

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

January 28, 2010

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:24 with the following representatives present:

Burrville Regional Fire School - Richard Winn
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins, Les Shull, Eric Deschamps
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy
Hartford County Regional Fire School – Chet Haber
Stamford Regional Fire School – Tony Conte
Valley Fire Chiefs’ Regional Fire School - James Gies
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol
Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrissette
Connecticut State Firefighters Association - Ted Schroll, Charles Stankye, Jr., Jim Wilkinson
Guests: D.P.W. - Donald Ouillette
Danbury Fire Dept. - Geoff Herald

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

Minutes of the December meeting were distributed for review.

Motion was made by Chris Tracy, second by Chet Haber to accept the December minutes as presented. Motion carried.

1. Status of properties acquisitions

Eastern Connecticut Fire School - Don Ouillette reported that DPW was intending to move ahead with the purchase of the existing property in Willimantic. Two appraisals should be completed sometime in January.

2. Other projects status

New Haven Regional Fire Academy - Don reported that a contract for the construction at that site has been signed. A pre-construction meeting should be held in mid-February with construction slated to begin on or about March 1, 2010.

Hartford County Regional Fire School - Don reported that there have been 14 meetings to work out details of the design. He received two pages of comments from the last meeting in December. Those comments are being addressed in the design process. The current schedule is for invitations to bid going out in March, bids opening in April and a letter requesting release of bond funds in May.

Burrville Regional Fire School - Don reported that he is waiting for documentation of site remediation.

Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy reported that PCB contamination at the site is being remediated by the City of Fairfield. Connecticut Tank Removal is helping to work up a remediation plan. Don is waiting for documentation of site remediation. He reported that Carl from his office has been assigned the Hartford project and David has been assigned the Burrville and Fairfield projects. David has been moved to other projects because of the lack of progress and the lack of funding for the Burrville and Fairfield sites.

Ted Schroll asked if the \$250 K in funding that was cut off the agenda for the last bond commission meeting was stalling progress on Burrville and Fairfield. Don responded that once the sites are certified as remediated his office will work on site specific design. Burrville is ready to move forward but Fairfield will have to wait until funds become available. Burrville will serve as a template for the design build process.

Don also reported that Commissioner Curtis submits a list of needed bond funding releases to the bond commission every month. Steve Kitowitz makes the initial selection of projects for funding. May could be the month to attempt to get the release of the funds for the Hartford construction, the Willimantic property, and the \$250 K for the Fairfield design.

Al Hawkins pointed out that the Education Committee had expressed early on that they wished to be included in the design discussions about the first burn building. That has not happened. Don noted that the CDs with the current design should be available on February 22, 2010. When the CDs are completed he will get a set to Al.

Don also reported that he doesn't have adequate staff to move forward on regional fire schools if money is released by the bond commission.

3. Operations budgets for the regional fire schools

Al Hawkins asked those present to submit any adjustments that they felt necessary for the 2010 - 2011 operations budgets. With no further input he intends to support the actual budget requests that were submitted in 2009.

4. Legislative update

There was a discussion about the regional fire schools update meeting with the legislators. Al Hawkins thanked those who attended. The meeting was very well attended by members of the General Assembly and the fire service. The general feeling of those present was that the discussion went well and that the support by both the House and Senate appear solid. Ted Schroll reported that there would be a public hearing by the joint committee on appropriations on an evening in the second week of February.

5. Other items from membership

Jim Gies requested copies of any forms currently being used for performance evaluations for instructors.

There was a brief discussion about several new course start-ups across the state by instructors that are not affiliated with the C.F.A. or any of the regional fire schools. These deliveries appear to be on the increase. Issues noted were quality control, lack of income reporting to the state and IRS and lack of workers compensation coverage and liability insurance by some of these groups of instructors.

Jeff distributed a flyer for a pilot program for certification as a live fire trainer being offered by the International Society of Fire Service Instructors. The program will be run at the C.F.A. on March 19 - 21, 2010. There are 20 seats available, 10 are being used by C.F.A. staff.

6. Next meeting date

The next meeting will be on February 25, 2010 at Wethersfield Company #3 at 19:00.

Meeting was adjourned at 21:16. Motion by Chris Tracy second by Chet Haber.

Submitted by Al Hawkins