



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



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**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 29, 2009 MEETING OF
THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

Vice Chairman Kowalski called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. with the following members present: Commissioners Blaschik, Dagon, Hilbert, Mitchell, Nelson, Nicol, Stankye and Walsh.

Staff members Lewis, Mancino, McGowan, Morrissette and Piskura were present.

Attendees took a moment to pledge allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Morrissette recognized Elaine Mancino, Secretary to the Director of Training for 15 years of loyal and conscientious service to the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control. He congratulated her and presented a certificate of recognition.

Mrs. Mancino extended her thanks and stated that it was a pleasure to serve.

Moving to item 2) Approval of the Minutes of the June 30, 2009 meeting.

A **MOTION** was made Commissioner Mitchell and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Nicol to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2009 meeting. Motion carried.

Moving to item 3) Staff Report June 15, 2009 – July 14, 2009; July 15, 2009 – August 14, 2009; August 15, 2009 – September 14, 2009.

A **MOTION** was made Commissioner Mitchell and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Blaschik to approve the staff report for the period of June 15, 2009 - July 14, 2009. Motion carried.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Nicol and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Walsh to approve the staff report for the period of July 15, 2009 – August 14, 2009. Motion carried.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Walsh and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the staff report for the period of August 15, 2009 – September 14, 2009. Motion carried.

Commissioner Mitchell said he had a question on item f in the September Training Director's staff report, which stated that the Director was questioned by DAS Smart Personnel about student burns that occurred during the June 2009 fire school. He asked if that is an issue.

Mr. Morrissette said it's currently under investigation by DAS and asked Director of Training Piskura to respond.

Mr. Piskura said the investigation by DAS is still pending. This is something previously we would handle internally but when the draft adjunct disciplinary letters were sent by him to DAS they decided to have an independent investigation. He said it's been extremely frustrating for him because they have a difficult time understanding our business. He said he was informed last week that the draft investigation was sent to one Supervisor within DAS and if there were any changes required it would then be sent to a different Supervisor and we may see it. He reminded Commissioners of the incident that took DAS one year to complete their investigation. He said he's reminded the investigator numerous times that discipline is best mended out at the time of the infraction and nothing has happened. There were four Adjunct Instructors involved. There was a lack of supervision provided by the instructors that caused an injury. He said this injury resulted in a student spending three days in the hospital from burns so it's a significant injury and nothing has been formally done because he hasn't been allowed to do anything by DAS. He said he's still awaiting their report.

Mr. Morrisette added that immediately following the incident we considered shutting down the operation. He said we had a class scheduled within a day or two of the incident thus we consulted with the Attorney General's office regarding our concerns/issues and shared with them what we implemented in terms of policy and procedure revisions. Our legal counsels advised us that we made appropriate changes and there was no need to cease the operation.

Mr. Piskura remarked that he wanted the Commission to be aware that this incident did not happen during an actual training session rather after the training was over, when most accidents occur. He gave a brief description of how the incident happened.

Commissioner Murphy arrived at 9:45 am.

Moving to item 4a.) Budget/Staffing Update – Mr. Morrisette reported regarding staffing. He said Commissioners were apprised we had one DAS SmART employee (Ron Vietts) assigned to the agency who took advantage of the retirement incentive plan. With Ron's departure only a few months ago that left our Business office staffed with only one person supported by the DAS SMART Resource Team. Numerous staff members have taken over new and added responsibilities that were previously part of our Business office. He said when the transition occurred Jean Michael, the Director of the DAS SmART indicated that she did not know how the transition was going to work and that it may in fact not work. If that was the case we may have to seek support from the Administration to transition to our former agency staffing model. He said we continue to do more with less and that is a testament to the employees here. He said the problem is while we maintain the same quantity of training and other deliverables the quality probably somewhere along the way will suffer. He said to add insult to injury about a month ago we alerted the Commission that the sole remaining staff member in the Business office Ed Bycenski has been diagnosed with a terminal illness. It is Ed's intent to return to work at some point when he is feeling able for as long as he can. In the mean time, the Governor's Office approved our request to bring Ron Vietts back on a temporary worker retiree basis to provide coverage. We requested approval of 120 days but is authorized for only sixty at present. He said a number of staff have stepped up to the plate and are doing business office functions as best they can.

He also said with the removal of certain staff positions from our authorized staffing count we had been trying to have one position restored due to an arbitration award last year. This

position is currently funded through the agency's private funds not General Fund. We have not been successful.

Commissioner Brady arrived at 9:48 am.

Mr. Morrisette reported regarding the budget; we have been operating on two Executive Orders for the first two months of the 1st quarter. He said all should be aware that the budget did pass. Subsequent to the budget passing last week we were notified of a significant adjustment to the budget, a net reduction of \$34,371 in our Personal Services account and \$140,531 in our Other Expense account. We are not in a position to negotiate this action; these adjustments were across the board to all agencies. He said he was informed by OPM that some agencies were hit much harder and others not quite as hard. A summary of where those reductions are expected to come from was provided to Commissioners. Mr. Morrisette said the significant reduction in the Other Expense account is problematic considering additional cuts are expected during the fiscal year and it must be absorbed across three quarters of the fiscal year rather than the entire year. No reductions to the Regional Fire School allotments have been enacted at present.

