

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Education Committee

### Meeting minutes

June 24, 2010

### Wethersfield Fire Department

### Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:11 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 – Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal, Jim Baldis  
Stamford Regional Fire School – Tony Conte  
Valley Fire Chiefs’ Regional Fire School - Charles Stankye, Jr.  
Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrissette  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol  
Connecticut State Firefighters Association - Ted Schroll, Charles Stankye, Jr., Thomas Murphy  
Guests: D.P.W. - Donald Ouillette  
Danbury Fire Department – Mark Omasta

No one was present representing the Middlesex County Fire School, New Haven Fire Academy, or the Wolcott State Fire School

Minutes of the May meeting were distributed for review.

Rich Nicol offered a correction, he is listed as being present but did not attend the May meeting.

Motion was made by Chet Haber second by Jim Baldis to accept the May minutes as amended. Motion carried.

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

Don Ouillette reported that after receiving the letter from the committee the Governor instructed that the Department of Public Works Commissioner proceed with the purchase of the Beacon Falls property for the Valley Chief’s Regional Fire School, the Willimantic property for the Eastern Connecticut Fire School, and the design for the Burrville and Fairfield Regional Fire Schools. Sales agreements are pending for the Beacon Falls property for \$860,000, the Willimantic property for \$450,000.

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

Don noted that \$250,000 was being requested for release for design work for Burrville and Fairfield. This design work would be for the template for the five regional fire schools (Burrville, Fairfield, Valley, Wolcott, and Middlesex).

Don wants to arrange for a meeting with representatives of the Town of Fairfield in order to resolve issues for the funding of the remediation for the Fairfield site. He is concerned about the presence of Poly Chlorinated Biphenyl’s discovered on the site. Don wants to make sure that everyone involved is in agreement with the remediation plan and extent. Chris reported that soil borings were done on the site two years ago. Six borings were done, two showed the presence of P.C.B.s along the rear portion of the site about 2’ below grade. One other area required further investigation/remediation.

After remediation of the Burrville site D.P.W. staff will attempt to work out terms of a memorandum of understanding for the long term use of the site. The site will need to be evaluated for further contamination before the design build process can begin.

There were fourteen bids submitted for the Hartford County construction project. There were five bid protests filed. The project will be re-bid, invitations should go out in mid August for bid opening by the end of September. The project should be ready to come before the bonding commission in November or December. Don believes that there will be one more bond commission meeting this year. If the Harford project is ready to proceed before that bond commission meeting construction could begin in April 2011.

New Haven Regional Fire Academy - Don reported that the construction project is proceeding on schedule. The project is approximately 25% complete, December 28, 2010 is the scheduled completion date. Steel is scheduled to arrive next week for the storage building. All debris has now been removed from the site. The trench rescue prop has been formed and poured with concrete. The prop dimension is four feet in width but should have been five feet in width. New Haven staff failed to recognize the error on the construction documents.

Don discussed the burn building design options. The New Haven and Springfield burn buildings are cast in place concrete. The Hartford design is for pre-cast with sacrificial walls and protected slabs.

Chet Haber offered that the roof pitch on the Hartford design burn building is pitched over the main burn building and flat over the garage section.

### **3. Lobbying Status**

Chris Tracy suggested that the committee hold off on a press release until after the Bond Commission Meeting. He suggested that we develop a letter prior to the primary elections in order to determine the level of support that we should expect from each of the candidates. The primary elections will take place on August 10 - 15. Chris suggests that we send a letter to each of the four candidates to determine the level of support that we should expect from each. Chris also wants to make sure that we coordinate a press release based upon the results of the bond commission meeting.

Rich Winn suggested that we work on a press release by local TV media in order to provide background information, including actual site conditions, to accompany the press release of the bond commission action.

Chris Tracy offered to share the media contact list that he has developed. He will send the list as an email.

### **4. Other items from membership**

Rich Nicol discussed the efforts of the Waterbury Area Fire Chiefs to co-locate with the Naugatuck Valley Community College. That effort was finally thwarted by the N.V.C.C. board of trustees.

Mike Jepeal reported that the sub-committee on Hazardous Materials Training for the Firefighter I program has yet to meet. The members are still attempting to work up a mutually agreeable meeting date.

Chris Tracy suggested that each regional fire school try to get in front of regional needs for satellite training programs. If we can become successful in this effort we should be able to posture ourselves to deliver whatever programs are needed within our respective service areas. This initiative could help to contain the expansion efforts of the start-up fire academies.

Mark Omasta distributed pass/fail statistics for recent Firefighter I / Haz Mat testing for programs offered at Danbury.

Jeff Morrisette reported that there are funds available from the D.E.P. for recently delivered Hazardous Materials training programs. This will probably equate to approximately 2 to 3 K per regional fire school. Jeff will provide additional information at the July meeting.

C.F.A. Calendar for 2011. Mark Salafia will be beginning the process of soliciting input for classes desired as regional course deliveries.

### **5. Next meeting date**

The next meeting will be on July 22, 2010 at Wethersfield Company #3 at 19:00.  
Motion by Baldis second by Haber to adjourn at 21:22.

Submitted by Al Hawkins