

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

July 26, 2012

Wethersfield Fire Company #3

Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 18:15 with the following representatives present:

Connecticut State Firefighters' Association - Ted Schroll
Burrville Regional Fire School - Rich Winn
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins, Eric Deschamps
Hartford County Regional Fire School – Chet Haber, Jim Baldis
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol

Guests:

Ct. Department of Construction Services - Don Ouillette

No one was present from the Fairfield Regional Fire School, the Middlesex County Fire School, the New Haven Regional Fire Academy, the Stamford Regional Fire School, the Valley Fire Chiefs' Regional Fire School, or the Wolcott State Fire School

The draft minutes of the June 28, 2012 meeting were distributed.

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

1. Projects status

Don distributed copies of a letter from Tecton Architects about design for the next five regional fire schools and their interest in working with Elliot, LeBoeuf & McElwain as part of the design team for those burn buildings (copy attached).

Hartford County - all defective Paginite has been replaced. All areas have been test fired with no problems.

HTL lining systems would not supply linings for the Hartford burn building. They had taken the stand that the ceramic lining system was not compatible with a pre-cast burn building. The HTL lining appears to provide better resistance to damage and longevity than other lining systems.

Chris Tracy pointed out that the Fairfield burn building is protected by a Paginite thermal lining with a ceramic lining system (HTL) protecting it from mechanical damage.

Don Suggested that future burn buildings could possibly utilize cast in place concrete for all vertical surfaces and pre-cast for the roof structure.

DCS held a meeting at the Hartford County Burn Building today to review the current conditions. Tecton will deal with five or six major design issues. The turn-over of the fire station was completed. The Kidde fire extinguisher mock up is not complete, that should be completed within a couple of weeks.

The new burn buildings at subsequent regional schools will be pre-treated by the construction contractor prior to completion and turnover.

Burrville Fire School - D.E.E.P. and D.E.S.P.P. have agreed on the conceptual M.O.U. for the new school. That agreement is in the attorney general's office for review. There was a discussion about the committee contacting Jepson in order to urge that this approval be a priority

Cheshire - There was a site visit last week. Boundaries of property to be transferred have been agreed upon. Surveyors have a go-ahead to complete the survey. There could be a delay in having the contract with the surveyor signed off by the A.G.

Meeting at E.C.F.S. is scheduled for next Tuesday, July 31 in order to kick off the design process.

Eastern Connecticut Fire School, the Beacon Falls site and the Cheshire site will now proceed with Fuss & O'Neill performing the environmental evaluations for all three sites. .

Tecton should begin working with the individual schools in September - October time frame.

Don commented on touring the North Coventry Fire Station today. That facility was constructed by Fuss & O'Neill. The finished facility cost \$1.9 million including the demolition of the previous fire station. Don was impressed with the design and the construction quality. The station is 30,000 sq. ft., all air conditioned including the apparatus bays.

Tecton will develop a sketch for each site. Topo and environmental evaluation will be included. Final proposed contract is being reviewed by legal. The design work is projected to begin in September 2012.

Design/build will be predicated on the criteria design. Need to get submittals on all materials incorporated. Most of these schools may be exempt from the 1% art work requirement because of projected projects cost. The 1% of project cost for artwork may apply to the E.C.F.S. because of the total cost.

Don left at 19:56.

2. Other items from membership

There was a discussion about inviting Bill Trisler, the new director of Certification to a future meeting.

Tracy - State does all fire officer/instructor programs. Since the impetus seems to be on professionalism we need to get together with the certification director in order to get involved with the certification process. Chris pointed out that the Texas certification system requires that each training facility be certified by the state for each certification course that they will deliver.

There was also a discussion about requesting a determination from the A.G. office to determine who can "freelance" and what programs should be available. Discussion needs to take place between the certification director and the regional fire schools to define roles. The state legislature has now determined that regional fire schools have instructor indemnification which is not available "at large" to other instructors.

Town liability for fire department training activity was discussed.

Review of a letter drafted by Al Hawkins as a discussion item for possible distribution to fire chiefs (copy attached). Chris offered that we should investigate the possibility of the letter being distributed to fire chiefs and municipal elected officials by the Attorney General's office. Now that the state Legislature has decided to invest in the regional fire school, and provide indemnification for their instructors, some of the members of the General Assembly could be approached to see if they would request the intervention of the A.G. on this issue. Legislators mentioned for approach were Boukus, Aresimowicz, Orange, Stillman, and Dargan.

Jim Baldis pointed out that the C.F.A. is again performing audits for live fire training evolutions. This was generally well received by members present as a positive move

Ted offered that the CSFA is legislatively the entity that speaks for the firefighters of the state. The CSFA executive committee could be another entity that could assist with the request for support on this initiative.

Another discussion point was the fact that P.O.S.T. has specific requirements for instructors that deliver training programs for police officers.

Hartford County - All damaged linings have been replaced by Tecton. All areas have been subjected to live fire and all areas are performing well. Hartford will be conducting a ribbon cutting ceremony in September.

3. Next meeting date

The next meeting will be held on August 23, 2012 at Wethersfield Fire Company #3, Kelleher Court.

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

Submitted by Al Hawkins

Copies attached:

- Letter from Tecton dated 07/25/12
- Draft letter for discussion from Education Committee dated 08/01/12
- Letter from State Insurance and Risk Management Board regarding insurance requirements to use a state facility (provided by Jeff Morrissette)