

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

July 22, 2010

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:01 with the following representatives present:

Burrville Regional Fire School - Rich Winn, Tom Osborne
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins, Eric Deschamps
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy
Hartford County Regional Fire School – Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal, Jim Baldis
Valley Fire Chiefs' Regional Fire School - Charles Stankye, Jr.
Wolcott State Fire School - Steve Veneziano, Chris Pepler
Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrissette
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol
Connecticut State Firefighters Association - Ted Schroll, Thomas Murphy, Jim Wilkinson
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, Stamford Regional Fire School

Minutes of the June meeting were distributed for review.

Motion was made by Rich Nicol second by Tom Murphy to accept the June minutes. Motion carried.

1. Status of properties acquisitions

Don Ouillette reported that the DPW was working toward closing on the Beacon Falls property. After the probate judge acts the purchase for the Willimantic property should move forward.

2. Other projects status

Rich Winn reported that an executed M.O.U. between D.E.P. and D.P.W. will be required in order for work to proceed on the Burrville project.

Don is working toward solidifying an M.O.U. with the town of Fairfield.

Don also reported that both Beacon Falls and Willimantic will get state PILOT funds if the acquired property is developed into regional fire schools.

Don recommends that all regional fire schools refer to the original master plan and evaluate current needs. By April or May all directors should be ready to move forward.

Charles Stankye asked if D.P.W. would need to go through the local permit process. Don answered that the state is exempt from the local permitting and P.Z.C. process.

Don is planning to work on performance specifications for regional school designs.

Rich Winn asked about the building layouts in relation to the master plan. Don answered that the final plans would hold each regional fire school to the original gross square footage of building space.

Mike Jepeal pointed out that Hartford County School had solicited several plans for various burn buildings. They reviewed all plans and determined which features would best fit their needs and incorporated those details into their final plans.

Don also reported that the Hartford Fire School requests for bids will go to the D.P.W. bid room tomorrow. Commissioner Curtis will ask for a placeholder for the Hartford Fire School construction project for the August bond commission agenda. Chet Haber asked about the new time line for the project. Don reported that the bid openings will be six weeks after the release of the invitation. The invitation should go out the last week of July or the first week of August.

Don reported that Dave from D.P.W. would be the project manager for the Burrville and Fairfield projects, Karl will be assigned to the Willimantic project.

The steel for the support building is on-site at the New Haven Regional Fire Academy. That project is moving ahead on schedule.

Rich Winn reported that United is attempting to complete their remediation work at Burrville.

Charlie Stankye felt that all committee members should pat themselves on the back for their persistence. We have all stuck together and are starting to see the fruits of our labor.

Ted Schroll recommended that we continue to push for the funding to complete all projects. He reported that Senator Leone has been backing Stamford firefighters and that he might be a good legislator to approach to help us.

3. Regional Schools operations budgets

Chris Tracy recommended that we align ourselves with the C.F.P.C. to assemble our operations budget requirements.

It appears that the budget compilation period is from late August through sometime in September.

Tom Reynolds is co-chair of the joint committee on Appropriations. He is fiscally conservative. We need to work to get the regional fire schools to get recognition as state supported organizations. Since the state is funding the renovation/construction project it seems that the state is gaining a vested interest in our financial security.

Jeff Morrisette noted that there are several postings on the Daily Dispatch indicating that several towns are beginning to work toward developing fire training facilities.

4. Other items from membership

Jeff Morrisette circulated a proposed agreement to facilitate distribution of hazardous materials training funds. He will need a reporting of the number of students and the number of fire departments served. The funding should amount to approximately \$2,200 per school.

Steve Veneziano introduced Chris Pepler from Torrington as the new assistant director of training for the Wolcott State Fire School.

Rich Winn suggested that we hold a future meeting at the New Haven Regional Fire Academy. Al Hawkins will work to arrange that the September meeting take place at New Haven.

5. Next meeting date

The next meeting will be on August 26, 2010 at Wethersfield Company #3 at 19:00.
Motion by Winn second by Jepeal to adjourn at 20:28.

Submitted by Al Hawkins