

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

April 24, 2008 – 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

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

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins (arrived late)
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy
Hartford Fire School - Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal
New Haven Regional Fire Academy - Ron Dumas
Stamford Regional Fire School - Tony Conte
Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School - Charles Stankye, Jr.
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jim Wilkinson, Rich Nicol
Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrissette
Guest: Ct. Department of Public Works - Don Ouillette
Cathy Goetz - Sub-committee on Curriculum Standardization

No one was present from: Wolcott State Fire School, Middlesex County Fire School

Agenda item #4 was moved to the top of the agenda and a presentation was made by Tom McGowan relative to Certification Testing to the new NFPA 1001 and 472 standards. See attached letter from Tom summarizing points of discussion.

The minutes of the March meeting were presented. Motion made by Tracy, second by Wilkinson to accept as presented. Motion carried.

1. Status of properties acquisitions

Eastern Connecticut Fire School - A meeting is scheduled for May 8 between representatives from Rogers and the D.P.W. property acquisitions group. This should be the final meeting to reach agreement on all of the terms and conditions of the property sales agreement. The next step will be to forward the agreement to the state Property Review Board and then to request the addition of the funding release be placed on a state bond commission meeting.

Valley Fire Chiefs' Regional Fire School - Appraisals have been requested by D.P.W. for the Beacon Falls property. Resulting appraisals are expected in May.

Wolcott State Fire School - The state property is ready at such time that this committee is ready to move the project forward.

2. New Haven Renovation - Design

Last week the preliminary review was completed of the design drawings. The project appears to cost out at around \$4 million. This should be ready to go out to bid by November with a projected ground breaking in the spring of 2009.

3. Hartford County – Design

The project manager is out ill. There has been poor progress on this project.

4. Certification Testing - Tom McGowan - covered previously - see attached letter

a. NFPA 1001, 2008 edition

b. NFPA 472, 2007 edition

5. Standardization / Curriculum Committee

Cathy Goetz was introduced. Cathy has agreed to chair the Sub-Committee. Mike Jepeal and Tony Conte also sit on the Sub-Committee. They began their work on May 2. Cathy reported that the committee intends to complete their work and make a report back to this committee for our June meeting. The committee has concluded that the Fire Engineering test and associated materials are far from complete and have removed them from consideration. The text published by Delmar is disappointing and has also been removed from consideration.

6. Other items from membership

The bond commission meeting for April was canceled. The design funding that had been requested for the April meeting (\$150 K) will be resubmitted next month.

There was discussion about the escalating costs for construction. Don reported that he thinks that the rate of increase seems to be slowing. Fuel prices are now the primary concern.

Don reported that there appears to be an increase in interest in invitation to bid requests by contractors.

Jeff pointed out that the fit testing machines provided by DEMHS are due for testing. DEMHS has contracted for the testing, this will be the last opportunity to get these machines tested at DEMHS expense.

Jeff also recommends that the notebook computers that were provided for use with the fit testing machines be brought in to the C.F.A. to have encryption software installed.

Mike Jepeal asked the status of the review of the prerequisite requirement that applicants to the Rescue Technician program be medically trained to the EMT level. Tom McGowan reported that the OEMS is conducting a review of the skills requested in the standard and have not completed their evaluation.

Tom also reported that the C.F.P.C. is considering elimination of the requirement that upon completion of the Rescue Technician Core program that a specialty skill portion must be completed within two years.

7. Next meeting date

The next meeting will be on May 22, 2008 at 19:00 at the Wethersfield Company #3.

Meeting adjourned (motion by Stankye, second by Tracy)

Submitted by:

Al Hawkins, chairman



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL
OFFICE OF STATE FIRE ADMINISTRATION



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April 29, 2008

Members of Education Committee of CT State Firefighters Association
Regional Fire School or Fire Department
Street address
City, CT ZIP

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the CFPC Certification Division at your meeting of April 24, 2008.

Below is a summary of key points pertaining to skills within the 2008 editions of the NFPA 1001, *Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications* and NFPA 472, *Standards for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Material/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents* were discussed as they relate to Certification.

Firefighter I and II

The revisions to the NFPA 1001:

Firefighter I -

- Removed from the FFII and inserted into the FFI
5.1.1.1A - Emergency Decon
5.1.1.1B - MSDS
5.1.1.1C - Pesticide Label
Removed from FFI - Ropes (AHJ)

Firefighter II -

- Removed from FFI and inserted into FFII
5.5.1A - Private Dwelling Inspections
5.5.2A - Presentation of a Prepared Program
5.2.2B- Preparation of Documentation
Removed from the FFII - Pitot Gauge
- Inserted to the Firefighter I level: Awareness and Operational Hazardous Material Core Competences including Product Control.

While the reassignment of skills within the Firefighter I and II levels may be based on an effort to better reflect the evolution of today's fire service, it is understood that not all of the changes consistently reflect operations within specific jurisdictions. As we work together to strengthen the skills base of

Connecticut's firefighters, please be assured that the Certification Division will be open to addressing your questions and concerns.

Awareness and Operational Level Hazardous Materials

The Certification Division is making preparations to certify both the Awareness and Operational level components of the NFPA 472, *Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents*.

As noted Thursday evening, most changes to this standard address terminology and the addition of Job Performance Requirements for WMD and Response to Illicit Laboratories. It appears there is a great deal of interest in achieving full compliance with the Awareness and Operational level components of NFPA 472.

I will research the issue and how the Certification Division can help to accommodate this direction while maintaining compliance with the Standard and reflecting the requirements of our accrediting agencies.

Many of you expressed support and interest to help us address the concerns raised by the hazardous materials issue. I look for your input so that together we can reach an effective and efficient approach.

Thank you again for your time. I look forward to your continued positive working relationship.

As always, please feel free to contact me at (860) 627-6363 extension 225 or thom.mcgowan@po.state.ct.us.

Sincerely,

Tom McGowan
Director of Certification