



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL
OFFICE OF STATE FIRE ADMINISTRATION



TEL: (860) 627-6363
Jeffrey J. Morrissette
State Fire Administrator

34 PERIMETER RD. WINDSOR LOCKS, CONNECTICUT 06096

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2005 MEETING OF
THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

Vice Chairman Kevin Kowalski called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. with the following members present: Commissioners' Brammer, Blaschik, Haber, Milewski, Nicol, Ouellette, Stankye and Wilkinson.

Guests at the meeting included Robert Walsh, Hartford F.D. (UPFFA Commission Nominee) and Dr. Robert Schlesinger, Matrictech, Inc.

Staff members Lewis, Morrissette, O'Neil, Piechota and Piskura were present.

Attendees took a moment to pledge allegiance to the American flag.

Vice Chairman Kowalski extended Happy New Year to everyone and acknowledged that Commissioner Dan Milewski is resigning from the Commission and is attending his last meeting representing the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association (UPFFA). He thanked and commended Commissioner Milewski on behalf of Chairman Carozza for all his work and outstanding support to the organization. He also welcomed Robert Walsh of Hartford who will be the new representative for the UPFFA. He said he looks forward to working with Mr. Walsh.

State Fire Administrator Morrissette extended regards on behalf of Chairman Carozza who is out of state on business. Also, Commissioner Cantor sends his regrets; his wife had surgery this week and he'll be home with her while she recuperates.

Moving to item 1a.) Employee Recognition- Mr. Morrissette stated that we had hoped to recognize Jim Scavetta as his ten year Anniversary with the agency just occurred. Unfortunately he had family business to attend to this morning and cannot be with us so we'll defer his recognition until next month.

Chairman Kowalski introduced Dr. Robert Schlesinger of Matrictech, Inc for a presentation on Firefighters and Bladder Cancer.

Dr. Schlesinger stated that he is an Urologist and they are very much involved with the diagnosis and treatment of Bladder Cancer. In addition to being an Urologist, he is also a volunteer firefighter. Since 1995 it has been a known fact that firefighters have at least a two times increased incidents of Bladder Cancer over the general population. He said he's a consultant for a company that makes the only device that has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the diagnosis and screening of Bladder Cancer. He distributed samples of the device and said that 4 drops of urine can give you an answer in 30 minutes. This is not a home test but rather a health care oriented base test. He said this is already in use in the United States and also in Europe and Asia. Dr. Schlesinger said it has become his mission to say that this is a real problem for firefighters and no one has really address this issue until now and he hope to get a national initiative whereby at the time of the physical for firefighters they get screened with this device.

Matrictech is the company that makes this small device and early detection of Bladder Cancer there is a 5 year survival rate that exceeds 95% which is very good for a cancer. Late detection is less than 50% survival rate. If the disease is spread outside the Bladder by the time it is detected the 5 year survival is only 6% or less. As in most cancer, the earlier it is found the better the survivals. Bladder Cancer is one of the silent cancers and does not have a whole lot of symptoms associated with it. The most common is blood in the urine and it can be microscopic blood before it ever becomes grossly positive and so there really is not a whole lot of warning to the person that they have it and so early detection and screening is the answer to finding this cancer early.

He reported that Firefighters are at a documented increased risk for up to 2 times the national average of Bladder Cancer. The NMP22 Bladder Check Test is less expensive and more accurate than prepared with Cytology which has a high potential for error. The NMP22 is non-invasive in the health care of a doctor's office and accurate results are achieved in 30 minutes. One example of many articles written talks about the increased risk of Bladder Cancer for firefighters in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*. There are many more citations about this and if any one is interested he can get them. Matrictech is working with legislatures in several states. In Massachusetts there is a Pilot Program to obtain funding for screening programs for firefighters in the state. There is actually a piece of legislation going through the process now, Bill 286 for this initiative. The Haz Mat folks in Massachusetts are already about to start a screening program. The New York State President of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) also has Bladder Cancer. Doctor Schlesinger said in conversations with the New York State Fire Administrator Jim Burns he suggested that he contact State Fire Administrator Morrissette to come down here and share with Connecticut what is going on in Massachusetts and New York. It is their hope that by working through New England and New York on a state by state basis we can get this as a national initiative.

