

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

July 28, 2011

Wethersfield Fire Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:05 with the following representatives present:

Burrville Regional Fire School - Rich Winn
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins, Eric Deschamps
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Chris Tracy
Hartford County Regional Fire School – Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal
Middlesex County Fire School - Fred Dudek
Valley Fire Chiefs’ Regional Fire School - Ken Mitchell, James Vincent
Wolcott State Fire School - Steve Veneziano
Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrissette
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol
Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Tom Murphy, Ted Schroll
Guests:
Department of Public Works - Don Ouillette
Danbury Fire Dept. - Geoff Herald

No one was present representing the New Haven Fire Academy or the Stamford Regional Fire School

Minutes of the June 2011 meeting were distributed for review. Motion was made by Chris Tracy second by Chet Haber to accept the minutes as printed. The motion passed.

1. Status of properties acquisitions

The new Department of Construction Services is moving forward with the new D.E.E.P. on details of the lease for the Burrville school property. Final agreement is anticipated by October, November, or December.

2. Other projects status

Don Ouillette reported that the new Department of Construction Services is now in place. Don Defronzo is acting Commissioner. Salami Pasquale is now the Deputy Commissioner starting on next Monday. Mr. Pasquale is from East Hartford. Don indicated that he will be interested in meeting at some future time with the committee, probably in a couple of months. The State Building Inspector and the civilian staff of the state fire marshal’s are now part of the new department.

Next Wednesday the advertisement is scheduled to be sent out for a Criterion Architect to work on the design for between two and four regional fire schools. At this point the design is proceeding for Burrville, Fairfield, the Beacon Falls and the Willimantic locations. Don also reported that Jeff Morrissette, Chris Tracy and Al Hawkins will be representatives of the committee on the selection committee.

The Fairfield school should be ready to proceed in October or November.

A property survey for the Willimantic site is planned for September. A survey of the Beacon Falls should be proceeding at approximately the same time. By November all necessary information should be available in order to make a decision on which of the four schools are ready to proceed through the design process.

Steve Veneziano asked what the next step should be to move the Cheshire site forward. Don suggested that a survey should be financed to clarify the specific ten acre parcel destined to house the new school.

A ground breaking ceremony has been scheduled for the Hartford County school on August 9, 2011 at 18:30. All legislators will be invited to the event. Members present were encouraged to contact their State Representatives and Senators to urge them to attend the ceremony. Jim Baldis has solicited some updated photos for a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the statewide project status. Hopefully, Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman will attend.

A ribbon cutting ceremony is being planned for the New Haven Regional Fire Academy for October 13, 14, or 15. Ted Schroll offered that we need to make a “big deal” about New Haven being built with state bond funds. Members of the Public Safety and Finance Committees need to hear from our members.

3. Regional Fire Schools operations budgets.

Jeff stated that the allotment request for the quarterly operating funds has been submitted.

4. Capital improvement plan - going forward.

The general feeling of members present was that we should capitalize on the progress made at both the Hartford County ground breaking ceremony and the New Haven County ribbon cutting.

5. Live burn procedures for new Class A burn buildings.

No progress.

6. Other items from membership

Hartford County has 41 students registered for their Firefighter I class. The work at Hartford County is progressing. Water mains are under construction. Footings have been poured for the burn and support buildings. The consensus of the members present was that we should be pushing for an addition of \$16 million of additional bond funding over then next two years to continue the progress on the regional school capital improvements.

There is a retirement dinner planed for Ed O’Hurley for October 6, 2011 at the Mill on the River restaurant.

7. Next meeting date

September 22, 2011 at Wethersfield Company #3, at 19:00.

Motion by Rich Winn, second by Chris Tracy to adjourn, motion carried at 20:14.

Submitted by Al Hawkins