

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

August 22, 2013

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:05 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 –Mike Jepeal, Jim Baldis
Middlesex County Fire School - Fred Dudek
Valley Chiefs Regional Fire School - James Vincent
Wolcott State Fire School - Steve Veneziano, Jay Hershman, Jack Casner
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol
Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrissette, Bill Trisler, Mark Salafia
Connecticut State Firefighters Association - Ted Schroll, Charles Stankye, Jr.

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

Minutes of the July 25, 2013 meeting were distributed for review.

Motion made by Mike Jepeal, seconded by Chris Tracy to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Fairfield Fire School - Chris Tracy reported that he had received a phone call weeks ago from staff at DCS about the plans for the vendor selection committee. D.C.S. has developed an evaluation document designed to assist with the evaluation of potential vendors. This document offers weighting factors for various vendor characteristics. Five vendors have expressed interest in the project. The committee held the initial meeting on September 3rd in order to determine members of the “short list”. They are still waiting for the final architects documents. The Fairfield Deputy Chief and Rich Winn will serve as members of the selection committee.

Additionally, Chris Tracy and Rich Winn provided very positive feedback about the professionalism and dedication of both Dave Wlodkowski and Glen Washburn from DCS.

NOTE: DCS has more restrictions imposed on what equipment may be included for purchase for schools that are being constructed for turnover to a municipality.

Burrville Fire School - Fuss and O’Neill, EnviroScience is performing the environmental evaluation of the site.

Rich is waiting to see the environmental analysis and remediation plan

Beacon Falls site - Charlie Stankye reported that the initial kick-off meeting with D.C.S. showed that there may be some issues in furniture (FF&E Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment). Charlie was advised that he needed a line item for furniture, screens, etc.

The town of Beacon Falls has taken care of mowing the site along the road.

Hartford County School - DCS and architect have been working to remediate issues. Hartford County administration has been kept in the dark about the process. Two rooms in the building are out of service. They also need to use burn racks for all burns. A burn policy has been finalized for all fires. The Paginite panels are standing up fairly well. Blocks on the sacrificial walls are cracking and showing signs of movement.

NFPA 1403 implementation: 2 fires are the maximum allowed per floor. After two fires then they need to move to another floor. All fires must be limited to 1,500 °F at the ceiling. The target is for all fires to be conducted with fires ranging from 800 - 1000 degrees F at the ceiling. All burn operators have now been trained. Seven training programs were conducted in order to reach all burn operators. Instructors are being restricted as to what they are able to do during training evolutions. The developed burn policy will be shared with this committee.

Eastern Ct. Fire School - The site environmental assessment has been continuing. Carlton Grodotzke, from D.C.S. has been attempting to more clearly define the extent of the necessary remediation in order to better contain the associated costs.

Cheshire Location - Tuesday, August 13th the directors needed to fill out “a reuse” application for surplus property. Glen Washburn helped to “walk-through” the process. DMV had expressed an interest in the “surplus property”. The land has now been removed from the surplus property list and leased to the Waterbury Area Fire Chiefs’ Association. This will be similar for all schools that do not belong to a municipal entity. These properties will remain state property that will be leased to the end use agency. Jay Hershman observed that the state agency attorneys don’t seem to understand what we do at these schools.

Middlesex Site - This site has already been environmentally remediated by the Department of the Army. There remains no funding allocated for site improvements at this location.

*** Bill Trisler reported on site compliance forms that were required for the regional schools by the Pro Board in order for accreditation to be extended to training programs offered at these venues. These forms will need to be completed by the end of October and will be retained on file at the Certification Office.

There was also an overview of recent discussions about the requirements for practical skills station evaluators. These evaluators need to be viewed as objective. A director of training for a regional school or a program lead instructor may not serve to evaluate practical skills for participants in their programs.

Bill also spoke about the practical skills evaluations for NFPA 473 skills. Under evaluations to the new standard, Hazardous Materials skills will be tested as individual skills stations with evaluations conducted for each student, individually. There will be less likelihood of a student being passed because of the collective skills or knowledge of a group. This change will typically add three skills stations for each Firefighter I / Hazardous Materials evaluation. The regional fire school will be required to provide the necessary equipment and a station evaluator for each of these stations. The ERG will be used in the practical skills evaluations.

*** Mark Salifia reported on the 2014 training calendar offerings. The calendar offerings include Fire Officer - I and Fire Service Instructor - I classes. There will be four of each program offered each year in the state through the calendar offerings.

Mark also suggested that the regional schools consider taking advantage of one and two day programs: Strategy and Tactics, Bread and Butter Operations, etc.

Jim Vincent asked about the hosting requirements for various state classes. He suggested that this information be made available and posted on the C.F.A. website.

Rich Winn asked for the posting of what different props will be required for C.F.A. course deliveries.

Jeff Morrissette offered that he could send an email looking for additional suggestions.

*** Ted Schroll reported on changes during the past legislative session. Four bills were passed that impact the fire service.

1. The bill that modifies the “Q” driver endorsement
2. Work zones in front of fire stations

3. Fire Chief of a campus to have additional authority
4. Tampering with fire hydrants

Also, an EMS task force has been established in order to work on P.S.A. designations.

Jeff Morrisette reported that the first quarterly checks have been issues for the regional fire schools. Those checks have been delivered to C. Stankye.

Hazardous Materials training funds must be applied for before September 30.

On the "Q" license endorsement there is planning for a discussion about this issue with personnel from the Department of Motor Vehicles. D.M.V. has indicated that they will continue to do testing.

Rich Winn reported that he has received a solicitation from O.H.D. regarding the fit-testing machines. The offer was to trade up to a new model. The quoted cost is \$6,500 for the upgrade. Since these machines were purchased by the Connecticut Fire Academy for use by the regional fire schools coordination should include the C.F.A. staff. Jeff would like to know of the preference of those regional schools that have these machines.

If any regional fire school sees the need for additional state funding to support their operation after construction they need to make their needs know.

Both Chris Tracy and Charlie Stankye expressed that they did not think that now was the time to open that dialogue.

The next meeting will take place on September 26, 2013 at 19:00 at Wethersfield Fire Company #3.

Motion made to adjourn by Chris Tracy, seconded by Rich Winn. Meeting adjourned at 20:55.

Submitted by Al Hawkins