Commissioner Nicol asked if this is an annual test and what the frequency of the test is.

Dr. Schlesinger replied that Massachusetts plans to screen once a year and there really is no data in terms of how long one has to be on the job to be at risk. New York State has a lot of departments where there is a mandated yearly physical and it is suggested that this test be done along with the physical.

Vice Chairman Kowalski asked if the availability of the product is widespread whether all doctors are aware of this product.

Dr. Schlesinger replied that doctors are not aware of it. Matrictech is a small company and there are articles in firehouses. There will be an article coming out in the *Wall Street Journal* which is a journal that doctors read. The company's focus right now is Urologists. A lot of departments around the country have contracted medical organizations that do their screening.

Vice Chairman Kowalski thanked Dr. Schlesinger for his presentation.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Stankye and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Haber to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2004 meeting. Motion carried.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Wilkinson and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Haber to approve the Staff Report for the period of October 15, 2004 through November 14, 2004. Motion carried.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Stankye and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Haber to approve the Staff Report for the period of December 15, 2004 through January 14, 2005. Motion carried.

Commissioner Ouellette asked how many Adjuncts are affected by the 80 hour mandate versus the 50 hour annual teaching requirement and are we losing any Instructors relative to item 1a in Training Division Staff Report.

Director of Training Piskura replied that he's only gone through the ones that have not met the current mandate of 50 hours, he has not looked at 80 and he would do that in a subsequent year. Nothing is in effect until we have another meeting with our Adjuncts. The plan is to hold a mandatory meeting and distribute a revised Operations Manual that would include the new 80 hour requirement.

Commissioner Stankye asked a question relative to item 1J where Director Piskura traveled to Washington D.C. to assist the State of West Virginia efforts to develop a dedicated funding stream for all state fire training systems and whether any good ideas are coming from this.

Mr. Piskura remarked that the reason we're doing that is because all fifty state training entities would receive dedicated funding from that. He said efforts to establish a dedicated federal funding stream and foster a supportive relationship with DHS, Office of

Domestic Preparedness (ODP) are their goal. They're trying to go back to the original relationship with the National Fire Academy (NFA), the United States Fire Administration (USFA) by restoring their Budgets and then put dedicated money into the fifty state training systems through the USFA NFA. We are not asking for any new money or any special accommodation. The only way it will get fixed is through Congress.

Commissioner Ouellette asked about the numerous calls received regarding the IAFF 472 Program relative to item 3J of the staff report and whether that is the program we're using.

Mr. Piskura remarked that there is a meeting tomorrow that he will be attending and there has been a loosening of interpretation from ODP that they will now allow ODP funding to be used for Haz Mat Technician training. They have been steadfastly against this. The meeting will be to determine the rank of priority with available funding and which Haz Mat Technician Programs would be funded. The caveat from ODP to us is you cannot fund any existing program so we cannot use the money for any programs already published in our calendar. For example, if Milford wanted to contract for a Haz Mat Tech Program, that would be considered eligible although because it is eligible does not mean the funding is available to do it and that is the purpose of the meeting tomorrow.

