

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

May 22, 2008 – 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order by Al Hawkins at 19:12 with the following representatives present:

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn

Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins

Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy

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

New Haven Regional Fire Academy - Ralph Black

Stamford Regional Fire School - Tony Conte

Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School - Peter Wols

Wolcott State Fire School - Jim Trzaski

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

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

Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrissette

Guest: Ct. Department of Public Works - Don Ouillette

Sub-committee on Curriculum Standardization - Cathy Goetz -

No one was present from:, Middlesex County Fire School

The minutes of the April meeting were presented. Motion made by Jepeal to accept the minutes, second by Tracy. Motion carried.

1. Status of properties acquisitions

Eastern Connecticut Fire School - There was a meeting between DPW and Rogers two weeks ago. Attorneys appear intent on continuing to word smith the document which is now between 30 and 40 pages. There remain two or three minor areas of disagreement.

Valley Regional Fire School - There are two appraisals complete for the Beacon Falls property. DPW is working on a final report.

Middlesex County Fire School - Al Hawkins is in receipt of an email from Jay Woron advising that there is paperwork being exchanged between the directors and the Army. He advised that a representative from Middlesex will attend our next meeting.

2. Other projects status

New Haven Regional Fire Academy - The review of the preliminary design drawings is complete. The architect has been instructed to move forward with contract documents. There will be one final review after completion of the contract documents.

The state Bond Commission agenda was printed today. The \$150 K requested in the April meeting that was canceled did not appear on the agenda.

Hartford County Fire School - The project manager has returned to work. Next week he should be working to move the project forward.

Ted Schroll advised that he has been receiving questions about the project status from legislators. He was asked if the \$150 K was submitted by DPW for inclusion in the agenda for the May meeting. Don Ouillette will forward updates of DPW bonding requests for future Bond Commission meetings. He advised that the \$150 K would be re-submitted for the June meeting.

Chris Tracy stated that this committee needs to become pro-active each month to push our legislative supporters to make sure that our funding continues to flow. We need better coordination between the DPW Commissioner, Ted Schroll, and our legislators.

3. Standardization / Curriculum Committee

Cathy Goetz provided an update on work of the sub-committee. She stated that this was a dynamic committee. Jones & Bartlett, IFSTA and Action Training have all submitted materials to the committee for consideration. Yesterday there were presentations by Jones & Bartlett and IFSTA-Brady. Jones & Barlett provided a comprehensive presentation about the features of their materials. IFSTA-Brady gave a fragmented presentation with inconsistent information.

The Massachusetts Fire Academy has selected Jones & Bartlett publication for use in their program deliveries.

The committee is looking at the customer service options provided by the publishers as well as the pricing options for the curriculum packages and textbooks.

Jeff Morrissette asked if we are considering working through the Connecticut Fire Academy Bookstore for future publications purchases. That aspect has not been addressed yet.

There was a discussion about Firefighter I prerequisite requirements contained in the NFPA 1001, 2008 edition. Those include bloodborne pathogens, CPR and first aid. The committee has been looking at some on-line cognitive options.

Mike Jepeal stated that approximately 40 percent of the Firefighter I applicants seen at Hartford County require CPR and first aid.

The Wolcott School is utilizing the IFSTA 5th edition for their summer course offering of Firefighter I.

There was discussion about whether a bloodborne pathogens class could be tailored to each sending department.

Mike Jepeal asked if the committee had solicited input from CFPC - Certification office relative to the various texts. Cathy noted that she has had several discussions with certification staff about the move to the new standard.

Final report of the committee will be presented on June 26, 2008.

4. Other items from membership

There was a brief discussion about the interest expressed by the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to move their region 4 office to the property that Eastern Connecticut Fire School is attempting to purchase in South Windham. General feelings were expressed that this move could help keep the regional school capital project moving forward.

Ted Schroll announce that due to the budget woes of the state that there would be no new funding for the second half of the current biennial budget. The additional operating expenses that we requested for New Haven (\$34k) and Wolcott (\$12k) will not be included in the budget. He also reported that the training funding bill had died. The funding will return to the \$750k and the language will remain the same.

Their was a brief discussion about the possible changes in the house and senate membership/leadership.

The upcoming budget requests for operational funding for the regional schools was also discussed. Al Hawkins advised all school directors to plan to have budget information formulated prior to the end of

this calendar year. The Appropriations sub-committee on Regulation and Protection has met to discuss our needs in February for the last two years. We need to make sure that figures are finalized and compiled well in advance of that meeting.

Jim Wilkinson reported that the chief of the Danbury Fire Department was interested in attaining regional fire school status for the Danbury Fire School. They have a class "A" burn building and provide training for members from 18 - 19 departments for a fee. Jim advised him that they would need to go through the legislative process. It appears that the school is planning to expand their offerings to the area.

Jim Wilkinson reported that Jim Fleming stopped by the last C.F.P.C. meeting to say hello and to ask how the capital project was moving. He wanted to extend his best wishes to the committee members.

Work continues between fire service representatives and the Office of Emergency Medical Services to evaluate the medical prerequisites for the Rescue Technician certification program. O.E.M.S. has indicated that they could probably agree that an M.R.T. who was also certified in one of the Rescue Technician disciplines could probably package a patient. The issue is continuing through the process to be evaluated by the full E.M.S. advisory committee.

The Certification division of the C.F.P.C. has been conducting field evaluations of sites intended for practical skills testing. They have evaluated 45 sites that were used previously for practical skills testing. They found that the regional fire schools and 3 other sites appear adequate to evaluate all necessary skills.

5. Next meeting date

The next meeting will be on June 26, 2008 at 19:00 at the Wethersfield Company #3.

Meeting adjourned at 21:06

Submitted by:
Al Hawkins, chairman