

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Education Committee

Meeting minutes

June 27, 2013

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:08 with the following representatives present:

Burrville Regional Fire School - Richard Winn  
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins, Eric Deschamps  
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy  
Hartford County Regional Fire School – Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal  
Valley Chiefs Regional Fire School - Charles Stankye, Jr.  
Wolcott State Fire School - Steve Veneziano, Dave Hardt  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol  
Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrissette, Bill Trisler  
Connecticut State Firefighters Association - Ted Schroll

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

Minutes of the May 23, 2013 meeting were distributed for review.

Charlie Stankye proposed a correction to the minutes. The minutes reported that a fish ladder is being constructed by the town of Seymour adjacent to the fire school property. The ladder is actually adjacent to the old school where the Valley Fire School is renting office space. Motion was made by Chet Haber seconded by Dave Hardt to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

**On April 27, 2012 the State Bond Commission released \$800,000. These funds are requested to provide additional funds for the design/build architectural services for the Fire Training School construction projects at the Burrville (Torrington), Fairfield, Willimantic, Beacon Falls and Cheshire fire schools. After multiple requests by the staff at D.C.S. the Education Committee has refused to select a specific order for the build out of the remaining schools. Our stand has been that we want to advance all five schools. Our concern has been that if we select one school to build and any logistical issues arise that all progress on that project will halt. There is concern that D.C.S. will take too long to change plans and begin focusing their attention on another site.**

There was a brief discussion about the Gant Chart submitted by the Department of Construction Services at the kick off meeting on April 11, 2013. There were favorable comments from those involved about the level of participation by the DCS staff in meetings conducted so far.

Jeff Morrissette reported that he had received a call from a reporter from the Waterbury Republican looking for a story on the Regional Fire School construction project. The reporter stated that there appeared to be some dissension by personnel at some of the schools about the order that the projects appeared in the Gant Chart. A discussion followed about why the Valley School was now number 4 in the order. There was some discussion about the action by this body back in December 2007 when efforts to acquire property for schools in Willimantic, the Valley Region and the Waterbury area were all stymied. At that time the Education Committee passed a motion to move Fairfield to the top of the list in order to attempt to get the project moving forward.

After considerable discussion those present directed the chairman to draft a "Position Letter" in support of moving the project forward, consistent with the plan contained in the DCS Gant Chart. The letter will be sent to all members of this committee in draft form for comment. This plan was supported by consensus of the members present.

## **1. Hartford County Regional School**

A meeting was conducted by the Architect and the General Contactor to evaluate punch list items and to address cracks in the sacrificial masonry walls.

Mike Jepeal suggested that with the extent of problems encountered with the Paginite insulating panels that serious consideration should be given to the use of the HTL ceramic panels such as the ones used in the New Haven burn building.

Jeff Morrisette pointed out that many other burn buildings are in use utilizing the Paginite panels for a decade and longer without issues similar to the problems encountered in the Hartford burn building.

It was also pointed out that there have been no issues in the Hartford burn building with any failure of the pre-cast concrete panels. The only cracking seems to involve the block "sacrificial walls" that are now showing some signs of cracking and moving. The New Haven burn building also has reported some cracking in the block walls.

Jeff reported that during the construction of the New Haven burn building DCS has a project manager on-site. During the construction of the burn building in Windsor Locks there was typically no representative from DCS on-site.

## **2. Fairfield Fire School**

Chris Tracy brought copies of drawings prepared by Tecton for the Fairfield site.

Chris reported that the classroom and administration building has been merged with the fire station / storage building. This layout incorporates a rehabilitation shelter into the design. Other changes have the major window areas facing the south in order to take advantage of the sun. There is also an attempt to incorporate new windows in the existing tower. Other areas being investigated include screening and fencing.

Hydrants are being proposed off of two separate water mains. Discussions have been conducted on providing a concrete pad and conduits for a future generator at the site.

Chris also reported that there had been some discussion about an access and security system but was told that access would probably continue to be of a low-technology nature.

Tecton is attempting to develop a plan that will come in within the developed budget from the master plan.

Rich Nicol asked if any discussion had taken place about the state requirement for artwork in the Fairfield project. Dave Wlodkowski from DCS had commented that he felt that the Fairfield project would be less than the threshold amount that would require funding for such artwork. Chris reported that there have been three meetings with Tecton on the Fairfield project. He feels that there will be one additional meeting prior to issuing the RFQ for the construction contract.

Chris reported that discussions led by Dave Wlodkowski have been very open. Dialogue started with the 2002 Master Plan.

## **3. Burrville Fire School**

Tecton has already conducted a site walk through for the Burrville site. An initial meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 1, 2013. Rich believes that the architect, the DCS Project Manager and a civil engineer will attend this meeting. Rich has been advised that the property transfer is not an issue. There is apparently agreement between The D.E.E.P and D.C.S. on the overall project. The final documents have not been completed yet.

#### **4. Cheshire Fire School**

Steve Veneziano reported that the property transfer has not yet taken place. Glen Washburn from D.C.S. reported that there were no environmental issues on the property. The Soil Report has not been completed but all soil sampling has been accomplished.

#### **5. Valley Chiefs' Regional Fire School**

Charlie Stankye reported that during the last growing season the DPW had been conducting roadside mowing at the Beacon Falls site. There has been no mowing taking place during this growing season. The D.P.W. garage is in close proximity to the site. Jeff Morrissette offered that he would ask Chris Johnston, the facilities engineer at the C.F.A. to see if he could find someone to discuss mowing with from D.P.W.

Ted Schroll reported on the passage of the state PSA bill. This bill calls for a task force to be compiled and that they will be directed to make a report for February of 2014.

Bill Trisler made a report on changes in the Certification Office.

New application forms are on-line. These forms have a check box for a regional fire school delivery.

A test bank of questions for the new NFPA 1001 are due at the C.F.A. in July for the 2012 standard. Bill reported that there are no significant changes between the 2008 and 2012 NFPA 1001 standard.

Bill also reported that Denice has a summer help worker assigned to assist in the office.

Jeff reported on the "Q" drivers' license endorsement. Jeff has requested a meeting with D.M.V. to discuss the new license process. Policies will need to be developed. C.F.A. would like to keep training separate from testing. There are still many questions about how the new process will unfold.

Motion to adjourn by Chris Tracy, seconded by Charlie Stankye. The meeting was adjourned at 21:17

**Next meeting will be on July 25, 2013 at Wethersfield Company #3 at 19:00.**

Submitted by Al Hawkins