectors, and fit testing equipment) was being acquired and should be available soon.

Scott Bisson reported that he would be moving to a shift supervisor position after March 31. Captain Doug Chavenello will replace him in the training position.

Fire Service Day at the Capital is scheduled for April 28, 2006 from 09:00 until 14:00.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:23

Next meeting date will be April 27, 2006 at 19:00 at Wethersfield Fire Company #3.

Submitted by:

Al Hawkins, chairman