Moving to agenda item 4a.) DMV Fire Apparatus Licensing Update – Mr. Morrisette reported he distributed a minor revision to the Proposed Regulation by the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) regarding the 2 “Q” endorsement. This came about as part of our posting of the original draft. We have received some questions that have been directed to Mark Salafia who has been dealing directly with contacts at the DMV. Based on input received, the DMV added a sentence “The Q endorsement shall authorize the operation of any fire apparatus vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of over 26,001 pounds.” This better clarifies the proposed language. This is going through the process and 3 days remain until the end of the 30 day public posting, it will then go through the Legislative Regulations Review process. It is our understanding that the DMV continues to conduct testing. He said he is aware that a test was done in Simsbury a few weekends ago so DMV is continuing to do the 2 “Q” license testing throughout the state to fire departments until they move into this new class. The only other question that we've received that we can't answer is what will happen to holders of the current 2 “Q” license. One would assume that the next time an individual goes to renew their license it will automatically change to the new endorsement. We have been directing people to DMV with specific questions.

Moving to item 4b.) CSFA Education Committee Update – Commissioner Wilkinson reported that the Education Committee met last Wednesday night and that was the first meeting since October. Donald Ouillette from the Department of Public Works (DPW) gave his update and he picked up at the point where Mr. Ouillette mentioned that some of the various schools that are needing property acquisition are beginning to move in that direction. Eleven Architects responded to the RFP for New Haven Fire School process.

They now need to create a Committee to go through those proposals. Initially, they got down to 5 or 6 and then down to a selected Architect. Their current hope is possibly trying to get on the March Bonding agenda to work up the money for the Architect for the New Haven School. There is a Sub-Committee of the Committee that's working on standardization of practices within the Regional Fire Schools. They have reported excellent progress in the number of meetings and how things are moving along. He said that we've found ourselves in an interesting position in that Al Hawkins, Chairman of the Committee is a constituent of Senator Williams, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and he is a constituent of Jim Amann, Speaker of the House and they are desperately trying to meet with the leadership to solicit their endorsement to keep the project moving. Representative Pawelkiewicz who has been very helpful with the process proposed an enabling Bill to the Legislature this year to make sure that we have something in the process. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 16th in Wethersfield.

Mr. Morrissette reported that in reviewing the status of other properties Eastern Connecticut Fire Training School has had 2 DPW commissioned appraisals completed. DPW is awaiting formal transmittal of the appraisals at which time they will be in a position to formally negotiate with the land owner for the property on which the school currently sits. More than likely, they will utilize funding from the 10 million that's already been authorized. He also reported that Hartford County Fire Emergency Plan and the Connecticut Fire Academy had met in the fall with representatives of the Department of Transportation (DOT). We have been waiting several months for some activity in regard to our request for additional land. It is our understanding that a recommendation was sent by staff to DOT Commissioner Korta about a week ago outlining 2 pieces of property. He assumes it would be property directly to the east of the Administration Building on the other side of the wooded area which is considered wetlands and possibly a piece across the street to the east of the current training grounds. Mr. Morrissette said he indicated to Director Haber to give the Commissioner a little time before we begin to check the status. He said that in earlier discussions with Commissioner Korta he had indicated there would be no problems. Regarding Middlesex County they are again looking at a new parcel of land located at Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH). Don Ouillette discussed that acquiring any new land from a private holder will add considerable time to the overall process so the Middlesex group is back in discussion with the City of Middletown that now holds the CVH land. He also reported that Derby is continuing to review a list of properties in their area and is looking for the formal process that they need to engage in to move forward. They will be meeting with DPW in the near future to get the process laid out. Wolcott Regional Fire School is most interested in property at the Naugatuck Valley Higher Education Center. There is a white paper being constructed by the President's office of that institution which will be sent out to all of the Deans for review. They were looking at trying to get a decision no later than September. Essentially they are looking at this partnership because Naugatuck Valley Higher Education Center is looking to rev up their fire and paramedic programs which have been somewhat dormant since Commissioner Munkenbeck left. They still have property at the Cheshire prison which was made available to them but it appears they are most interested right now in the Waterbury property. DPW is reviewing the Burrville

Fire School's revocable license with the DEP for their land. There is some concern with the wording of that license and they'll see if they can negotiate something new to maintain the property they currently have at Burrville State Pond. There was no report from Fairfield and no representative from Stamford available.

