

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

Meeting – October 26, 2006 – 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

Members Present:

Burrville Fire School – Rich Winn  
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Lloyd Niles  
Hartford Fire School - Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal, Jim Baldis  
Middlesex Regional Fire School – Fred Dudek  
Stamford Fire Department Regional – Tony Conte  
Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School – Peter Wols, Jr.  
Wolcott Regional Fire School – Kevin Engle  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol, Jim Wilkinson (Acting Chair)  
Connecticut State Firefighters Association, Charlie Stanke Jr.  
Connecticut Fire Academy, Jeff Morrisette  
Guests: Don Ouillette, D.P.W.

No one was present from the following organizations: Fairfield Regional Fire School, New Haven Regional Fire Academy

The meeting was called to order by Jim Wilkinson at 19:07.

Don Ouellette from the State of Ct Public Works was first on the agenda and gave the following update:

- Hartford County: The letter of intent for the land use has been signed and is moving forward.
- Eastern Connecticut (The Rogers Site): Offer from the state has been accepted however the current issue is site remediation. Don stated that the state is being firm about not buying a dirty site. This is a major concern regarding this site.
- Derby (The Oxford Site): The appraisal has been ordered and is expected back by Thanksgiving.
- Middletown: An MOU is being written up for the Middletown project with and anticipated completion of a draft by November. The city is buying the property. Don pointed out that a master site plan is needed.

Don also noted that 30 Million Dollars has been presented in the DPW's budget for the fire schools. Gov. Rell is expected to present it to the legislature in its entirety.

- Burville Regional School: DPW is waiting for a response from DEP officials.

- Wolcott Regional Fire School: No News on talks with Waterbury as a meeting has still not taken place. After some discussion and strong encouragement by the members present that a meeting is a crucial next step, it was announced that Waterbury is in fact not interested in a consolidation and that it voted to move forward with the Cheshire site. Don raised his concerns over this site as to the reaction of the neighborhood and proximity to the correctional facility. It was also discussed that a required legislative change in ownership will be spearheaded by the education committee.
- New Haven Fire School: A contract has been signed with the designer. Don gave the group some advice to be sure to read what you sign. Jim Wilkinson raised a question regarding a summary document from New Haven that apparently was circulating which outlined significant cost increases. Don clarified that the original desire for a CPAT building has been dropped and that the city owned administrative building will be done in the final phase of the planning with the key focus on ADA compliancy.

A concern was raised at the table that we shouldn't be funding city owned buildings. Don reminded the committee that the committee approved the master plan which included New Haven's ADA updated and Air conditioning.

Don's final bit of advice was to keep pressure on the legislature to approve the budget for the fire school.

At this time a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

A brief review of the Biannual Budgets was presented. Valley Fire Chief's did not submit a budget, and Eastern and Stamford requested no increases.

Jim reported that at the Fire Fighters Convention held in September, the education committee was formalized through a change in the by-laws. It was not important to formalize the committee membership list by getting names from each school. Names should be submitted to Jim or Charlie.

It was announced that Fairfield received a grant to build a flashover simulator.

No date has been set for the next legislative meeting.

Mike Jepeal reported that the standardization committee had prepared a CD of skill sheets on use by Hartford County which includes an overview of each skill being taught. There was also discussion about the Burn Audits and required documentation that must be available. Mike also reported that the committee has lost most of its members and is regrouping.

Jeff Morrisette passed out copies of new publication on Health and Safety guidelines for Fire Fighting Training.

A question was raised to Jeff regarding a “rumor” that newly hired certification or instructor members to the academy would no longer be able to participate in outside training at the regional school level. Jeff confirmed this to be true and more discussion followed. It was felt that this was an undermining of the working relationship the state has and wants to have with the regional schools. Jeff stated that he would bring this concern back to the Academy.

It was noted that Fred Pichota’s retirement dinner will be on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Ed O’Hurley is back to work part time and that Mark Amotrudo is filling in temporarily.

Rich Nicol reported that the commission is supporting a Firefighters Training bill to help pay for required training at the state and local levels.

Jim Baldis noted that the new Health and Safety publication (that Jeff handed out earlier) needs to be reviewed carefully and may create more requirements for training preparedness.

It was noted that IFSTA will be publishing a new Essentials for Firefighting and an Essentials Plus which will include an additional section on hazmat.

It was announced that the Labor Department has finalized the standard for minors who want to serve as firefighters. Regional Schools may be asked to host informational meetings in your town.

Charlie Stankye reminded everyone that financial audits are due to him by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The next meeting will be held November 30<sup>th</sup>

The meeting was adjourned 20:25

Respectfully Submitted

James Baldis  
Acting Secretary