

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Education Committee

### Meeting minutes

June 23, 2005 – 19:00

## Wethersfield Fire Department Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order with the following members present:

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn  
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins  
Fairfield Regional Fire School – Scott Bisson  
Hartford Fire School - Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal, Jim Baldis  
Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School – Peter Wols  
Wolcott Regional Fire School – Paul Perrotti  
Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Ted Schroll  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jim Wilkinson, Rich Nicol  
Connecticut Fire Academy – Jeff Morrissette  
Guests: Don Ouillette, DPW

There was no one present representing the Stamford Fire Department Regional School, Middlesex County Fire School, or the New Haven Regional Fire Academy.

Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed. Motion by Jepeal, second by Haber to approve as submitted. Motion carried.

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

Hartford County School – Property issue remains unresolved. Discussions center around an approximate 1.6 acre parcel to the east of the CFA main administrative building. An annual lease fee of approximately \$35,000 is being proposed. The lease term would be 20 years with an additional 5 year option.

Middlesex County School – There was no new information on the Middletown property.

Wolcott Regional School – The Waterbury Area Fire Chiefs Association membership is waiting for the Naugatuck Valley Community College to commit to the subject property. N.V.C.C. has hired a consultant to prepare a white paper based on solicitation from area fire departments to gauge the level of activity that the proposed school would generate.

E.C.F.S. Willimantic – The owner refuses to sell the current parcel. The owner has verbally committed to a new lease agreement. The E.C.F.S. directors are working with council to draft an agreement. The cost of the lease agreement will be \$1,000 per month.

Valley Fire Chiefs School – The Valley Fire Chiefs are interested in having D.P.W. advertise for property.

Don recommended that the committee start to plan for the details of what is needed at each regional fire school. He advised that safety of training should be foremost and that planning should include provisions for rehabilitation of students along with re-hydration. Planning should also consider temperature and weather extremes.

Burrville School – D.P.W. legal staff is continuing to work with D.E.P. on issue of a lease agreement.

### **2. New Haven Burn Building/Renovation - status**

Don reported that D.P.W. is working with the architect and engineer to value engineer the project to try to get it within budget. Renovations to the main building are to include new HVAC, bathrooms, and A.D.A. compliance. There is an

addition planned with two meeting rooms with movable partitions. Don is still hopeful that the project can be on the August bond agenda.

The city of New Haven is planning to set up the regional fire academy as a backup E.O.C. for New Haven. There is federal Homeland Security funding available that may provide a standby generator.

### **3. Legislative Session 2005**

Ted Schroll reported that the bond bill language to allow 2004 bond funding to be used for property acquisition will hopefully pass on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

He also reported that Senate Bill #96 passed. This bill allows D.P.W. to design and build the regional fire schools and allows the administration of each regional fire school to be considered as state user agencies.

There is no additional bonding included in the 2005 bonding bill. The current plan is to include an additional \$10 million in the 2006 bonding package.

The Legislative special session will be dealing with four issues:

Bonding package / Transportation strategy / Energy policy / Implementation bills

Ted reported that the house work should conclude on Monday and that the senate will convene on Tuesday.

Other legislation: Traffic pre-emption device control passed, Youthful driver exemption for operation of emergency vehicles passed, Renaming of Perimeter Road bill passed, Compensation for volunteers for participation in Homeland Security drills in excess of 24 hours passed, Additional red light extended to five per department passed,.

### **4. Standardization Committee – S.O.P., injury management, forms**

The committee is continuing work on their draft standards manual. Most work is currently being coordinated by email. Plan is for a fall presentation to the Education Committee.

### **5. Other items from membership**

Paul Perrotti reported that the Waterbury Area Fire Chiefs intend to appoint an assistant director for the Wolcott Fire School.

Scott Bission downloaded a document completed by the Office of Legislative Research dealing with the method of operations and liability of the regional fire schools (distributed).

Jeff Morrisette reported on the Safety Stand-down on Monday. Many C.F.A. instructors participated. They felt that the effort was enlightening.

Jeff also reported that the 2006 calendar was being compiled, Mark Salafia will be sending mailings asking for course requests.

Jeff also reported that \$100,000 has been added to the C.F.P.C. budget for limited access highway response. Jeff is not yet sure how the funding will be distributed.

Rich Winn asked about the status of our requests for additional operational funding. It appears that nothing happened during the 2005 legislative session. Funding levels are projected as constant for the next two years.

Rich Nicol reported that the Career Fire Chiefs are looking for state funds to fund training.

Don suggested a review of the state statutes pertaining to police officer training to see if there was anything that could serve as a model for the fire service.

**Next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 28, 2005 at Wethersfield Co. #3.**

Submitted by:  
Al Hawkins, chairman