Mr. Morrissette added that the only other discussion that took a lot of time at the end of the meeting was a discussion on certification testing and Job Performance Requirements (JPR). Some of the schools reported the JPR testing format has impacted their costs by lengthening the typical practical exam. It was referenced that one of the Willimantic exams recently conducted lasted from 8:30 am to after 6:00 pm for 30 candidates. There was also some concern regarding people who require retests being slotted into locations other than where they originated from and the expense this causes to the local host to provide extra evaluators. A letter is expected to be sent by the Education Committee regarding these issues. He knows that the issue is being looked at closely by Fred Piechota and Ed O'Hurley in the Certification Division. He said this boils down to a philosophical discussion regarding testing policy and is something that we need to discuss in detail.

Commissioner Kowalski stated that there is Legislation proposed for a training tower in Branford and asked whether we touched base with the folks there.

Mr. Morrissette replied that it was discussed briefly at the meeting but nothing has been done yet.

Commissioner Kowalski asked about the issue of JPR's and whether that is coming up to this organization or will it be handled on a certification level.

Mr. Piechota said he suspects that if it is a complaint or letter of concern filed by someone regarding the manner in which testing is conducted, it would probably be brought before the Commission for consideration. He said we've had some informal comments to us about the way we're doing testing but he thinks what we're doing is completely justified. He said we should probably wait and see what specific issues are raised unless the Commission wishes to address it themselves.

Mr. Piechota briefly explained that JPR is an acronym for Job Performance Requirement. The professional qualification standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) have been rewritten in the new JPR format. Instead of having a number of objectives they've rewritten the objectives in more of an operational or training/testing in context format. What we have to do now is test that concept or task rather than an individual skill. We have assembled 8 total scenarios that we now have for any given firefighter 1 examination. He said it is accurate that now we instituted the scenario based testing that it has lengthen the time for testing. We have attempted to limit the number of people we can effectively test to 24. He said there are 15 JPRs in Firefighter 1 and we're only doing random sampling of 10 to 15 and some stand alone skills. A brief discussion followed.

Moving to item 4c.) Service Voucher Update – Mr. Morrissette reported that we are closing out the original \$100,000 grant and had an approximate remaining balance of \$14,000 in unspent funds. We really struggled the final 2 weeks where everybody waited until the end to use their funds. Many of the staff really hunkered down over the Holiday and did the best we could to accommodate everyone. As Commissioners are aware, we have approval of a supplemental agreement with the Department of Social Services (DSS) for an additional \$72,820 and had spoken to them about what could be done with the remaining balance. The decision was to roll the balance into the \$72,820. There are 165 eligible volunteer fire companies that previously participated in the Limited Access Highway fund that should work out to approximately \$530 per eligible entity in a second round of funding. A number of legislators requested that the second round of funding be made available as a direct grant or payment to the fire companies and that is what we discussed with DSS in our agreement with them. He said he had received a call from a fire department saying if we issue them a check it would go into the city or town's General Fund therefore not directly benefiting the fire company. They asked if we could continue to make it available as a voucher, like the original program. He proposed to the Commission and sought authorization to provide the option of making a direct grant to the department of approximately \$530 or provide a service voucher. Under the new program we would have to expend all the funding by June 30, 2005.

