

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

February 26, 2015

Wethersfield Fire Department
Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:05 with the following representatives present:

Burrville Regional Fire School - Richard Winn
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins, Eric Deschamps
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy
Hartford County Regional Fire School - Chester Haber, Jim Baldis
Middlesex County Regional Fire School – Fred Dudek
Stamford Regional Fire School – Tim Conway
Valley Fire Chiefs Regional Fire School – James Vincent
Wolcott State Fire School – Dave Hardt, Derrick Lundsden Steve Venezino, Timothy Willis
Waterbury Area Fire Chiefs – Ken Hanks
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – William Trisler, Bill Higgins
Connecticut State Firefighters Assoc. – Ted Schroll, Charles Stankye, Jr.

No one was present representing the New Haven Fire Academy.

Minutes of the October 23, 2014 meeting were distributed.

Motion to accept the minutes as presented by Rich Winn, second by Chet Haber. Motion carried.

C.F.P.C. Certification: Bill Trisler reported on the Certification office. The IFSAC review has been rescheduled, the process should complete before the end of July. Bill travelled to the Eastern Idaho Technical College to observe the accreditation review process first hand. That institution is certified for delivery of the Instructor and Pump certification programs. The review board had problems with the Firefighter training and the Hazardous Materials levels of certification. Those issues remain to be worked out.

This accreditation will review the paperwork and procedures used by the certification office staff. That review will include a question and answer session. A portion of the IFSAC recertification will require station evaluator refresher training. Two Initial Evaluator Training sessions will be scheduled during the June Fire School.

C.F.P.C. Training: Bill Higgins reported on developments with the training division. A Hazardous Materials manual is being developed and a MOU will be delivered for the Hazardous Materials grant program. Training needs to take place during the dates specified in the MOU.

Bill also pointed out that the “Q” endorsement train the trainer can be delivered later than March.

Fire-ground Training Program. There has been interest expressed by several fire chiefs in a lower level program than the Firefighter I. The interest is in training firefighters for basic fire-ground operations training to comply with OSHA standards, but not to the NFPA 1001 standard. The interest is to provide for the ability to utilize new personnel sooner.

This training could incorporate different modules such as “OSHA exterior firefighter” “OSHA interior firefighter”. One shortcoming noted by members present is that this effort could present problems in tracking which personnel were trained to which disciplines. This could create problems in attempting to integrate these personnel back into the certification training flow.

Another program being developed is a Solar Voltaic awareness program to provide for firefighter safety while working around this emerging technology. This program would probably be a hand-off program with a train the trainer to get more instructors up to speed.

Bill also talked about the new S.L.I.C.E.R.S. program for firefighter training. This program is intended to stay ahead of new technologies and information developed by N.I.S.T. and U.L.

At the heart of this training evolution is an updated operational acronym, SLICERS.

- Size up all scenes
- Locate the fire
- Identify & control the flow path (if possible)
- Cool the heated space from a safe location
- Extinguish the fire
- Rescue and Salvage are actions of opportunity that may occur at any time

Fairfield Regional Fire School – Chris Tracy reported that Consigli Construction met with them last week. Consigli has begun planning work on the project. Next Tuesday they will meet again. Dave Wlodowski and staff from Consigli are continuing to work on the Fairfield project. The thermal monitoring station options keep changing, work continues to take place to attempt to define the location and configuration of the monitoring station. March 17 is the planned date for the Bond Commission release of the funds for this project.

Burrville Regional Fire School – The RFP invitation is out, a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. The first look at the RFP responses is scheduled for April 6. Questions remain on the adequacy of the water wells on the site. Rich Winn reported that there have been some constructive conversations regarding the F.F.&E. budget for furniture and equipment.

Beacon Falls Site - DAS now has this project estimated to cost \$13 million. Last week the committee and DAS met and pared \$2 million out of the project. Some of this overage was duplication of some items, and some was additional items that have seemed to creep into the program.

Willimantic Site – Al Hawkins reported that the committee met with DAS and Tecton on January 6th. Tecton and DCS committed to get back with modifications to the design books in two weeks. No information has been received as of this date.

Cheshire Fire School – Dave Hardt expressed that he is receiving conflicting information from DCS about their intent for proceeding on the Cheshire site. This site doesn't seem to have the commitment level as does Fairfield, Burrville, Willimantic and the Beacon Falls sites. DCS is reporting that they are short of bond funds for Cheshire. DCS is also reporting that they have too many projects for the number of staff in their department.

The lack of and delay on releasing necessary bond funding as needed seems to be delaying nearly each step in this process.

There was a conversation about escalating these projects and seeking assistance from the new Commissioner of Administrative Services (Melody Curry). Don Ouillette and Bud Salemi both committed to forwarding a revised schedule for the project at the status meeting of the legislators on February 9th. No information has been forthcoming

Middletown Site - There is some conflicting information circulating on the status of this site. DCS contends that the MOU was sent to the city of Middletown about two years ago and that nothing has come back. Some of the locals contend that the MOU is in the possession of the state, that Middletown made a few changes and the state has not responded.

The next meeting was set for March 26, 2015.

Motion to adjourn at 21:00, motion by Jim Baldis, seconded by Charlie Stankye.

Submitted by Al Hawkins