

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

April 28, 2011

Wethersfield Company #3, Kelleher Court

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

Burrville Regional Fire School - Rich Winn, Tom Osborne
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins, Les Shull, Eric Deschamps
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy
Hartford County Regional Fire School – Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal, Jim Baldis
Stamford Regional Fire School - Trevor Roach
Valley Fire Chiefs’ Regional Fire School - Charlie M. Stankye, Sr., James Vincent,
Waterbury Area Fire Chiefs’ - Dennis Dean
Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrissette, Mark Lowendowski
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol
Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Ted Schroll, Jim Wilkinson, Tom Murphy
Guests: D.P.W. - Donald Ouillette

No one was present from the Middlesex County Fire School or the New Haven Fire Academy
Minutes of the March 24th meeting were distributed for review. Motion was made by Mike Jepeal second by Chet Haber to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

1. Status of properties acquisitions

No changes.

2. Other projects status

Don Ouillette reported that an additional \$2 million has been added to the bond funding for the regional fire schools projects. Instead of \$14.39 million there is now \$16.39 million available.

New Haven fire school is conducting live burns next week. There are six punch list items remaining for resolution.

Hartford County school - the General Contractor is awaiting proper documentation. P.D.S. has a meeting scheduled for next Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. as a pre-construction meeting.

Eastern Connecticut Fire School conducted a preliminary scoping meeting on March 31st.

Burrville Regional Fire School - the M.O.U. remains in the Attorney General’s office for review. There remain some water run-off issues along with an open item relative to an old oil water separator adjacent to a walking trail.

Chris Tracy reported that the M.O.U. for Fairfield is in the first selectman’s office for signature. After signing that document needs to be forwarded to the Attorney General’s office for review

The advertisement is ready to be sent out to solicit criteria architectural services.

Don stated that the Department of Public Works should be able to handle two regional fire schools moving forward through the construction phase at the same time.

There was a lengthy discussion about Don Ouillette soliciting direction from the Education Committee regarding which two projects were prepared to move forward. The Education Committee expressed that they wish to keep Burrville, Fairfield, Beacon Falls and Eastern Connecticut Fire School moving forward. The

committee expressed concern that if preliminary work on the Beacon Falls and Willimantic site should continue to move forward. Most committee members present were concerned that all four school projects should continue to move forward. There was concern that if only two projects continue to move forward that it would be too likely that any one project could get stopped if any logistical issue arose. Chris Tracy expressed that if all four projects moved through the environmental assessment process that we were more likely to be able to keep the projects moving forward.

There continue to be complaints expressed by political leaders in Beacon Falls about the regional fire school project placing the development of the industrial park in peril.

3. Regional Fire Schools operations budgets.

If the Plan A budget gets approval from state labor unions to give backs totalling \$2 billion in concessions from state employees are forthcoming, the regional fire schools should have their operations budgets restored to last year funding levels.

Ted Schroll discussed the proposal from the Governor that called for a new agency to train first responders. Although the plan outlined by the fire service had gained more support than the governor's bill, that plan is now off the table. Commercial ambulance services are vehemently opposed to the fire service plan. This group has a significant lobby.

The governors' plan calls for a new public safety commissioner. This is probably to resolve problems with the Department of Public Safety. The Governor and his staff appear firmly committed to that plan. The policy board detailed on the policy sheet appears to be designed to resolve several issues with the current D.P.S. organization.

An E-911 proposal has been submitted to raise the surcharge to 75 cents per phone line. There appears to be a commitment to hold that charge at 50 cents per line. There is discussion about retaining the surcharge for pre-paid phones and for commercial phone lines.

4. Priorities for capital funds not yet allocated.

By consensus, the members present wish to see the Department of Public Works continue to move forward with planning for the Burrville, Fairfield, Beacon Falls and Willimantic site investigations. As we reach a point where we need to move forward, the Committee feels that they need to lobby for the additional funding to continue the projects forward;

5. Live burn procedures for new Class A burn buildings.

Education Committee members remain committed to develop a standard operating procedure for operations of all new live burn facilities. Mark Lowendoski spoke on the live burn procedure. He is committed to developing one plan for all of the burn buildings operations.

6. Other items from membership

Jeff Morrissette reported that the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control has submitted an operations budget that shows a 10% reduction asked for by the administration. This plan was distributed for discussion. There was a discussion about developing a date and a plan for a ribbon cutting ceremony for the New Haven Regional Fire Academy. There are still problems coming up with a date that is acceptable to the New Haven mayor and the Governor.

7. Next meeting date

May 26, 2011 at Wethersfield Company #3, at 19:00.

Motion by Chris Tracy, second by Chet Haber to adjourn, motion carried at 21:39.