Vice Chairman Kowalski tabled this item for New Business

Moving to item 4d.) Certification Testing (Haz Mat and Safety Officer) - Mr. Piechota stated that this item has two pieces and said we would talk about the Haz Mat piece first. He reported that he and the Administrator had concerns with this issue during our IFSAC Reaccreditation visit. One of the things they mentioned, that most likely will become mandatory, at least from IFSAC is that very soon we will be mandated to certify the awareness and operational levels as stand alone levels as opposed to the way we're doing it now where we encompass those 2 levels into testing at the appropriate level. Firefighter I require awareness knowledge, skills and abilities and that is tested as part of the Firefighter I examination. We have a Haz Mat awareness component in our written exam. In Firefighter II we have operational and it entails a couple of stations as well as some questions. IFSAC is going to almost certainly require that we test those levels as stand alone levels and the reason for that is their opinion of the way the standard was written is it mandates that they have to be separate. The question now comes before the Commission is whether or not the Commission wants to authorize us to go forward and begin testing the awareness and operational levels as stand alone certification levels since we've never done that before. The document that was sent in the packages outlines some options if you choose to do that but most likely in April we will be mandated by IFSAC to do that. He said the majority of IFSAC accredited entities currently test levels separately as do the majority of PRO Board entities.

Additionally, he said there are many non fire service entities police, DPW, etc. that have state or federal mandates. The Commission could begin certification with some statutory

or legislative changes to our guiding document and could begin certifying non fire service folks in these levels as well.

Mr. Morrisette added that from a historical stand point it has always been the Commission's position and as per OSHA that the employer certifies to the awareness and operational levels. As Mr. Piechota mentioned about the non fire service folks it may provide a good opportunity not only for the Commission from a testing standpoint but for the Regional Fire Schools and other entities to really get into preparing non fire service candidates for certification.

Commissioner Ouellette suggested that we table the item until next month to see if we can get more information from Mr. Piechota to make a determination and get the program started. A discussion period followed.

Vice Chairman Kowalski asked the pleasure of the Commission.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Wilkinson and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ouellette to table this matter until the February meeting without prejudice and asked Mr. Piechota over the next month to come back with some additional information on what the anticipated fiscal impact would be to provide that certification and also what the cost might be to charge an individual student to be certified. Motion carried.

Mr. Piechota reported on the Health and Safety Officer portion. He said currently the Commission has a level of certification called Fire Department Safety Officer and that is a state level of certification and does not correspond to the NFPA standard. The current standard had two separate levels Health and Safety Officer and Incident Safety Officer. The Connecticut training program was designed to train folks on both disciplines together. We then tested them to both levels. The state's certification was Fire Department Safety Officer which equated to two levels at the national level both Health and Safety Officer and Incident Safety Officer and that is the way it has been until today. The standard has changed significantly and we can give more detail. Essentially, the two levels have been separated to a point where to be a Health and Safety Officer one really has to be assigned to perform the duties in a department because the way the standard was written it would be very difficult if not impossible for us to test and measure a lot of the requirements. For example, many of the requirements in the standard are very specific to the person doing the job. Incident Safety Officer on the other hand is somewhat like the way it currently is offered although they've required some additional specific duties and responsibilities. They have also added four other levels Incident Safety Officer for Suppression; for Hazardous Materials (Haz Mat); for Emergency Medical Services (EMS); and for Special Operations.

Commissioner Nicol asked if there would be five separate tests or just one.

Mr. Piechota replied potentially there would be five separate tests depending on what level one wants to achieve or pursue.

Commissioner Nicol asked about curriculum.

Mr. Piechota said he's not speaking for the Director of Training but right now the way we look at it is most likely the current curriculum would serve the purpose. The other specialized levels will have to do with credentialing that candidates possess.

Mr. Piskura added that the Incident Safety Officer curriculum we use is from the National Fire Academy (NFA) and is the core program and was recently revised. He said it is sufficient as is and he does not anticipate offering additional instruction in fire suppression, EMS or Haz Mat. If people come in with that in their back pocket they can take the exam. Mr. Piechota added that he agrees because if we take a look at the standard for suppression what it says is a person needs to have Incident Safety Officer competencies; in addition they need to have certain other competencies that we feel can come to us that they already have that. It is our philosophy or proposal that we not require additional training and we reward someone's abilities for what they've already done by allowing them to sit for additional testing.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Nicol and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wilkinson as recommended by the staff to revise our certification from Fire Department Safety Officer to the five levels outlined on the document presented to the Commission. Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Kowalski asked what happens to folks that already were certified under Fire Department Safety Officer. Would they have to sit and take each one of those test since that might be the number one question.