He asked Commissioners if they had any questions.

Mr. Morrisette also reported that the Bond Commission met last week with \$250,978 being approved in the Capital Equipment Purchase Funding (CEPF). This is very good news in that our CEPF account was dipping below \$20,000 and funding has not been provided in two years. He said while its good news the long range concern is that we have significant fleet stock to replace and CEPF funding has been sporadic. This allotment was supposed to be allocated over a year ago so items programmed for replacement will have to hold together much longer driving up repair expenses. We're going to have to evaluate our capital equipment needs and re-prioritize those specific items. He asked if Commissioners had any questions.

Vice Chairman said if there were no objections he would return to item 1 and called for an introduction of guests.

Guest to the meeting were identified as Robert McGarry, Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV); Geoff Herald, Chief of Danbury Fire Department and Barry Rickert, Retired Danbury Fire Marshal and currently employed by J.P. McGuire.

Moving to item 4b.) CSFA Education Committee Update – Commissioner Nicol reported that the Education Committee met on September 24th in Wethersfield. Project Manager Don Ouillette reported on status of property acquisitions. He stated nothing new on the Willimantic School site however he did indicate that an agreement was being drafted for Department of Public Works (DPW) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for Burrville. The survey for the Fairfield school site was still being worked on. Two Bond initiatives for Burrville, Fairfield and Windsor Locks schools have been prepared. The bid for the New Haven School site has been extended to October or November. DPW is working on a RFP for the Fairfield School site. Due to seismic requirement of the building code, DPW will have burn building footing for the Harford (CFA) site strengthen with additional crushed stone material rather than driving piles. It was reported at the meeting that several committee members met briefly with Governor Rell at the CSFA Convention regarding Regional Fire Schools.

Governor Rell mentioned the possibility of funding some of the cost with federal funds. Ted Schroll reported that recent legislation has appropriated \$210,000 for a fire training school in Darien for four local fire departments. It was reported that Farmington might be looking to do the same thing. Commissioner Nicol also stated that Mr. Morrisette reported that the Commission had submitted the 2nd quarter allotment request for the Regional Fire School. He indicated that the request included the funds that were not paid in the 1st quarter. In regard to other project status, it was reported by Fred Dudek that the City of Middletown was still working with the U.S. Army representatives on the transfer of the old Nike site. Transfer is still pending. Chet Haber reported that the Hartford County School project is still moving forward. He indicated that the project could possibly be ready to go to bid at the end of October or November. Mr. Schroll indicated that the General Assembly was back in Special Session and the Bonding Bill is pending. Richard Winn mentioned that Burrville Fire School would be holding their legislative reception the 2nd Monday in December. The next meeting is scheduled for October 22nd in Wethersfield at Company No 3.

Commissioner Brady arrived at 9:48 am.

Moving to item 4c.) NFPA 1403 TIA Proposal Update – Mr. Morrisette stated that we had a note in the staff report that Mr. Piskura had moved forward in seeking a tentative interim amendment from the NFPA regarding Burn Building testing requirement as part of NFPA 1403. He asked Mr. Piskura to provide an update.

Mr. Piskura said the North American Fire Training Directors met last week at Louisiana State University and they unanimously approved forwarding the TIA under the President's signature so the TIA has been sent to the NFPA. We've been connecting each state with their metropolitan fire department counterparts. He said everyone is on board and that includes our Canadian counterparts as they are members of the NAFTD because they follow NFPA standards also.

Mr. Morrisette said for those Commissioners who have municipal Burn Building structures or have a neighboring municipality that does, please make them aware of this issue. We may need local support at some point in time. If they need additional information on the issue they can contact Mr. Piskura directly.

Commissioner Blaschik asked if we had any connections on the Committee so we have a champion who will argue be the issue at the meetings.

Mr. Piskura said we have three. The Chief of Old Mystic, Jackie Kilby-Richards one of our Adjuncts is on the Technical Correlating Committee and Pat Marlat from Maryland Fire Rescue Institute. Pat is the one that reviewed the TIA for him so he's on board.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Nicol and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Blaschik to not allow reimbursement of individuals certified previous to July 1, 2009 and continue reimbursement until they are expended after July 1st. Motion carried.

Moving to item 5a.) Election of Officers – Vice Chairman Kowalski said he and Commissioner Stankye and Chairman Carozza are willing to continue to serve the Commission. He asked Commissioner Nicol to Chair the Nominations Committee.

Commissioner Nicol said it's time for our annual elections and called for a motion to nominate a Chairman.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Walsh and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hilbert to nominate Peter Carozza as Chairman. Motion carried.

Commissioner Nicol called for any additional nominations. As no other nominations were received Commissioner Nicol called for a motion to close nominations and to direct the Secretary to cast one ballot for Chairman Carozza.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Blaschik and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Nelson to close nominations for the position of Chairman. Motion carried.

