

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Education Committee

Meeting minutes

March 25, 2010

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:02 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, Mike Jepeal, Jim Baldis  
Middlesex County Fire School – Fred Dudek  
Stamford Regional Fire School – Tony Conte  
Valley Fire Chiefs’ Regional Fire School - James Gies  
Wolcott State Fire School - Steve Veneziano  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol  
Connecticut State Firefighters Association - Ted Schroll, Thomas Murphy  
Guests: D.P.W. - Donald Ouillette  
Danbury Fire Department – Geoff Herald

No one was present representing the Connecticut Fire Academy or the New Haven Fire Academy.

Minutes of the February meeting were distributed for review. Rich Nicol questioned an entry under item #5. The item regarding on-line training was deleted from the minutes.

Motion was made by Mike Jepeal second by Rich Nicol to accept the February minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

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

Eastern Connecticut Fire School - Don Ouillette reported that DPW staff has a trip planned to the property tomorrow to walk the site with their environmental management team and decide if they should proceed with a formal Phase 1 environmental assessment of the property. Don also reported on a meeting that he attended with Doug Moore, DPW Chief of Staff, Representatives Johnson and Orange, Senior Legislative Aid Dawn Niles and a member of Governor Rell’s staff to discuss the Willimantic property purchase. DPW Commissioner Curtis is planning to meet with OPM Secretary Genuario tomorrow in order to attempt to reach an understanding as to how the purchase will proceed. DPW intends to attempt to negotiate with the estate attorney in order to remain on the site with a month to month lease until the property acquisition can be completed. Don reported that the property acquisition will probably take between six and ten months.

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

New Haven Regional Fire Academy - Don reported that site work at the facility began yesterday. The project completion is scheduled for December 28, 2010. There is no plan in place yet for a groundbreaking ceremony.

Hartford County Regional Fire School - Don reported that there was an error on the construction documents. The corrected documents need to be re-signed. He anticipates that the project will be out to bid next week. The bid opening should still take place in early May. There is still hope that there will be a bond commission meeting in late May or possibly early June.

Burrville Regional Fire School - The design funding has still not been released by the bonding commission. Rich Winn reported that Dave and Becky from DPW have been reviewing the site remediation plan. The plan

calls for the cleaning of three separators. Martha from DEP property acquisitions is working with Rich and staff from DPW to work out a property use agreement.

Fairfield Regional Fire School - The design funding has still not been released by the bonding commission.

Don felt that the Education Committee should push for release of funding for the Willimantic property purchase, the Hartford construction and the \$250 K for the design work for Fairfield and Burrville for the next bond commission meeting.

### **3. Legislative update**

Representative Susan Johnson has been investigating the use of STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant funding, such as that awarded for a training facility in Darien, for use for the regional fire school project. This funding is controlled by the regional councils of governments.

Chris Tracy reported that on a recent trip to Washington D.C. he re-confirmed that the Fire Act Funding was not available for regional fire schools.

Ted Schroll reported on a discussion with Senator DeFronzo about the bonding bill proposed by Senator Stillman. Senator DeFronzo didn't feel that the bill had any chance of passage this session. The JF date for the joint committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding is April 6<sup>th</sup>. Ted reported that he sat through the last committee meeting. Ted reported that there was support for some drastic cuts in previously authorized bonding for public safety projects.

Ted also reported that H.B. 151 to limit the indemnification for fire service instructors seems to have a good chance of passage. Language changes submitted by the C.F.A. staff have been incorporated into the bill. These changes delete the reference to regional fire departments and include language to incorporate instructors working for regional fire schools.

H.B. 195 that provides for the designation of regional fire schools is on the Senate calendar. That bill also seems to have a good chance of passage this session. Chief Herald asked how this bill would impact the request of Danbury to become a regional fire school. The Danbury issue will probably be a separate issue from this bill if action by the general assembly on their designation takes place this legislative session.

The legislative session ends on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **4. Other items from membership**

Rich Winn reported that Tom Osborne is replacing Bob Norton as the second representative to this committee from the Burrville Fire School.

Rich Nicol reminded members that Fire Service Day at the Capital will be on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

The next C.F.P.C. meeting will be at the Meriden crime laboratory.

### **5. Next meeting date**

The next meeting will be on April 22, 2010 at Wethersfield Company #3 at 19:00.

Meeting was adjourned at 20:41. Motion by Chris Tracy second by Chet Haber to adjourn at 20:05.

Submitted by Al Hawkins