Mr. Piechota replied maybe and that we'll come back next month with a proposal as to how we'll deal with that. He said we've had some preliminary discussions about what we will offer to folks who are already Fire Department Safety Officer and next month we'll come back with a formal proposal of what we'll offer to those folks recognizing that they had been certified to a standard that is a previous edition. He said we have to be true to the intent of the standard but we also need to give some consideration to the folks we have already.

Commissioner Ouellette asked for the future if someone wants to be tested to Safety Officer Fire suppression or EMS will they have to have the two previous like the Fire Department Safety Officer.

Mr. Piechota replied that right now we're proposing that if they want to do suppression or EMS they would have to have Incident Safety Officer. He said Incident Safety Officer will be as we envision it, a stand alone certification level as well as a pre-requisite for the other three.

Commissioner Blaschik asked if the ISO course will be the same no matter if it's just the credentialing that would allow him to take a test for the Haz Mat Operations Safety Officer.

Mr. Piechota replied yes as we currently envision it. He said that the course will get you into the test for Incident Safety Officer but then if you want any of the other levels you would have to show the credentialing that we'll come up with to get into the other test.

Commissioner Blaschik asked that if the course and the test are generic with credentialing allowed, why someone wouldn't just take one test and then the credentialing would be the test that would give him the certificates for the rest of the levels. He said he feels we're being redundant.

Mr. Piechota replied that we feel it is appropriate to develop a test for the specialized levels. Mr. Morrisette added that maybe it would be good to provide Commissioners with a copy of the standard at the next meeting

Moving to item 4e.) Dept. of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Update – Mr. Morrisette reported that the new agency is up and running as of January 1st. The Governor appointed a Commissioner, Skip Thomas who was with OPM doing justice planning. It is our understanding the new Deputy Commissioner will be Wayne Sandford from East Haven. In your packages is a copy of a report submitted to the Governor and General Assembly which was the work of three working groups of the Homeland Security Coordinating Council. A report on the general overview of the new agency detailing its organizational structure and expected staffing levels was posted electronically. The agency is still working out of 3 offices Waterbury, the Armory and the Commissioner is currently working out of his office at OPM. They are looking at possibly moving to 25 Sigourney Street in Hartford which houses the Dept. of Revenue Services and other agencies. He said there is a lot of potential within the new organization with a law enforcement representative in the top spot and hopefully fire in the second spot. As they expand, he feels we will be well represented. Additionally he referenced that in the packages is the FY 2005 Homeland Security Grant Program which is laid out. There are some substantial reductions which everyone should be aware of with this federal funding. We took a significant cut of about 37% which amounts to approximately \$9 million which is the state's Homeland Education Security Program. 80% of the fund goes to local municipalities for police, fire and EMS and other means. Many of the municipalities have worked in regional approaches like in the Hartford area with the Capitol Region Council of Governments.

Some of the other funding areas reduced include the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention program which was reduced 22%. This funding is strictly for police and it also funds the Police Officers Standards Training Council for terrorism related training. Citizens Corps had a reduction of about \$300,000 down to \$196,000. The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant was totally eliminated for the State of Connecticut. New

Haven is no longer a recognized UASI area so that's a reduction of \$10 million. This funding will have to be made up through the State Homeland Security Program. There is a working group which is meeting to review the grant program allocations. We met yesterday and will continue to meet twice a week over the next few weeks to develop the strategy for the overall Homeland Security Grant Program in the State of Connecticut. You will see, because of the decrease in funding, all municipalities received base funding in the amount of \$20,000 more than likely that will be reduced to \$10,000 this year. Also based upon the 2000 census the per capita for every citizen will be reduced from approximately \$3 to \$2. We are probably going to be looking at beefing up some of the regional funding primarily to encourage local participation in regional programs. Overall it is expected that federal funding will continue to decline unless there is a new attack on the home land.

