

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Education Committee

### Meeting minutes

February 28, 2008 – 19:00  
Wethersfield Fire Department  
Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:06 with the following representatives present:

Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Ted Schroll  
Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn, Robert Norton, Jr.  
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins  
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy  
Hartford Fire School - Chet Haber, Jim Baldis  
Middlesex County Fire School – Fred Dudek, Jay Woron  
Stamford Regional Fire School - Tony Conte  
Wolcott State Fire School – Jim Trzaski  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jim Wilkinson, Rich Nicol  
Guest: Ct. Department of Public Works - Don Ouillette

No one was present from the Connecticut Fire Academy, New Haven Regional Fire Academy, or Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School. .

The minutes of the January meeting were presented. Motion made by Haber, second by Winn to accept as presented. Motion carried.

#### 1. Status of properties acquisitions

Eastern Connecticut Fire School - Don Ouillette reported that negotiations over environmental issues seems to have resulted in an understanding. The D.P.W. intends to remove the existing heating oil tanks and deduct the cost from the purchase price. There will be a meeting tomorrow with Fuss & O'Neil, Rogers environmental group and representatives of the Department of Public Works.

Valley Fire Chiefs Regional Fire School - Don reported on a field trip with representatives of the Valley Fire Chiefs to review conditions at several potential sites. Sites under review were in Oxford, Seymour, Naugatuck and Beacon Falls. A site in Beacon Falls appears to be the most feasible. DPW intends to solicit appraisals on that parcel.

Burrville Fire School - There is an agreement in place between D.P.W. and the D.E.P. to allow preliminary planning to begin.

Fairfield Fire School - The D.P.W. is prepared to begin initial planning for the project.

Wolcott State Fire School - The Cheshire site has not been transferred from the Department of Corrections.

Middlesex Fire School - The city of Middletown is now pursuing property owned by the Army. The property is a former Nike site on Mile Lane off of Newfield Street. The parcel contains 28 acres and contains a building with approximately 28,000 square feet of building space. The structure was built in 1988 and has been declared surplus.

## 2. New Haven Renovation - Design

It was reported that Captain William Seward was retiring in April. Don still does not have a Memorandum of Understanding in place to continue with project design. Although \$367,000 has been appropriated for the project, design is now stalled with approximately \$167,000 committed. The members present expressed that they wanted to see something built. There was no patience to continue to attempt to work on the New Haven project since there was clearly no cooperation by the city of New Haven. Jim Wilkinson and Al Hawkins will attempt to arrange a meeting to discuss the situation with Chief Grant.

## 3. Hartford County – Design

The contract with Techtron for design is in legal review.

## 4. Standardization / Curriculum Committee

Scott Bisson is interested in serving on the committee. There was a discussion about the C.F.P.C. Certification Division stand on testing to the new standard. It was suggested that Tom McGowan be invited to a subsequent Education Committee meeting. Al Hawkins will contact him to request his presence.

## 5. Legislative Appropriations Regulation & Protection Subcommittee

Al Hawkins reported on the meeting with the sub-committee on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The meeting went well, there were no questions on the additional requests for funding in the amount of \$46,000 for the 2008-09 budget.

## 6. Other items from membership

Chris Tracy reported on the apparent stance by D.E.M.H.S. to recant on its earlier agreement to support NIMS training by the Connecticut Fire Academy and the regional fire schools. The department now has five trainers on staff and is apparently intend on delivering future programs exclusively. Of particular concern was the NIMS and ICS training that had been incorporated into the Firefighter I and Firefighter II program deliveries.

Chris Tracy also pointed out that there was a lack of C.F.A. course offerings at regional fire schools in the newly released training calendar. Feeling was expressed that the intent of the Mission Delineation statement that had been agreed upon between the C.F.P.C. and this committee was to support the delivery of C.F.A. courses using the regional fire schools as venues for regional course offerings. The issue will be held for discussion at a future meeting.

## 7. Next meeting date

The next meeting will be held on March 27, 2008 at 19:00 at the Wethersfield Fire Company #3.

Meeting was adjourned at 20:55 (motion by Haber, second by Tracy)

Submitted by:  
Al Hawkins, chairman