

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

May 23, 2013

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:04 with the following representatives present:

Burrville Regional Fire School - Richard Winn
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins, Les Shull, Eric Deschamps
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy
Hartford County Regional Fire School – Chet Haber, Jim Baldis
Middlesex County Fire School - Fred Dudek
Valley Chiefs Regional Fire School - James Vincent
Wolcott State Fire School - Steve Veneziano
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol
Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrissette, Bill Trisler
Connecticut State Firefighters Association - Jim Wilkinson, Thomas Murphy

No one was present representing the New Haven Fire Academy or the Stamford Regional Fire School.

Minutes of the March 2013 meeting were distributed for review.

Motion was made by Chris Tracy, second by Fred Dudek to accept the March minutes as presented. Fred Dudek stated that he was at the March meeting but arrived late. Motion carried.

1. Hartford County Regional School

Hartford continues to work on a few issues. The punch list on the firehouse still has a couple of unresolved items the burn building Paginite panels are continuing to fail at a somewhat lesser rate than earlier.

2. Fairfield Fire School

Chris Tracy reported that Jeff and Dave met with him again on March 30th. . The planning documents are taking shape and the “Book 2” is nearly ready to provide information for the RFQ. The civil engineer located a major municipal sewer line where the burn building was being planned.

Chris also reported that he talked with Ben Barnes on Fire Service Day. Ben told Chris that the fire school projects were an administrative priority.

Chris also reported that the FF&E budget will not support IT initiatives but will supply screens, tables etc. The meetings with the criteria architect have each lasted about an hour.

The Fairfield project plan is to complete the design documents before the end of June for review late summer 2013 leading up to the RFQ completion with a construction start planned for spring of 2014.

3. Burrville Fire School

Rich Winn met with Tecton to walk the school site. The web site will be on-line by mid June. Dave from DCS has been working on a remediation plan for the existing oil separator and has told Rich not to worry about the property transfer.

4. Cheshire Fire School

Steve Veneziano reported that the property transfer has not taken place yet. Soil samples have been collected and DOC and DESPP have been in discussion about the property transfer.

5. Valley Chiefs' Regional Fire School

There has been no activity on this site.

The Town of Seymour is building a fish ladder adjacent to the old school where the Valley Fire Chiefs' are leasing office space. The town is also interested in eliminating unnecessary town building spaces. The currently leased space in the old school building could be lost.

6. Middlesex Regional Fire School

The former Army property on Mile Lane has been transferred to the City of Middletown. The existing classroom / administration building will need a new roof and new HVAC equipment. Otherwise the building appears to be in very good condition. Some classroom program deliveries will hopefully be accommodated at that site in the near future. All utilities are in place. An MOU is being developed for consideration by DCS. A bill proposed in the legislature in order to provide funding during this session has gone nowhere. The existing Middlesex school is being torn down.

Bill Trisler reported on preliminary work on accreditation. He met with Fred Piechota and has been working on a time line for the upcoming review.

The standard 1041 for instructor should move to the 2012 standard by January.

The standard 1001 for Firefighter 1 and 2 should move to the 2012 standard also by January. This will include the 472 standard for Haz-Mat.

Certification is working on all new forms.

Bill asked if any schools are currently offering a combined FF1, FF2, and Haz-Mat. No one in attendance is currently offering such a program.

The 1006 standard for rescue is being worked on. The practical skills scenarios will be changing.

Also the testing for the Haz-Mat skills will be changing for the Firefighter I. The new testing will provide for an individual testing on the practical skills. This will probably result in a practical skills test that will include 9 or 10 stations.

Jeff Morrisette reported that Hazardous Materials grant funding has been approved in the amount of \$2,500 for each regional fire school. (Jeff provided agreements for use by the regional schools).

Jeff also reported that at the request of Charlie Stankye, he has completed the state form DPS-33 which is the requisition for the operational funding for the regional fire schools. Jeff also mentioned that two of the schools (Stamford and Fairfield) receive their funding in direct deposit which expedites the handling of the funding and insulates it from many administrative glitches.

Jim Baldis reported on the status of the "Q" license endorsement through the DMV. The fire chief ability to sign off on the driver skills has been eliminated. Only the CFA and the Regional Fire Schools are currently signers. The DMV will continue to provide testing, however the test fees may be as much as \$700.

Also the bill to force consolidation of dispatch centers is dead.

Rich Winn reported that the Burrville school is piloting an on-line Firefighter I program. This program is designed to serve college students. The program will offer the classroom portion of Firefighter I on-line. The practical skills training will be offered in an accelerated format. There are two lead instructors for the program. One lead instructor will oversee the on-line portion of the class while the other will oversee the psychomotor skills training. There are 17 students enrolled in the program.

Motion to adjourn by Chris Tracy, seconded by Chet Haber. The meeting was adjourned at 20:32

Next meeting will be on June 27, 2013 at Wethersfield Company #3 at 19:00.

Submitted by Al Hawkins