Commissioner Nicol asked if these cuts were a national trend or just for Connecticut.

Mr. Morrisette replied that it's a national trend for the Homeland Security funding, from the UASI side there were a number of UASI cities that were eliminated but there were a bunch added.

Vice Chairman Kowalski entertained a motion with reference to Item 4c, Service Vouchers.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ouellette and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wilkinson to take the recommendations of the State Fire Administrator and move forward with the two options discussed earlier. Motion carried

Mr. Morrisette remarked that we anticipate sending a letter out to the eligible entities in a few weeks.

Moving to item 5a.) Agency Ethics Statement - Mr. Morrisette stated that within the packages mailed was a draft Ethics Statement which we were required to submit to the Governor's office by the end of the calendar year. He said he had not heard back and had made several calls to the Governor's Chief Ethics Liaison to discuss this. We did not receive a lot of guidance with this and what we were told was to put together a mission driven Ethics Statement. He said if possible, he would like to seek the Commission's approval of this today with the understanding that we may look to modify and adopt a strengthened agency ethics policy down the road. It may be prudent for us to look at developing a policy which is above and beyond what the state requires because there is so much grey out there. This came to light a few years ago when we provided ethics training for our Adjuncts.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Nicol and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Haber to approve the draft Ethics Statement prepared by the staff. Motion carried

Moving to item 5b.) CFA Engine 2 MOU – Mr. Piskura reported that we currently have a 1985 Pumper that we took over from the Somers Correctional Facility about 5 or 6 years ago. Ron Keane was instrumental in that transfer and that's when the correction system got out of the business of staffing their own fire department. They recently approached us and wanted to have access to the vehicle for correctional facility maintenance purposes. We drafted a very short MOU saying when it is available and not committed to scheduled classes we would certainly make it available to them and they would be responsible for providing a qualified and licensed driver operator and they don't exceed the pump capacity or back fill any inlet or outlet. We also tried to convince them to use other devices rather than the \$100,000 fire apparatus so we indicated in the MOU that they could borrow our hose testing machine which is a lot more reasonable if they are doing standpipe fittings for pressure or hose lines. Mr. Morrisette said we just wanted to let the Commission know the status of this Pumper. Originally Corrections was asking for the Pumper back but through Mr. Piskura's work we were able to negotiate keeping the Pumper.

Moving to item 5c.) Mr. Morrisette said an updated legislation chart was distributed this morning and obviously things are very busy in Hartford. He said if there are any questions he does not have a lot of details on most of them and we're trying to post them as often as we can. He said he is aware there is a place holding spot for the regional fire schools and a number of fire marshal related issues. He doesn't know if there is any interest in taking the information Dr. Schlesinger offered this morning although it may be too late to do anything within the current legislative session.

Moving to item 5d.) 700 MHZ Committee – Mr. Morrisette said that about 2 years ago the Commission appointed John Gustafson out of New Haven to serve as our representative on a 700 MHZ Committee working with George Pohorilak with the Office of Statewide Telecommunications. Mr. Gustafson indicated his unavailability to attend most of the meetings. The Commission also had appointed Chief Michael Varney as alternate. He said he would like to move Chief Varney up to the primary representative for this agency and tender the name Fred Dudek, Chief of Killingworth to serve as alternate on the Committee.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ouellette and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wilkinson to appoint Chief Michael Varney to be the agency's primary representative for the 700 MHZ Committee and appoint Chief Fred Dudek as the alternate. Motion carried.

Commissioner Stankye offered congratulations to Fred Piechota for being named President of the Drill Instructors.

Mr. Morrisette said we had spoken in the past about sending the majority of the information in the Commission packages electronically to Commissioners that are able to receive it. He said we are ready to kick that off in support of former Governor Rowland's initiative to reduce copying and mailing. He asked members to see Executive Secretary Yvonne Lewis to verify their email address.

