

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

Meeting – August 24, 2006 – 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

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

Burrville Fire School – Rich Winn

Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Lloyd Niles, Les Shull, Al Hawkins

Hartford Fire School - Chet Haber, Jim Baldis

Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School – Peter Wols, Jr.

Wolcott Regional Fire School – Jim Tzraski, Kevin Engle, Paul Perrotti

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

Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Ted Schroll

Guests: Don Ouillette, D.P.W., Ed O'Hurley, C.F.P.C.

No one was present from the following organizations: Fairfield Regional Fire School, Middlesex County Fire School, New Haven Regional Fire Academy, Stamford Fire Department Regional School, and Connecticut Fire Academy

The minutes of the July 27, 2006 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved – motion by Wilkinson second by Haber.

1. C.F.P.C. Certification Update – new application process

Ed O'Hurley reported on the new application forms for Firefighter I testing and the fee increase.

The new certification fee is \$15 and includes the cost of the practical skills testing, written testing, and national certification by IFSAC. Previously certification fees were \$5 for the practical and \$7.50 for the written exam. National certification was an option at an additional cost of \$15.

Ed also reported on the latest changes to the Firefighter I application. There are now four sign-offs required by the local fire department related to communications. The application also provides for acknowledgement by the student that he/she has received a copy of the practical skills booklet. Fred Piechota has developed a cover letter and brochure to explain the changes and the local sign-off requirement.

Modified applications for the Firefighter II testing are being developed.

2. Status of properties acquisitions

Eastern Connecticut Fire School - A letter has been submitted to Commissioner Fleming, signed by members of the site selection committee, recommending the procurement of the former Rogers Corporation manufacturing facility in Windham as the preferred site for the Eastern Connecticut Fire School. Details of a purchase agreement have been verbally agreed upon. No move toward purchase will take place prior to the completion of environmental clean-up by Rogers Corporation. Remediation work will need to be approved by D.P.W. and D.E.P.

Valley Chiefs Regional Fire School – The Attorney General has not yet signed off on the contract for appraisal of the Oxford property.

Hartford County Regional Fire School – A letter of intent is in the hands of the D.O.T. Bureau Chief. Hopefully that letter can be approved before the end of September. The letter of intend will precede the lease agreement. Design work will be able to start after the execution of the letter of intent.

Burrville Regional Fire School - Tom Morrisey from the D.E.P. has agreed to the concept of the renewal of the current lease for the existing school property.

3. New Haven Renovation – Design

The property review board has approved the project – the Attorney General is reviewing the contract for the project design. D.P.W. is ready to begin the design and there will be a pre-design meeting scheduled after Labor Day. No construction will begin until an M.O.U. is executed between the city of New Haven and the D.P.W.

4. Hartford County – Design

Since the letter of intent is anticipated soon Don Ouillette is beginning to contemplate the design phase. Hartford County and the Connecticut Fire Academy should get together to program the project before the end of 2006.

The survey and site evaluation will precede the design.

5. Bond funding update

Don Ouillette distributed a spreadsheet outlining the latest cost estimates and projected phasing of the projects. Don reported that he has heard nothing from Middletown about the status of the property acquisition and the M.O.U. for that location. There was also discussion about multiple newspaper reports that this funding would build a fire school in Middletown along with a Middletown Fire Department substation. There have been a few reports of phone calls and mailings from the Middletown area being received by state representatives Orange and Pawelkiewicz apparently protesting the use of state bond funds to construct a fire station in Middletown. Don reported that Commissioner Fleming has also received some similar phone calls. The general consensus of those present was that we had no intentions of using the subject bond funding to build a firehouse.

Al Hawkins will call Fred Dudek to attempt to gain some insight about the status of the Middletown project along with the content of discussions between the Middlesex Area Chiefs and the city of Middletown. There was consensus of those present that Middlesex representatives needed to work with this committee to coordinate efforts.

6. Other items from membership

There was a discussion about the operating budget compilation process for the regional fire schools. Directors of each regional fire school will be asked to provide budget requests for fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-09. Al Hawkins asked for a narrative explaining any substantial increases.

D.E.M.H.S. – There was a request on the status of the fit testing machines, P.C.s, and LCD projectors. No one present was aware of the current status of this equipment.

Jim Tzraski reported that there were “mountains” of N.I.M.S. workbooks at Brainard Rd. If anyone needs them they should contact Bob Christ.

7. Next meeting date

The next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2006. (That meeting was subsequently canceled)
The next meeting will be October 26, 2006 at Wethersfield Fire Company #3.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:20.

Submitted by:
Al Hawkins, chairman