

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Education Committee

Meeting minutes

June 28, 2012

Wethersfield Fire Company #3

Kelleher Court

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

Connecticut State Firefighters' Association - Thomas Murphy, Charles Stankye, Jr.

Burrville Regional Fire School - Rich Winn

Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins, Les Shull, Eric Deschamps

Hartford County Regional Fire School – Chet Haber, Jim Baldis, Mike Jepeal

Middlesex County Fire School - Fred Dudek

Valley Fire Chiefs' Regional Fire School –Ken Mitchell

Wolcott State Fire School - Steve Veneziano

Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jeff Morrisette, Rich Nicol

Guests:

Ct. Department of Construction Services - Don Ouillette

Danbury Fire School - T.J. Wiedl

No one was present from the Fairfield Regional Fire School, the New Haven Regional Fire Academy, or the Stamford Regional Fire School

The draft minutes of the May 24, 2012 meeting were distributed.

Two corrections were proposed. Page 1 “Projects status” the D.E.S.P.P. should be the D.C.S., later in the same paragraph the RSP should be RFP.

Motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion by Haber, seconded by Winn, Motion carried.

### 1. Projects status

Don Ouillette reported that he met with his legal department on June 12<sup>th</sup>. They are proposing to develop one big RFP with five packages attached, one for each proposed school. Each contractor proposing to perform the Design/Build work would be eligible to bid on from one to five projects. The contractors would still be “short listed” by a selection committee consisting of a panel of six members. Don wants one member from each school on the selection panel, additional reviewers will be from DCS. The hope is to award one contract every six weeks.

All schools could potentially be constructed by one contractor, or by many. By September - October every school needs to get all details about the programming/construction worked out.

**Hartford** - Today all defective Pagenite panels were replaced. There remain design issues with throwing ladders to windows. Don cautioned all present to take sufficient time to carefully review the design drawings for operational issues.

The contract with Tecton has been on ‘hold’ because of issues at the Hartford County school. With other issues resolved or being resolved at Hartford, D.C.S. is now moving forward to get the contract in place.

Don advised that post construction each burn building should last at least 5 years before any significant maintenance issues should need to be addressed. Don further suggested that the top course of block in all interior partitions should probably be solid block in order to prevent water infiltration into the partitions.

By October Tecton will meet with all schools to receive program information.

Charlie Stankye asked what happened with the fire extinguisher prop at Hartford County. Kidde received the purchase order for the prop a couple of months ago but have not yet begun to build the prop. Kidde representatives said they had problems with legal language. The water used in the prop area needs to be reclaimed, the area of the prop needs to be capable of supporting 80 ton vehicles which is a problem with the grates as they have been designed. Kidde has a significant overseas project that seems to be consuming their time.

Tecton will develop a program and specification and develop a contract/design document. The Specification should be performance based. Don advised that all roof systems designed should be guaranteed for 40 - 50 years.

Mike Jepeal commented on the Hartford Class "A" Burn building. Mike said that the building burns wonderfully. The areas where the flat roof transitions to a sloped roof exposes students and instructors to significant fall hazards due to the cut-out prop. Further, the pre-burn of the building for conditioning of the thermal protective system should be part of the contractor's responsibility. This would afford an opportunity for the contractor to condition the thermal lining system and to perform a detailed check out of the wiring for the thermocouples. It seems apparent that the Architect is just now learning how firefighter training is done.

Doors on the burn building were rigid, some have buckled due to exposure to the heat. The Architect is redesigning the doors. They are also working on fall protection features at the roof cut-outs.

Charlie Stankye wanted some additional details about what information needed to be contained in the RFP. The RFP for each facility needs to incorporate as much detail as possible regarding the features that each school desires to have incorporated into their facility.

Addition issues uncovered at the Hartford burn building include the lack of nosings on the pre-cast stairs, floor to window sill heights still need to be worked out because of the fire bricks that are laid dry on the floor and alter the sill heights that were laid out based upon the finished concrete floor heights. This has added an additional fall protection issue for firefighters and instructors working inside the building adjacent to those windows. Don was hopeful that issues such as this could be picked up by careful review of the RFP prior to it going out to the Design/Build contractor.

Don also pointed out that Elliot LeBouf Company, who built the Springfield Burn Building wants to do everything his way. We need to stick to our concepts and tell him what we want. Hartford County could not use ceramic tiles for their thermal linings and needed to instead use Pagenite. H.T.L. refused to provide the liners for Hartford.

Don advised that directors at each regional fire school consider maintenance. Salt expose to provide for winter safety could expose the concrete to premature deterioration.

Rich Winn suggests that anyone that likes the features in the Hartford Class "A" Building articulate that to Tecton and list any changes that you would like to see from that design.

Don also reported that Surveyors showed up in Cheshire today. Steve Veneziano reported that the A2, D2 survey will begin soon.

Don reported that Janet Ainsworth is remaining in the legal department however, two other attorneys have left the state to pursue private legal practice.

Environmental evaluations - Fuss & O'Neill will be performing environmental evaluations at Willimantic and Cheshire.

Burrville - The lease agreement for Burrville / D.E.E.P. is still in the Attorney General's office. Don suggested that we contact A.G. Jepson to ask for his help to get this accomplished.

Don left at 20:05

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

Rich Winn is looking for a contact list to share with representatives from Kidde and Bulex. Please contact Rich with those representatives from each school that should be contacted.

Jeff Morrissette reported that the gas training props at the C.F.A. were all built by Kidde. They were purchased by a third party but Kidde has always provide good service to resolve any problems.

Middlesex - Fred Dudek reported that the Middletown property transfer should take place in September.

## **3. Other items from membership**

Shaker Pines section of Enfield is receiving a parcel of property that is designated for the use of fire training only.

There was a brief discussion about Workers Compensation Insurance and the impact that it has on the liability of companies providing fire service training and any school facilities that they may employ in order to facilitate their training.

## **4. Next meeting date**

The next meeting will be held on July 26, 2012 at Wethersfield Fire Company #3, Kelleher Court.

Motion by Haber, second by Stankye to adjourn at 20:25, motion carried.

Submitted by Al Hawkins