

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

December 8, 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, Jim Baldis
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

Guests:

Danbury Fire Dept. - T.J. Wiedl

No one was present representing the Middlesex County Fire School or the New Haven Fire Academy

1. Update on CL&P emergency response system

Warren Rogers from CL&P made a presentation of the updated training program for firefighters and other first responders. Mr. Rogers also distributed business cards and copies of the training program on CDs. CL&P is very interested in making this program available to fire departments upon request. Warren Rogers is the contact point for the program deliveries.

2. Projects status

Waterbury Area Fire Chief’s recently held a “meet and greet” for their area legislators. The program included breakfast and a presentation on the history of the Wolcott State Fire School. Representatives Nardello and Fritz were both in attendance.

The Chiefs’ Association will also hold a public information meeting at the Cheshire Town Hall on January 24, 2012 at 19:30.

Directors from the Burrville school are continuing discussions with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. At the present time they are waiting for an M.O.U. to be provided by D.E.E.P.

Jim Baldis reported that the Hartford County construction project is progressing well. The burn building is up and the Paginite thermal lining system is being installed. Chris Tracy observed that the thermal lining system in New Haven seems to retain a significant amount of heat from the fire set.

The survey on the Beacon Falls site is now complete.

3. Regional Schools operations budgets -

Jeff Morrissette reported that the only state budget increases being considered by the Executive Administration are those that result from new facilities or from legal directives or court orders.

4. Capital improvement plan - going forward.

Chris Tracy has volunteered to update the powerpoint presentation provided by Jim Baldis for showing at the Legislative Update meeting in the L.O.B. Chris offered to include bullet items to help guide discussions about the various school projects.

Members present felt that it was imperative that legislators had the opportunity to see the actual conditions where firefighters are being trained.

5. Other items from membership

Jim Baldis reported on health issues regarding Mike Jepeal. Mike has contracted a blood infection that has required a lengthy hospital stay with medical and surgical interventions. Mike is now doing well but is now home recuperating.

Jeff Morrissette reported that he had received a phone call from Representative Boukus asking about rumors that she had heard about budget cuts for the C.F.P.C. budget.

There is an effort to secure state funding to build a training facility in Farmington. The plan is being developed/promoted by Avon, Farmington and Plainville.

Chris Tracy reported that direction from the guidance documents for the Assistance to Firefighter Grants for the upcoming round of awards shows that the funds can be applied to regional fire schools.

Jeff Morrissette also reported that both the Council of Small Towns and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities are teaming up to educate municipal leaders. There is a new staffer at C.C.M. that has replaced Bob Labinara. The new staffer is a member of the Wethersfield Fire Department.

Al Hawkins voiced dismay that the C.F.P.C. listserve continues to provide free advertisement and distribution of applications for profit based fire training academies around the state. Jeff pointed out that with the limited staff at the fire academy he was posting the information for inclusion on list serve himself. He stated that he didn't have the time to scrutinize the information that was submitted for inclusion on the system.

6. Next meeting date

January 26, 2012 at Wethersfield Company #3 at 19:00

Motion by Chris Tracy, second by Steve Veneziano to adjourn at 19:00, motion carried.

Submitted by Al Hawkins