

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

March 22, 2012

Wethersfield Fire Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:10 with the following representatives present:

Connecticut State Firefighters Association - Ted Schroll, Thomas Murphy, Charles Stankye, Jr.
Burrville Regional Fire School - Rich Winn
Eastern Connecticut Fire School ó Al Hawkins, Les Shull
Hartford County Regional Fire School ó Chet Haber, Jim Baldis
Middlesex County Fire School ó Fred Dudek
Stamford Regional Fire School - Tony Conte, Billy Smith, III
Valley Fire Chiefs Regional Fire School ó Ken Mitchell, James Vincent
Wolcott State Fire School - Steve Veneziano, Dave Hardt
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control ó Jeff Morrissette, Rich Nicol

No one was present from the Fairfield Regional Fire School or the New Haven Regional Fire Academy.

The draft minutes of the February 23, 2012 meeting were distributed. Under item 4 (other items from membership) ó Matt Marcarelli reported attending an orientation program on the new state agency that includes the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control. (underlined text indicates addition) Matt also attended the legislative review of the agency's budget. Rubin Bradford's agency budget testimony never mentioned the fire service. C.F.A. seems to be losing its identity.ó

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the January 2012 meeting as amended. Motion by Rich Winn, second by Tony Conte, Motion carried.

1. Projects status

Don Ouillette sent an email extending his regrets that he would not be attending tonight's meeting. He indicated that he had approval to hire the criteria architect to provide the RFP for all of the remaining schools. This work is on hold until the necessary funding is released by the State Bond Commission. If the bonding funds are released by the end of this legislative session, DCS should have an architect under contract by May, once on-board there should be a tentative schedule of activity developed by DCS staff.

Hartford County ó Chet reported on the construction status. The epoxy floors are down in the apparatus section of the support building, and in the staging/equipment room. The burn building is nearing completion, all of the Pagenite lining is now being installed. The Capital Region Fire Chiefs toured the building last week. Jim Baldis offered to host the May Education Committee meeting at Windsor Locks so that committee members could tour the facility.

Burrville ó There is still no written agreement Between DEEP and the DCS. Reports are that there is (pretty much an agreement).

Middlesex Regional Fire School ó The new Mayor of Middletown (Daniel Drew) has been actively pursuing the Department of the Army in order to seek the transfer of their former training facility property on Mile Lane in Middletown in order to use the property to construct a new fire school.

Wolcott / Waterbury Area Fire Chiefs / Cheshire ó Dave Hardt reported that the Republican American newspaper recently ran a good article on the attempt to build a new fire school in Cheshire, the article was quite positive. Dave also pointed out that the most vocal opponent lives approximately one and one half miles away from the subject land parcel.

State Representative Shawn Williams recently issued a press release stating that these are the types of projects that should be bonded. Referring to the Regional Fire School projects.

2. Regional Schools operations budgets -

Several members of the General Assembly have committed to work towards the reinstatement of rescinded operational funding during the budget building process this session.

3. Capital improvement plan - going forward.

No new information.

4. Other items from membership

Ted Schroll reported on the public hearing on bond bill S.B. #25. Secretary Barnes has reported that the fire schools were good projects and had the support of the Governor. Five people, including Ted, testified in support of the regional fire school projects. President Dignotti, of the Connecticut Fire Marshals Association, also testified in support of the bill. Ted also submitted about eight to ten letters of support.

Senator Andrea Stillman now chairs the Committee on Education, she is also a member of the Finance Committee and has been a long time proponent for the fire service. Ted reported that several members of the General Assembly also made comments in favor of the bill.

Rich Winn reported that several Republican Legislators also supported the fire school funding initiative.

Also reported was an initiative by E.M.S. proposing a council with funding coming from fines imposed for D.U.I. tickets. Bob Guthrie, the representative from C.S.F.A. to the EMS Advisory Board felt that this effort was poorly timed.

Ted also reported the status on several Bills being considered during this legislative session. April 5th is the JF date for the Finance Committee.

Jeff reported that the Fire Service Day at the Capital will be on April 11, 2012 running from 09:00 until 14:00. He is looking for any trinkets for hand-out. There is no breakfast planned this year.

Chief Conte reported that the city of Stamford is planning to fund \$500 K for a building at the Stamford Fire Training facility. The proposed building will provide space for indoor training. The plan is for a 10,000 sq. ft. building with a 25' ceiling height. The Chief also reported on fund raising that has taken place in Stamford as a result of the fatal fire on Christmas. The Trinity Catholic School along with several local businesses has raised funding for a program in order to fund smoke detectors and install them for anyone in need. Approximately \$15,000 has also been raised in order to fund various fire safety initiatives for the city.

Jim Baldis also reported that Simsbury has a smoke detector program. Duracell has a donation program in order to donate batteries for smoke detectors.

Jim Vincent pointed out that Loews Home Centers also has a safety coalition to provide smoke detectors.

5. Next meeting date

The next meeting will be on April 26, 2012 at Wethersfield Fire Company #3. Hartford County will host the May meeting on May 24, at the new Hartford County school.

Motion by Rich Winn, second by Jim Baldis to adjourn at 20:21, motion carried.

Submitted by Al Hawkins