

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

October 27, 2011

Wethersfield Fire Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:15 with the following representatives present:

Burrville Regional Fire School - Tom Osborne
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins, Les Shull, Eric Deschamps
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy
Hartford County Regional Fire School – Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal
Middlesex County Fire School - Fred Dudek
Stamford Regional Fire School - Tony Conte
Valley Fire Chiefs’ Regional Fire School - Ken Mitchell
Wolcott State Fire School - Steve Veneziano
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jeff Morrissette, Rich Nicol
Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Charlie Stankye, Jr., Ted Schroll
Guests:
Danbury Fire Dept. - Mark Omasta

No one was present representing the New Haven Fire Academy

Minutes of the September 2011 meeting were distributed for review. Question was raised by Jeff Morrissette regarding a comment about budget reductions that was attributed to him. Also, a spelling correction was offered for the Deputy Commission of Building Construction. Motion was made by Chet Haber second by Chris Tracy to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion passed.

1. Status of properties acquisitions

Don Ouillette provided a written update on the property status for the various regional schools.

Willimantic - Survey team is scheduled to be on-site this week. First week in October if we get rain.
Beacon Falls - Wetland flagging is scheduled for next week.

2. Other projects status

Hartford County School - Construction is at 35% completion.

New Haven Regional Fire Academy - Ribbon Cutting is scheduled for October 13, at 11:30 a.m. Ted Schroll asked if there had been invitations printed and distributed. Jeff will be working with New Haven staff to work on the invitations and subsequent distribution.

Fairfield School - Geotech study is scheduled to be completed in October.

Burrville School - Awaiting an approved M.O.U.

The Design/Build architect screening meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11.

3. Regional Fire Schools operations budgets.

Ted Schroll asked about the status of operational funding for the fire schools. Jeff reported that the requests had already been sent for the next quarterly payments.

4. Capital improvement plan - going forward.

Senator Crisco reportedly placed an inquiry with Senator Williams about the status of the fire school capital funding.

Deputy Commissioner of Construction Services, Salemi is reportedly pushing to get additional funding approved for the project.

There was a long discussion about the appropriate strategy to try to see the overall project accelerated to completion.

The C.F.D.I.A. has reported that the Governor has stated that he wanted to get four regional schools completed. Tom Murphy questioned the status of the Burrville property survey.

5. Live burn procedures for new Class A burn buildings.

No progress.

6. Other items from membership

Biennial midterm budget adjustments - Jeff reported that the current plans to reduce funding for firefighter training appear to remain uncertain. Jeff suggested that regional fire schools begin working on budget development.

Chet Haber commented on being impressed with the turnout for the ground-breaking ceremony. All of the pre-fabricated components for the burn building are now on site. He reported that the training room floor was changed to carpet for its acoustic value. They plan to make use of existing hydrants for water supplies. PDS gets high marks for quality and quantity of construction. Jim Baldis distributed copies of his power point presentation for all regional fire schools.

Ted and Charlie Stankye expressed concern with comments that were encouraging legislators to “stay the course” on the capital projects. They are both concerned that the committee members remain unified in their lobbying efforts. They both encourage that the committee sets the agenda and that all regional schools follow that agenda. They caution that changes in message will cause legislators and administrators to loose interest.

Al Hawkins reported that Senator Prague is attempting to get a meeting scheduled with Don Williams.

After that meeting, Al feels that it is important to sit down with Deputy Commissioner Salemi to discuss the status of the various projects.

7. Next meeting date

October 27, 2011 at Wethersfield Company #3, at 19:00.

Motion by Rich Winn, second by Chris Tracy to adjourn, motion carried.

Submitted by Al Hawkins