

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Educational Committee

Meeting minutes

April 22, 2004 – 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Company #3

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

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Lloyd Niles, Al Hawkins
Hartford Fire School – Chet Haber, Michael Jepeal
Middlesex County Fire School – Fred Dudek
Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School – Peter Wols
Wolcott State Fire School – Bob Massicotte, Paul Perrotti
Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Scott Potter, Charles Stankye Jr., Ted Schroll
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jim Wilkinson, Rich Nicol
Fairfield Regional Fire School – Scott Bisson
Guest – Donald Ouillette, Department of Public Works

There were no representatives present from:

New Haven Regional Fire Academy

1. Lobbying efforts update for capital funding

Jim Wilkinson reported on a telephone conversation with Representative Amann. Representative Amann told Jim that everything was “good to go” for the bond funding. Chet Haber reported that he had discussed the bonding initiative recently with Senator DeFronzo. The senator had also related that the bonding was nearly certain to be passed. Jim Wilkinson also reported that the governor had attended an event at the Aqua Turf today. When he left the event, he made an unscheduled entry into the meeting of the Connecticut State Fire Marshal's Association. He referenced the fire school bonding initiative in remarks to those in attendance.

Don Ouillette reported that even if the bonding is approved, the funding may not become available until December 2004. He also noted that the pending ethics bill would remove the Commissioner of Public Works from the bonding commission. Action on the bonding bill should immediately follow passage of the state budget.

2. Action plan discussion

On hold.

3. Update on Live Burn observations by C.F.P.C. Certification Sign-offs for actual incidents versus training

It was pointed out that the accreditation agency has some issues with the current policy for sign-offs of live burn training. This is part of the impetus for the recent decision for the C.F.P.C. Certification Office to audit live burn training.

There was also a brief discussion about the lack of enforcement or outreach training by O.S.H.A. relative to regulatory requirements on fire departments.

4. Update - Line of duty training death at Wolcott school

Bob Massicotte reported on the impact that the incident had on the school staff. The C.I.S.D. team held a debriefing session.

There was a lengthy discussion about contracts and hold-harmless agreements for individuals attending regional fire school programs as well as fire departments utilizing regional fire school facilities to conduct their own in-service training. Bob Massicotte has developed several release forms and contract documents that he offered to share with members of the committee.

Richard Winn reported that the Firefighter I program that they run at the Burrville School included fitness testing as part of the program.

Hartford County incorporates the fitness testing sign-off along with the medical evaluation sign-off by the fire chief.

5. Other items from membership

Charles Stankye reported that he had not received the quarterly funding checks for the regional fire schools.

Mike Jepeal inquired about what fire departments utilize the New Haven Regional Fire Academy. Jim Wilkinson reported that there are several career departments that utilize the facility. Several volunteer departments utilize classrooms. The Valley Chiefs' school utilizes the New Haven facility for ladder and cold training.

Scott Bisson pointed out that the Fairfield school is also made available for any department that requests it.

There was a discussion about operating and maintenance expenses for the regional fire schools. Al Hawkins pointed out that he expected that the design of the new facilities should include estimated operating and maintenance budgets. If these figures were developed by the design professionals it should provide a good opportunity to forward these figures to the legislature for consideration. Richard Winn suggested that the regional fire schools should also engage in centralized purchasing. Suggestion was also made that some of the maintenance efforts could be consolidated.

Ted Schroll announced that the new "Fire Service Laws" books were available. Cost is \$65.

The next meeting was set for Thursday, May 27, 2004 at 19:00, in Wethersfield.

submitted by:
Al Hawkins, chairman