

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014

Wethersfield Fire Department
Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 18:05 with the following representatives present:

Burrville Regional Fire School - Rich Winn
Eastern Connecticut Fire School - Al Hawkins, Eric Deschamps
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy
Hartford County Fire School - Jim Baldis, Michael Jepeal, Chet Haber
Valley Chiefs Regional Fire School - Ken Mitchell
Wolcott Regional Fire School - Steve Veneziano
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control - Rich Nicol
Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrisette
Connecticut State Firefighters Association - Rich Nicol, Charlie Stankye, Sr.

No one was present representing the Middlesex County Fire School, New Haven Fire Academy or the Stamford Regional Fire School.

Hartford County Burn Building – Repairs are continuing. The contractor is working on masonry repairs, interior door repairs and re-fabricating latches on windows for interior/exterior operation. After all spalled Pagenite panels have been replaced, there will be an “attic stock” of panels provided for replacements if needed.

Fairfield County School – No change, the project appears to remain on track. Chris expects four approved General Contractors next week to review the site. Books 1, 2, and 3 are complete. The target for the release of bond funding remains May.

After bidders review the site they should be ready to proceed to compile their proposals. All bidders are Connecticut based companies. Proposals submitted will be evaluated and rated. The last item considered in the rating system will be the cost. This portion of the evaluation will count toward one-third of the total of factors. March is planned for the proposal “kick-off”. The contractor will have 60 days allotted to prepare documents and review the proposals by early in May. The Connecticut Department of DCS has now published all of the necessary documents.

There was a brief discussion about the movement of the large file sized documents associated with the projects over the internet or emails. Steve Veneziano reported that he had been using the site “We transfer”. He has been successful using this site to move some larger files without overloading his system.

There was additional discussion on the project concepts:

Book #1 – The only input from the regional school is whether or not the school will continue to have access to the site (or any parts of the site) during the construction phase.

Burrville Regional Fire School – Between six and eight contractors are involved in the design teams. There could be elimination of some of those sub-contractors. Rich has been on the telephone with Dave for the past couple of days. The RFQ is nearly ready to proceed.

There was a brief discussion about the design impact of various learning and audio-visual technologies. LCD Projectors, short throw projectors, smart TVs and wall paint versus white boards. There is a lot of evolution taking place in the field of classroom presentations.

Chris Tracy reported that he met Deputy Commissioner, Bud Saleme last week and that it appeared that Saleme was solidly behind this project.

Jeff Morrisette – Reported that there will be a Traffic Safety Program Train-the-trainer conducted on April 2 and 3. He is looking for names for involvement of instructors from the regional fire schools. The program will be conducted at the Police Academy in Meriden. There are approximately 30 seats available for this initial program.

Discussion is still taking place on the “Q” license. At the present time DMV continues to test for the license but they appear to want to get out of “Q” license support. Participants of a proposed Train-the-trainer would be designated by the DMV Commissioner who would detail a process to get drivers added to the license designation. This evolution will probably take place in the April 2014 time frame.

CFPC testing fee schedule change. Jeff reports that the testing fees for Certification will increase from \$15 to \$30 on July 1, 2014.

There was a brief discussion about “free lancing” or unaffiliated instructors once again. Suggestions offered were to involve the Connecticut Council of Small Towns or the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities in discussions about the liabilities and legal issues surrounding hazardous training, state labor requirements such as workers compensation payments, unemployment tax payments, and personal tax withholding and reporting requirements for both state and federal payroll taxes.

Chet Haber offered to contact Representative Boukus to see if a luncheon could be arranged at the LOB to coincide with the April 15th “Fire Service Day”. If he is successful, this could be a venue to address concerns about the future of the fire school Facilities projects with area legislators. Chet also announced that he will be retiring as Director of Training for Hartford County effective July 1, 2014. Jim Baldis and Mike Jepeal will be Co-Directors of Training.

The next meeting will be scheduled for March 27, 2014

Motion to adjourn by Rich Winn, seconded by Chris Tracy,. Meeting adjourned at 20:30.

Submitted by Al Hawkins