

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

May 24, 2005 – 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Department Company #3, Keliher Court

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

Burrville Fire School – Robert Norton, Jr.
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Lloyd Niles, Al Hawkins
Fairfield Regional Fire School – Scott Bisson
Hartford Fire School - Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal
Middlesex County Fire School – Jay Woron
New Haven Regional Fire Academy – Bill Seward
Valley Fire Chief’s Regional Fire School – Charlie Stankye, Jr.
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jim Wilkinson, Rich Nicol
Connecticut Fire Academy – Jeff Morrissette
Guests: Don Ouillette, DPW

There was no one present representing the Stamford Fire Department Regional School, Wolcott Regional Fire School, or Connecticut State Firefighters Association.

Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.

1. Status of properties acquisitions

Hartford County School – Tentative meeting of the Board of Directors for Bradley on June 16. DOT representatives have indicated that any new lease agreement will be designed to generate fair market revenue on the subject property.

Middlesex County School – The city of Middletown is trying to purchase the Newfield St. property for \$499 K. Expenditures less than \$500 K do not need to go to referendum.

Wolcott Regional School – The Waterbury Area Fire Chiefs Association membership is waiting for the Naugatuck Valley Community College to commit to the subject property. N.V.C.C. is conducting a survey of the property.

E.C.F.S. Willimantic – The negotiations with the property owner to purchase the currently leased property have reached an impasse. The owner has verbally committed to a new lease agreement. The E.C.F.S. directors are working with council to draft an agreement. The cost of the lease agreement will be \$1,000 per month.

Valley Fire Chiefs School – There are no clear prospects for locating the school. The area fire chiefs are still working on a parcel in Seymour.

2. New Haven Burn Building/Renovation - status

Bill Seward reported that the design is underway. He also reported that the initial cost estimates were quite high. The proposed storage building is currently estimated at \$2.4 million bringing the total project up to approximately \$8.6 million. Don Ouillette intends to start to value engineer to reduce the costs. Don also offered that he felt that the design team was beginning to “over design” the project. Don also reported that Commissioner Fleming wants to keep this project moving forward. The next bond commission meeting will probably be in August, Don hopes that this project can be on the agenda for funding at that meeting.

3. Legislative Session 2005 – what’s new

Charles Stankye reported that at the recent executive meeting of the C.S.F.A. the consensus of those present was that they wished to continue to retain some oversight of the regional fire schools, including the compilation of the reports of activity for dissemination back to the state comptroller’s office.

Walter Pawelkiewicz submitted a bill to fund \$10 million on the second year of the upcoming biannual budget. The hope is that this funding request finds its way through the process and is included in the bonding package.

Commissioner Nicol reported that the Waterbury Area Fire Chiefs are concerned about the liability issues at the Wolcott Regional School. He reported that none of the legal fees are being covered by their existing insurance.

There was some discussion about the May meeting between Commissioner Thomas and representative of this committee on May 11th. The general feeling of those present was that the regional fire schools should make every effort to partner with the Department of Homeland Security to deliver training programs to the various regions. Jeff Morrissette cautioned that funding would probably take some time. Several interests have come forward for inclusion into the delivery of Homeland Security training, several seem intent on accessing the available funds. Several committees have been established to review how the Department conducts business and provides training. Jeff chairs a training committee which is charged with investigating the logistics of coordinating available resources. They are compiling a list of all “first responder” training needs. The D.H.S. may be able to fund NIMS training if it is part of a Firefighter I or Firefighter II program. The training committee is trying to determine the most cost effective means to delivery the necessary training. Jeff also pointed out that the fire service is well represented on this committee.

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

Mike Jepeal reported that the committee met again last month and continues to perform a lot of work through emails. The first tier of their report will address OSHA required aspects of training. That portion is almost complete. Mike also wanted to recognize the efforts of Jim Carrol from the Connecticut Fire Academy who has been a substantial contributor to this committee’s efforts. Jim’s name was left off of earlier correspondence. Mike wants to plan to have representatives of the standardization committee attend an education committee meeting in the fall.

5. Other items from membership

Rich Nicol reported that Bob Massicotte is stepping down as director of training for the Wolcott Regional School effective June 1. Jim Trzaski has been selected as the new director of training.

Jim Wilkinson reported that Bill McAllister will not be seeking a second term as president of the CSFA. Bob Guthrie will be nominated for president in September.

Bill Seward reported on the recent request from D.E.P. to have the New Haven Fire Department operated foam trailer respond to the gasoline tanker rollover in Cheshire. Bill complimented the professionalism of those participating in that incident.

Jeff Morrissette reported that Representative Mazurek took a tour of the Wolcott School last week.

Al Hawkins suggested that this committee again attempt to establish a recurring date for meetings. After some discussion those in attendance favored the forth Thursday of each month.

Next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2005 at Wethersfield Co. #3.

Submitted by:

Al Hawkins, chairman