Mr. Morrissette also stated that Mark Salafia is the primary contact for the Annual June Fire School and has been meeting with other staff of the Training Division to begin working out some plans for that program. He asked members if they know of any program that is of importance to their constituents to bring it to the attention of Mr. Salafia or Director Piskura.

Mr. Piskura added that they have a meeting scheduled this afternoon to review all the comments received over the year. We are trying to resurrect the June Fire School's participation by doing some excitingly different things and also offer evening programs. There are plans to address large groups in a tent as the auditorium is too small and to feed people across the street and increase vendor participation. Nothing is committed yet but that is the idea and we'll try to bring them to fruition.

Mr. Morrissette stated that Mr. Piechota will have a report on the discussion we had several months ago on Paramedic testing and the Department of Public Health Office of Emergency Medical Services interest to have us be the testing site for that. We have a couple of Adjuncts who are working with that office to identify needed equipment and support materials. We hope to have something revised for you to look at to see if this is something we want to get into as it is quite extensive.

Mr. Morrissette reported that we have received 2 informal requests for local entities to deliver Fire Service Instructor I training. Historically that has been within our domain here. He said it is his understanding that the Fairfield Fire Department requested this through the agency. This is an issue that may require some formal action depending on the way you view it. This issue is potentially controversial.

Mr. Piskura added that in the context of the training division our certification courses are proprietary to us. We have about 300 courses of which 8 or 9 are certification based. Instructor I and II are generally considered as some of our Flag Ship programs. To open that up to other entities will allow a variation in the delivery method because we have a very tight cadre of Instructors who are very proud to be in that and not everyone can be a teacher of teachers. In many states fire training system, they only use the educational methodology to train people that are going to work for the state they don't even train Training Officers or open it up to other people. Those states generally don't have a healthy certification system because we need Instructor I and II to qualify for further certifications like in the Fire Officer series. He said it is a very powerful course and it takes a special person to teach it effectively and well and it takes good people who in turn will use the materials they receive. He said he has a great amount of concern about allowing this to be non-proprietary.

A discussion period followed.

Commissioner Nicol said that this item should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to consider the certified programs that we feel are important to stay within the

Academy here are offered and we take a position to have those programs only be provided by the staff of the Academy. Vice Chairman Kowalski added that we research the legal ramifications with maintaining proprietary training/certification programs.

Mr. Piskura stated that our training division staff is now wearing uniforms. There is more than one purpose in that and one is obviously appearance but the other is we have a significant workforce with the part time Adjuncts that come in and wear basically 2 types of uniforms; the blues that are required by our Operations Manual and the other is the PPE which allows them to dress down in T-shirts if they are working on the training grounds. There has been significant drop off in compliance with that and through our various Instructors meeting we are trying to resurrect that compliance. He said the staff is concerned that if they address an Instructor that they need to comply with the uniform requirement that they're backed up. He said he wanted to bring it before the Commission that we will be enforcing our uniform requirements so we look like a uniform workforce and maintain a professional image.

Mr. Piskura added that Connecticut weekend is coming up. Grant Writing workshops will be conducted by Sherm Leahy. He called attention to the Fire Service Instructor Development Seminar which will be different and we haven't done one in a while. It will be a 12 hour day and will be held here at the Academy with food service provided. The \$35 fee will basically cover food cost and the organization is covering cost of the motivational instructor and we're bringing in a gentleman from Maine that when the participants work with this person they are actually going to leave with a prop they can use in their local fire department. The seminar is directed just as much to individual training officers as it is to certified state fire instructors. We're very excited about it and people actually like the 12 hour day.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Wilkinson and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stankye to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Kowalski adjourned the meeting at 12:10 PM.

Dated:

Edward F. Haber, Secretary
Commission on Fire
Prevention and Control