

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

Meeting – January 26, 2006 – 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:10 with the following members present:

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn

Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Lloyd Niles, Al Hawkins

Fairfield Regional Fire School – Scott Bisson

Hartford Fire School - Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal

New Haven Regional Fire Academy – Bill Seward

Stamford Fire Department Regional School – Tony Conte, Trevor Roach

Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School – Peter Wols

Wolcott Regional Fire School – Jim Tzraski

Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Ted Schroll

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

Connecticut Fire Academy – Jeff Morrissette

Guest: Don Ouillette, DPW

There was no one present representing the Middlesex County Fire School.

The minutes of the December 22nd meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved – motion by Wilkinson second by Niles.

1. Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operational changes

Fred Piechota had a scheduling conflict arise and asked to put this off to a later meeting.

2. Status of properties acquisitions

Fairfield Regional Fire School – Don Ouillette advised that Scott Bisson and Chief Felner should start to work with local politicians and town administration to explain the M.O.U. process well in advance of the project start.

Middlesex County Fire School – Don advised that he would like the Middlesex School Committee to begin working with local officials to explain the M.O.U. process in advance of that project start.

Hartford County Fire School - Commissioner Fleming believes that the \$35,000 lease payment is in the Governor's budget. Representative Pawelkiewicz has committed to introduce a bill as a fall-back if necessary.

Wolcott State Fire School – The Cheshire property needs to be turned over to D.P.W. as surplus property. Don wants to tour the property with the school directors to review the site conditions. Don advised that there have been complaints by neighbors about the Department of Corrections operating their firing range.

Burrville Fire School – The attorney for D.P.W. is almost ready to start working on the lease agreement. She will be calling a meeting soon with personnel from D.E.P.

Derby Fire School – D.P.W. is preparing the advertisement for property. Don remarked that after the meeting yesterday with the Commissioner of Public Works and the Secretary of O.P.M. he felt that the release of necessary bond funding would flow more quickly.

E.C.S.F. Fire School Willimantic – Property appraisals are being completed and should be complete by mid February. After the appraisals are reviewed a selection committee will be compiled.

3. New Haven Burn Building/Renovation – status

New Haven Regional Fire Academy – Don felt that all parties were now amenable to the M.O.U. process, we still need to get the design funds released by the Bond Commission.

4. Homeland Security Training opportunities

Nothing is new. The combined I-100/200/700 class is not yet available.

5. Operational Budget template

There was a discussion about developing a standard budget template for all of the regional schools to use to facilitate their future budget requests. Al Hawkins distributed two draft shells for review. He requested that if anyone felt that they needed additional categories that they should call him or send an email. Al offered to collect information from each of the fire schools and to try to construct a single page summary that would encompass all of the regional fire schools.

6. Other items from membership

Al Hawkins distributed a draft letter to the Governor to ask for a more timely release of bond funding for the capital project. The intent is to distribute this letter, in coordination with President Guthrie to fire chiefs. We intend to request that each chief send a letter with copies to the appropriate State Representative and Senator.

Those present supported the letter as presented.

Al also noted that the committee needs to send a lot of thank you notes to legislators that have supported our efforts and to Secretary Genuario. Jim Wilkinson offered to help with that effort. Representatives that have distinguished themselves in advance of this legislative session are Representatives Pawelkiewicz, Orange, Willis, and Merrill.

Al Hawkins observed that we were beginning a new year and would like to know the wishes of the membership relative to leadership of this committee. Motion made by Wols to retain Hawkins and Wilkinson as co-chairs to this committee. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Next meeting date

The regular meeting date will fall on February 23, 2006. That meeting will be at 19:00 at Wethersfield.

Submitted by:
Al Hawkins, chairman