

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Education Committee

Meeting minutes

February 24, 2011

Wethersfield Fire Company #3

The meeting was called to order at 19:07 with the following representatives present:

Burrville Regional Fire School - Rich Winn, Tom Osborne  
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins, Les Shull  
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy  
Hartford County Regional Fire School – Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal, Jim Baldis  
Stamford Regional Fire School - Tony Conte  
Wolcott State Fire School - Paul Perrotti  
Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrissette  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol  
Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Ted Schroll, Thomas Murphy  
Guests: D.P.W. - Donald Ouillette

No one was present from the Middlesex County Fire School, Valley Fire Chiefs' Regional Fire School, or the New Haven Fire Academy.

Minutes of the December meeting were distributed for review. Motion was made by Chet Haber second Rich Winn to accept the December minutes as presented. Motion carried.

### **1. Status of properties acquisitions**

Don Ouillette reported that the State Bond Commission met today and released the funding for construction of the Hartford Regional Fire School project.

Don brought an aerial map of the Cheshire ( $\pm 10$  acres) site for the Waterbury Area Fire Chiefs to use in order to begin to present the project to residents and town leaders in Cheshire.

Middlesex – Disagreements seem to continue between the city of Middletown and the Department of the Army.

Burrville – Rich Winn continues to work on an agreement stating that the Burrville site will fall under control of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control. A supplemental agreement will be necessary that will give Burrville administration a “Care and Custody” agreement with the C.F.P.C. for operation of the school. Rich also expressed that D.E.P. staff had expressed satisfaction with the remediation of the site.

Beacon Falls – Don is scheduled to arrange for test borings for environmental assessment at the site.

Willimantic – Don will have the site surveyed. Right of Way agreements need to be defined for adjacent property owners. The Request for Proposals should include an inventory of environmental issues.

### **2. Other projects status**

Don pointed out that each regional school will need to select a burn building type. Burn buildings will be either pre-cast concrete or cast in place construction.

Don also reported that the New Haven facility is now substantially complete. The test burn should take place in March. Don also reported that the New Haven maintenance building was constructed with no source of heat.

The town of Fairfield has authorized bonding in order to finance the necessary environmental remediation work.

Don also reported that he will meet with P.D.S. next week to review scoping, sub-contractors and project plans / time line / and overall project schedule. Don has been very satisfied with the performance of P.D.S. on the New Haven project.

### **3. Regional Schools operations budgets**

There was some discussion about the need to continue to push for realistic operational funding for the regional fire schools. The proposed funding levels contained in the Governor's budget do not appear to be able to sustain operations at the regional fire schools.

### **4. Lobbying efforts for capital improvements.**

Although the lack of operational funding in the proposed budget had become the most immediate concern, we still need to keep pressure on the General Assembly to allocate additional funding in order to keep forward movement on the capital plan.

Ted Schroll has suggested to some of our supporters in the General Assembly to allocate the full \$40 million or \$10 million per year for four years to get the capital project completed.

Members of the Waterbury Fire Chiefs' Association met with Senator Kane in order to discuss the lack of forward motion on the plan to build a new school in Cheshire. Rich Nicol reported that the group was well received and that there was significant dialogue about the issue.

### **5. Other items from the membership**

Ted Schroll gave an update on efforts by fire service leadership to develop a counter-proposal to the organizational structure included in the budget proposed by Governor Malloy to form a new agency "Department of Emergency Responder Training" which would take over control of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council.

The fire service proposal developed by membership of the Connecticut Joint Council on Fire Service Organizations calls for the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to become the parent agency. Sub-agencies would consist of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control (and the regional fire schools), the Police Officer Standards and Training Council, The Office of Education and Data Management, and the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications. The Public Safety Committee and the Appropriations Committees both appeared quite interested in the concept plan. Both committees appear to want to investigate the plan further. The organizational chart for the plan has been forwarded to the Office of Fiscal Analysis for cost assessment.

Currently the Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations, Emergency Management Agency, and the Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association have all signed off on the concept plan.

### **6. Next meeting date**

The next meeting will be on March 24, 2011 at 19:00 at the New Haven Regional Fire Academy

Motion by Chet Haber second by Jim Baldis to adjourn, motion carried at 21:35.

Submitted by Al Hawkins