

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Educational Committee

Meeting minutes

August 26, 2004 – 19:00

Stamford Fire Training Facility

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

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn, Robert Norton, Jr.
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins
Hartford Fire School – Chet Haber, Michael Jepeal, Jim Baldis
New Haven Regional Fire Academy – William Seward
Stamford Fire Department Regional School – Robert McGrath, John McCabe
Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School – Peter Wols
Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Charles Stankye, Jr.
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jim Wilkinson, Rich Nicol
Connecticut Fire Academy – State Fire Administrator, Jeff Morrissette
Guest – Donald Ouillette, DPW

There were no representatives present from the Fairfield Regional Fire School, Middlesex County Fire School, and the Wolcott State Fire School

The meeting was recessed for a tour of the Stamford training facility. A Stamford Fire Department engine company was present to light the various propane props for demonstration.

1. **Status of property acquisition**

The Waterbury Area Fire Chiefs have not yet committed to a site.

D.P.W. wants to work on negotiating a possible purchase of the Willimantic current school property.

The Derby directors are still evaluating several potential parcels of property.

Don reported that the State Property Review board may be replaced with a new process. He will keep us updated.

3. **Temporary Burn Facilities – Burrville and Willimantic - status**

Don Ouillette indicated that Commissioner Fleming has been fielding a lot of questions from various legislators about the progress of the capital project and the "temporary" burn facilities. Don asked the committee if funding for the two steel burn buildings could come from the capital funding.

A consensus decision was reached by those present that the capital funding could be used to support the two steel buildings. It was felt that a separate funding source remained most desirable.

Don also reported that Representative Boukus is trying to set up a meeting with Commissioner Fleming.

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

This item was tabled until the September meeting.

5. Other items from membership

Bill Seward reported that the city of New Haven has facilitated some repairs to the New Haven Regional Fire Academy. The roof of the administration building has been replaced. Federal grant money has been secured in the amount of \$80K for a standby generator.

Don reported that he had direction on how Commissioner Fleming would like to see the capital project proceed. He wants to issue two requests for proposals for architectural services. He estimated that each process would take between three and six months.

One R.F.P. would be for services to design the New Haven burn building and accomplish the renovations to the existing facility, the other would be for design of the other seven facilities. As additional funding becomes available for the project, the individual projects could be released for bid. Don estimates that the design for the seven regional fire schools would probably cost between \$500,000 and \$600,000. As the individual projects were funded a site planner would be required to lay out each site. Don reviewed the selection process. All proposals would be reviewed for acceptability and rated by a scoring system. The top five would be interviewed by a selection committee. Don will look for commitment from the bonding commission before beginning the project.

There was some discussion about the choice of gas versus class A fuels for structural fire training. The general feeling was that the additional heat and smoke created by class A materials created a more realistic environment.

There was also a discussion about what accommodations would be required to enable training in firefighting foam applications.

Jim Wilkinson reported on discussions at the last C.S.F.A. executive committee meeting. The incoming president, Bill McAllister suggested that we seek reimbursement of the cost of propane used at the Connecticut Fire Academy from the state legislature. He further suggested that, until the capital projects were completed at the regional fire schools that all interior burns in the state be conducted at the Connecticut Fire Academy. No action was taken by the committee.

There was a discussion about the discontinuation of the Q2 driver program by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Mike Jepeal pointed out that the D.M.V. would not issue a CDL license to a piece of fire apparatus. The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and the Joint Council on Connecticut Fire Service Organizations both plan to discuss the issue further.

A motion was made and seconded that the Education Committee present a plaque to outgoing President Scott Potter for his support of the work by this committee. A script for the plaque was distributed. The plaque is to be presented at the annual meeting in Cromwell. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting was set for Thursday, September 23, 2004 at 19:00, in New Haven.

submitted by:
Al Hawkins, chairman