

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

September 23, 2004 – 19:00

New Haven Regional Fire Academy

The meeting was called to order with the following members present:

Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins
Fairfield Regional Fire School - Scott Bisson
Hartford Fire School – Chet Haber, Michael Jepeal
Middlesex County Fire School – Fred Dudek
New Haven Regional Fire Academy – William Seward
Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School – Peter Wols, Jim Gies
Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Charles Stankye, Jr.
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jim Wilkinson,

There were no representatives present from the, Burrville Fire School, Connecticut Fire Academy, Stamford Fire Department Regional School and the Wolcott State Fire School

Minutes: Meeting minutes were presented for consideration from the July 15, 2004 (with amendment) and August 26, 2004 meetings. Minutes were accepted as presented, Fred Dudek abstained.

1. Status of property acquisition – Boukus/Fleming meeting

- There was a report from the meeting of September 21 with Representatives Boukus and Pawelkiewicz.

Also in attendance were Commissioner Fleming, Doug Moore, Don Ouillette; all from D.P.W., Jim Wilkinson, Chet Haber, Charles Stankye, Jr., Ted Schroll, Jeff Morrissette, Al Hawkins.

There was a discussion about the various property options for the four schools looking for property and the search by Hartford County for additional property.

Willimantic; Directors of the school are working to set up a meeting with a committee of their directors, Joe Macha (the property owner of the current site), and John Farrell from D.P.W. Commissioner Fleming pointed out that he could not support the construction of a temporary or pre-fabricated burn building on that site until ownership was established. There was a discussion about the state acquisition process including the environmental assessment, and property review process. If an agreement was reached between the school directors, property owner, and the D.P.W. the acquisition process could take about nine months.

Wolcott; A legislative act transferred a parcel of property in Cheshire for the construction of a school. The Waterbury Fire Chiefs Association continues to explore additional options. There may be some question about the suitability of the Cheshire property.

Middlesex; Discussions are ongoing between the Middlesex School Committee, Don Ouillette and the Mayor of Middletown about utilizing a portion of the former Connecticut Valley Hospital property conveyed to the City of Middletown.

Valley Fire School; The directors of the Valley Fire School continue to investigate various options. Properties in Beacon Falls and Seymour are being considered.

Hartford County; Negotiations continue between the D.O.T., Don Ouillette and the Hartford County directors about a suitable parcel close to the existing C.F.A. facility in Windsor Locks.

2. New Haven Burn Building – status

Bill Seward discussed the plan for the New Haven Regional Fire Academy. The original project plan called for renovation to the existing classroom building including replacement of the roof, a new burn building, and an addition to the storage/maintenance building.

Bill wants to modify the scope of work. The roof has already been replaced and the parking lot repaved with funds from the city of New Haven and a parcel of property has been acquired by the city from the State of Connecticut across the street from the existing school. Bill wants the scope to include the burn building and classroom building renovations as originally planned. He wants to modify the scope to build a new building on the property acquired from the state. The building would be for storage and as a site for performing C.P.A.T. testing.

A motion was made by Jim Gies seconded by Charles Stankye to support the modification of the scope for the New Haven project as long as the project is completed within the established budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Bill intends to provide B-100 form to Ct. D.P.W. within two weeks.

2. Temporary Burn Facilities – Burrville and Willimantic – status

No progress has been made with the temporary burn facilities. Commissioner Fleming stated at the meeting with Reps. Boukus and Pawelkiewicz that he could not spend state funds to construct burn facilities on property that was not owned by the state or a regional fire school.

4. Standardization Committee – S.O.P., injury management, forms

Those expressing interest in working on this committee are: Jim Trzaski, Mike Jepeal, Jim Gies, Scott Bisson, Richard Winn, and Scott Blais (Willimantic). Al Hawkins will send an email with contact information to all committee members so that they can arrange a kick-off meeting. Jim Trzaski and Mike Jepeal will co-chair.

Scott Bisson reported that the liability release forms are on their web page.

5. Other items from membership

Bill Seward brought up that training in the National Incident Management system would be required for any agency requesting future federal funding. Regionalization would also be a necessary component for federal grant requests. The O.D.P. is reviewing NFPA-472 for the Hazardous Materials Technician standard. Bill expects that the NFPA standard will be approved by O.D.P.

Connecticut Conference of Municipalities; Al Hawkins reported that the town council in Mansfield asked to have two issues added to their legislative agenda for the 2005 state legislative session. One is to have the operation of the regional fire schools fully funded. The other is to have the Connecticut Fire Academy and the Regional Fire Schools incorporated into the state plan for training for Homeland Security so that federal funding could be directed through the existing fire service training infrastructure.

Charles Stankye reported that he received a request from the state comptroller's office staff about operational funding needs for the regional fire schools over the next two years. Charles submitted a request an increase in the existing grant fund amount by 15% for the first year and an additional 10% for the second year.

There was a discussion about communicating about the activities of this committee to other interested fire service organizations. The new C.S.F.A. president, Bill McAllister, will be invited to future meetings.

There was a discussion about the legislative lobbying effort for the 2005 legislative session. The committee needs to meet with house and senate leadership prior to the start of the legislative session to determine which legislators will sponsor our future funding initiatives. We also need to make sure that individual legislators that are interested in their own regional school don't forget that this is a state-wide initiative.

Bob Christ from the Connecticut Fire Academy has left. He now works for the department of Homeland Security.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2004 in Wethersfield.

Submitted by:

Al Hawkins, chairman