

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

February 25, 2010

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:09 with the following representatives present:

Burrville Regional Fire School - Richard Winn, Tom Osborne
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy
Hartford County Regional Fire School – Chet Haber
New Haven Fire Academy - Chuck Howitt
Valley Fire Chiefs' Regional Fire School - James Gies
Wolcott State Fire School - Steve Veneziano
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol
Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrissette
Connecticut State Firefighters Association - Ted Schroll
Guests: D.P.W. - Donald Ouillette
Danbury Fire Department - T.J. Wiedl

No one was present representing the Middlesex County Fire School or the Stamford Regional Fire School .

Minutes of the January meeting were distributed for review.

Motion was made by Jim Gies, second by Chris Tracy to accept the January minutes as presented. Motion carried.

1. Status of properties acquisitions

Eastern Connecticut Fire School - Don Ouillette reported that the two appraisals for the Willimantic are complete. Jack Farrell of DPW is out sick and apparently has not had a chance to complete his review of the documents.

2. Other projects status

New Haven Regional Fire Academy - Don reported that a pre-construction meeting is planned for March 11th at 10:00 a.m. with the construction contractor, P.D.S..

Hartford County Regional Fire School - Don reported that 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. The CDs for the Harford design have not been received by D.P.W. Jeff Morrissette reported that we could probably get a presentation of the Hartford design at the next Education Committee meeting.

Burrville Regional Fire School - Rich Winn asked if Don had a copy of the survey and environmental report for Burrville. Don will give Rich contact information for Jeff and Becky from DPW via email tomorrow.

Fairfield Regional Fire School - There was a discussion about the clean up cost for Fairfield, Burrville and Willimantic. Those costs need to come out of the project funding.

Don reported that Commissioner Curtis has stated that she intends to request release of bond funds for the Willimantic property purchase, the Hartford construction and the \$250 K for the design work for Fairfield and Burrville for a potential May bond commission meeting.

3. Operations budgets for the regional fire schools

Jeff reported that there may not be a meeting with Regulation and Protection this year in order to discuss the C.F.P.C. and the regional fire school operating budgets. He has not received any information about such a meeting to date.

4. Legislative update

Senator Stillman has submitted a bill, H.B. 5293 authorizing an additional \$40 million in bond funding for the regional fire school project. Ted observed that there had been other bond bills proposed this session.

Ted also reported that the language in H.B. 151 was fixed today. That bill proposes to limit the indemnification for fire service instructors. The proposed language was proposed by Mark Salifia.

Chris Tracy reported reading an article in the Connecticut Post observing the huge amounts of bond funding that has been authorized but never released for many projects. The article recommended rescinding all such funding and going forward with a clean slate.

Chris Tracy also reported on discussions that he had with Bill Kessler regarding the proposed H.B. 195 which attempts to develop a process for designation of regional fire schools. Bill felt that the bill was a positive move in that it would de-politicize the process. Jim Gies had concerns about the moratorium on designating additional regional schools other than the Danbury school until such time that the capital project for the eight schools is completed. Rich Nicol expressed his displeasure with the letter from the Valley Fire Chiefs regarding the proposed process. Rich felt that the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control has actively supported the regional fire schools and didn't deserve the mistrust expressed in the letter. Rich would have preferred that these concerns had been brought back to the C.F.P.C. directly. Al Hawkins will send an electronic copy of the subject letter to members of the committee tomorrow. There is a hearing scheduled on this bill on March 4th.

5. Other items from membership

Fire Service Day at the Capital will be on April 15, 2010

Chet Haber commented that he took exception to comments in the minutes of the last meeting about others being excluded from the design process of the Hartford burn building.

Al Hawkins noted that he would like to solicit some input from members about developing a process in order to establish a procedure for establishing future regional fire schools.

6. Next meeting date

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

Meeting was adjourned at 20:41. Motion by Rich Nicol second by Chris Tracy.

Submitted by Al Hawkins