

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Education Committee

### Meeting minutes

June 23, 2011

Wethersfield Fire Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:17 with the following representatives present:

Burrville Regional Fire School - Rich Winn  
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins, Les Shull, Eric Deschamps  
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy  
Hartford County Regional Fire School – Mike Jepeal, Jim Baldis  
New Haven Fire Academy - Matt Marccirelli  
Stamford Regional Fire School - Anthony Conte  
Valley Fire Chiefs’ Regional Fire School - Ken Mitchell  
Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrisette  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol  
Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Tom Murphy  
Department of Public Works - Don Ouillette  
Guests: Danbury Fire Dept. - Geoff Herald

No one was present from the Middlesex County Fire School

**Note: Jeff Morrisette provided hamburgers, hot dogs, salads and chips for those present prior to the meeting start. A sincere thank you for the effort!**

Minutes of the May 2011 meeting were distributed for review. Motion was made by Jim Baldis second by Rich Winn with one correction. /Reference to the testing at the Fairfield school site should have read that “Gas Tech” evaluations were being conducted at the site. The minutes were corrected as amended.

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

No changes.

### **2. Other projects status**

The Request for Proposals for the Criteria Architect has been submitted for publication. The process under the new organization will change. It is estimated that approximately 120 days will be required before the selection process can proceed. These have remained in the D.P.W. staff possession for several weeks. It is hopeful that the advertisement be published soon. An Architect could be on board by August of 2011. Currently there are two project management teams working on two school designs simultaneously.

By April of 2014 these two projects should move forward. The new state department will lose much of their staff under the reorganization. A considerable amount of the department work load will go to acquired help.

Fairfield Fire School - proposal is out to perform the Gas-Tech site evaluation.

The Beacon Falls and Willimantic sites are proceeding through site evaluation and preliminary evaluation/design. Both should be ready to proceed in the September time frame.

Burrville - There is a meeting planned in two weeks to evaluate a wash water plan for the site. The department is not supplying full time staff to work on projects. The projects will continue to move forward with the commitment of two or three man-hours of work per week.

In summation, there is currently far more workload in the D.P.W. offices than they have staff to deal with.

### **3. Regional Fire Schools operations budgets.**

There is little information available. The state budget had predicted that the operational funding be funding to 2006 levels. As budgets get cut, it is anticipated that these funds will continue to be cut further.

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

Chris Tracy questioned the priorities of the Department of Public Works.

Don stated that the State Department of Education is pushing various state education projects for priority. There also \$80 million I projects for the State Technical High Schools that are also being pushed as high priority projects.

Contract approval will now be out of the prevue of the Department of Construction Services.

By November of 2012 there should be a design/builder under contract. The wording in the current contract calls for the selected architect to facilitate between two and four contracts. The General Assembly will need to appropriate necessary funding in order to continue the project.

If additional funds are available, future school projects could be able to proceed in 2003. Bond funding recently approved for UConn Medical Center an Windham Community Memorial Hospital are not directed through a state agency for construction.

The Hartford County Fire School construction began on June/6, 2011. Problems have surfaced with property boundaries that have been encroached by construction.

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

The committee intends to continue to pursue a standard for operations of the new burn buildings. Concern was expressed that we need clearly defined fuel loads for burns in these buildings.

### **6. Other items from membership**

Don reported that the D.P.W. will become the "Department of Construction Services effective July 1, 2011. All accounting employees will become employees of the Department of Administrative Services.

Former D.P.W. legal staff will now, also work for the Department of Administrative Services.

### **7. Next meeting date**

July 28, 2011 at Wethersfield Company #3, at 19:00.

Motion by Rich Winn, second by Mike Jepeal to adjourn, motion carried at 20:26.

Submitted by Al Hawkins