

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

September 26, 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 –Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal, Jim Baldis
Valley Chiefs Regional Fire School - Chris Parietti, Charlie Stankye, Jr.
Wolcott State Fire School - Scott Poulton
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol
Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrissette
Connecticut State Firefighters Association - Ted Schroll, Thomas Murphy

Guests:

Michael Varney - DESPP
Mark Omasta - Danbury Fire

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

Minutes of the August 22, 2013 meeting were distributed for review. Chris Tracy pointed out an error in the NFPA standard cited. The reference to NFPA 473 should read NFPA 472.

Motion to accept the minutes as corrected by Chris Tracy, second by Rich Winn. Motion carried.

Michael Varney was introduced from the DESPP. Mike spoke about the new fiber connected network for public safety agencies in Connecticut. The network was funded primarily from federal grants. This project connects over 500 sites with links to various public safety systems. Connections have been established to all schools and all fire departments. This project was just completed within the past two weeks. Municipalities may also tie in to these networks in order to move data.

There are several networks available through this fiber link.

CEN – Connecticut Education Network – connects schools and libraries. There is a fee for this service but it is fairly inexpensive and is based on the volume of data transferred.

The statewide vendor for the network system is Fiber Tech. Funding is becoming available for municipalities to connect to the CEN and Public Safety Network.

Mike offered that there is a map of all of the fiber runs in Connecticut. If anyone wants to know where the network is in relation to their physical location, Mike can access the digital map and let you know.

The fiber network is fairly evenly split between aboveground and underground connections. There is an on-line application form necessary for an agency to connect to this network. A sustainment model has been drafted that assesses a fee for non-fire safety subscribers that will establish a pool of funding for use for public safety agencies. Each agency will be assessed an annual fee for maintenance based on a 20 year agreement.

Jeff Morrissette offered that the Public Safety network is a more secure network than the CEN network. Jeff also noted that the Regional Councils of Governments could be a funding vehicle for use by the regional fire schools if needed.

Fairfield Fire School – The RFQ is under review. Kidde had attached themselves to the contractor in the booklet from each vendor given the qualifications. DCS may bid the props through the DAS bid list. There are three vendors preparing to engage in the bidding process. A 500 page book from the criteria architect was drafted but is not final. This document is under review. Each bidder will make a presentation to the selection committee in November. One bidder will be selected Three or four months will be allowed for this process. Rich Winn observed that after solicitations for interested contractors were developed, five vendors expressed interest. Three of those were selected by the first round selection committee.

Charlie Stankye asked if Fairfield and Burrville selection committees will be making selections for other schools. A different selection committee will be developed for each regional fire school.

Fairfield's RFP should go to publication next week. Presentations will be developed by November for the evaluation process which should proceed through December. The selected GC will develop detailed specifications.

Burrville Fire School – There will be a meeting next Tuesday, October 1 to work up the criteria design. Environmental work is complete and the report is being prepared.

Eastern Ct. Fire School – There has been no communications on the status of the Willimantic project. They are still waiting for the release of the Environmental report.

Hartford County School – Corrective work is progressing. PDS is on notice that all repairs should be complete in two weeks before the recruits conduct their live burn. Burns are now utilizing burn pans with hoods and they are waiting for reports.

Beacon Falls site – no new information

Cheshire Location – no new information

Middlesex Site – no new information

Jeff Morrisette reported that the DMV has been slow to meet to work on the "Q" driver training initiative. A meeting should be held soon in order to open a dialogue about developing a faster and less expensive method to train fire apparatus drivers. The CFA could designate persons as approved testers for licensing. DMV will continue to test and is intent on replacing employees as they leave.

Chris Tracy reported on the OHD fit testing equipment. Fairfield wants to move forward on replacing their fit testing equipment either with our without funding from the state.

Jeff Morrisette reported that Mark Salafia had sent out an email soliciting input from CFA instructors on what activities could be supported by existing resources in various locations in the state.

Jeff reported on Haz Mat training funds. Any school that have delivered Haz Mat training need to get info and invoicing to him in the next two weeks. It appears that Hartford, Fairfield and New Haven will take advantage of the funding.

Rich Winn reported that Bill Trisler had inquired about a training prop for vehicle extrication. Rich offered that this unit could provide a cost savings for certification testing of candidates. The prop that he is referring to is one manufactured by American Training Systems.

The next meeting will take place on October 24, 2013 at 19:00 at Wethersfield Fire Company #3.

Motion to adjourn by Chet Haber, seconded by Rich Winn. Meeting adjourned at 20:48.

Submitted by Al Hawkins