

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Education Committee

### Meeting minutes

#### April 26, 2012

#### Wethersfield Fire Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:02 with the following representatives present:

Connecticut State Firefighters' Association - Thomas Murphy, Charles Stankye, Jr.  
Burrville Regional Fire School - Tom Osborne  
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins, Les Shull  
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy  
Hartford County Regional Fire School – Chet Haber  
Stamford Regional Fire School - Tony Conte  
Valley Fire Chiefs' Regional Fire School – James Vincent  
Wolcott State Fire School - Dave Hardt, Jay Hershman  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jeff Morrissette, William DeFord

Guests:

Ct. Department of Construction Services - Don Ouillette  
Danbury Fire School - T.J. Wiedl

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

The draft minutes of the March 22, 2012 meeting were distributed.

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the March 2012 meeting as presented. Motion by Stankye, seconded by Shull, Motion carried.

### **1. Projects status**

Don Ouillette reported that the amount of \$800,000 was included on the bond commission agenda for tomorrow's meeting for the purpose of contracting the criteria architectural services for the design of the regional fire schools at Burrville (Torrington) Fairfield, Willimantic, Beacon Falls and Cheshire. This contract will be with Tecton and will result in savings over their earlier proposal for two schools, by including all five locations. The contract will develop two separate RFPs. One will be for the design of the Eastern Connecticut Fire School in Willimantic, the other will include the designs for the other four sites (Burrville, Fairfield, Beacon Falls and Cheshire). The Cheshire site will need to be addressed by the D.E.E.S.P.. Concurrence will be sought by the Local Municipal Government in order to proceed with the design for that site. Don will be looking for a letter of intent from the Cheshire Town Manager.

Don also reported that the property surveys were complete on the Willimantic, Beacon Falls, Fairfield and Burrville sites. Test borings are planned for all five of the sites.

The Waterbury area fire chiefs plan to conduct an equipment run test in order to help neighbors evaluate the sounds of various power equipment that project off of the property on 05/11/12. They have also walked the property with town staff including the parks and recreation department and the Town Manager.

After letters of commitment are submitted showing town support for the location then D.C.S. will begin the site survey and lay-out.

Don also asked for the Waterbury Fire Chiefs Association to complete the B-100 form requesting the services of the Department of Construction Services. The property for the fire school still needs to be clearly defined and transferred from the Department of Corrections to the D.E.E.S.P.

## **2. Capital improvement plan - going forward.**

Within about two months the state attorneys will complete a contractual agreement with Tecton Architects of Hartford.

Tecton will then contact each of the five regional fire school directors in order to begin developing the program and design for each of the schools. Once the basic site layouts are completed, D.C.S. will arrange for test borings in the area of each anticipated building. Don cautioned that each school should not attempt to reproduce all of the various outside props unless the directors see a specific need. The D.C.S. is planning to qualify multiple contractors in order to facilitate multiple school construction projects simultaneously. Deputy Commissioner Salemi has assured Don that he will take care of the funding releases necessary from the state bond commission.

Chris Tracy asked if the four smaller schools should try to develop the programs together to create identical programs. Don replied that he felt that would be beneficial to the process.

Once the RFPs are issued there will hopefully be four construction companies bidding for each school. The Committee will have four representatives on each selection committee, two of whom will be eligible to vote for the selection.

The plan is to begin construction on five sites next summer. Don suggests that we look closely at a training tower and attempt to design a prototype so that all can be identical. Dave Hardt pointed out that the Waterbury group does not have a copy of the Master Plan. Don said that he would provide a copy.

Middletown- The Army is beginning remediation of the site in order to get the property ready to complete the transfer of property.

Although the plan is to build five sites simultaneously, there is no money designated for environmental remediation at any of the selected sites.

Steve Vincent advised that he has developed his program on autocad and is willing to share that plan with any other schools that want it. Dave Hardt asked if all of the schools should work together on plans?

The town of Beacon Falls has a new first selectman. Governor Malloy clearly articulated that he was in support of the construction of a fire school on the Beacon Falls property.

Chet Haber offered that the information that we were receiving tonight is the best news that any of us have heard in twelve years.

Don reminded everyone that the plans need to provide the same square footage as the designs in the Master Plan. Rearrangement would be accommodated but the plans would not be permitted to increase the gross square footage from the master plan documents.

A brief discussion was conducted about interior furnishings. Don said that furniture that was identified as being needed, and included on the program plans, could be purchased under "Fixtures Furniture and Equipment (FFE)" from the state bid list and charged against the projects.

### **3. Other items from membership**

William DeFord introduced himself. Bill has been working with the recruit school in order to provide a Health, Wellness and Fitness program. Bill conducted a program last year that was a forum at the Connecticut Fire Academy. In planning a forum this year they are anticipating a larger audience than last year's. Bill asked that we get an e-mail list to him for a contact list for instructors interested in additional information on a Health, Wellness and Fitness programs. Bill told us that the program was developed in order to support requirements in NFPA 1582, 1583, and 1584. Bill was also interested in supporting the regional fire schools with the development of an exercise program to include new students. Bill is conducting a program for June school on "How to Develop a wellness program". The program is designed as a peer fitness "train the trainer".

### **4. Next meeting date**

The next meeting will be held on May 24, 2012 at Windsor Locks (Hartford County Regional Fire School). Jeff offered to provide hotdogs and hamburgers for those attending. The dinner will be at 08:30, followed by a tour of the new construction, followed by the meeting.

Motion by Tracy, second by Haber to adjourn at 20:41, motion carried.

Submitted by Al Hawkins