Commissioner Nicol called for a motion to open nominations for the position of Vice of Vice Chairman.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Murphy and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Blaschik to nominate Kevin Kowalski as Vice Chairman. Motion carried.

Commissioner Nicol called for any additional nominations. As no other nominations were received Commissioner Nicol called for a motion to close nominations and to direct the Secretary to cast one ballot for Vice Chairman Kowalski

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Brady and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Blaschik to close nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. Motion carried.

Commissioner Nicol called for a motion to open nominations for the position of Secretary.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Hilbert and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Nelson to nominate Charles Stankye as Secretary. Motion carried.

Commissioner Nicol called for any additional nominations. As no other nominations were received Commissioner Nicol called for a motion to close nominations and to direct the Vice Chairman to cast one ballot for Secretary Stankye.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Blaschik and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Murphy to close nominations for the position of Secretary. Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Kowalski thanked everyone for the support. He said he and Chairman Carozza appreciates the support and confidence of the group and the good work that's been done on behalf of the fire service.

Moving to item 5b.) FY 10 Supplemental Grant Program – Mr. Morrissette said in the budget documents sent to Commissioners we identified that funding has been restored for the Supplemental Grant Program. The 161 eligible fire companies will each receive \$1,211. We sent letters to those eligible asking them to identify how they wish to have their funding administered and we gave them a due date of October 1st. To date we've 97 responses out of

161 so we're doing relatively well. Thus far 55 requested direct payments and 42 electing vouchers for our administration of their funding this year.

Commissioner Brady asked how much funding lapsed last fiscal year.

Mr. Morrisette replied he had previously stated approximately \$40,000 but it was below that figure. He said a significant amount of that money was due to a 5% rescission so it was not necessarily the fault of any individual fire company for not having spent the funding. While we did have a number of those it was mainly impacted by rescissions or hold backs.

Moving to item 5c.) FY 10 Entry Level Training Reimbursement – Mr. Morrisette said that another surprise in the budget was the restoration of the Entry Level training funds totaling \$505,250. He said he proposes that we consider amending the current policy on administration of the funding. He said Commissioners may recall that we had given departments or municipalities one year from the date of certification to request reimbursement. Because of the significant numbers of individuals we could not fulfill reimbursement for the last half of last fiscal year we would be setting the stage for significant problems if we continue that policy. He said he proposes that we start fresh and offer reimbursement only to individuals that become certified after July 1st 2009. He said at the Chief's meeting and the state firefighter's convention he announced that we would have a discussion today and that following the discussion we would formalize the policy and forward the guidance to departments. He said we also would not enforce the pre-approval provision because at this point a significant number of programs have already begun. He said anyone who took their training last fiscal year and by some chance failed the exam and became certified after July 1st would be reimbursed. He said he also proposes that the reimbursement which by Statute is 50% and capped through policy at \$300 for FFI and the \$2,887.50 for the Recruit training program remain in place. He said we still have not had the opportunity to meet with Senator Witkos who wanted to mandate a CPR/AED provision within FFI. Mr. Morrisette proposed that we change the provision that allows one year for reimbursement from date of certification be rescinded and we add language that reimbursement would be made for anyone certified after the date of July 1st 2009. He asked if there are any questions.

A question and answer period followed.

Moving to item 5d.) Approval of Annual Report FY 2008/2009- Mr. Morrisette said we previously transmitted to Commissioners the FY 2008/2009 annual report. He said we have copies today if anyone requires one. The report was also transmitted to the Governor and Joint Standing Committees of the Legislature. We are seeking formal final approval today. He said a copy of the report that was published in the CSFA Convention booklet had one statistic that was noted incorrectly and that related to lodging here at the CFA. He said we had incorrectly noted the number from last year's report however we did correct the error prior to forwarding a copy to the Governor's office. He said when we changed the lodging to accommodate two people in a room we didn't have the ability to differentiate when there was either one or two people in a room so we cannot document the exact number of people who lodged last year.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Blaschik and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the FY 2008/2009 Annual Report. Motion carried.

Mr. Morrisette stated that Bob McGarry is here today representing the DMV. Bob also serves as the fire chief in Haddam Neck. Recently we had a meeting with him and Academy staff to discuss some of DMV staffing and service concerns. Mr. McGarry is here to share the issue specifically as it relates to Q testing.

Moving to item 5e.) DMV Q Testing Issue– Mr. McGarry stated that they are concerns of the DMV and when he draws his own interpretation he'll clearly delineate that. DMV for a number of reasons, one being inquiries from the field from fire chiefs and another one being budget reductions and staff reductions is looking at Q testing and the way it's administered. He said DMV's tentative position at this time is it doesn't have to be a DMV inspector or licensing agent that conducts the certification process it could be anyone they feel is qualified to do that which could potentially open it up to CFA Instructors or instructors of fire departments depending on how they want to structure options. He said that was the basis of discussions held during a meeting with CFA staff and it was left that we would begin to look at what options may we be able to put together. He said frankly their initial thought was it might be something the CFA could handle. He said he understands the fact that the CFA has staffing issues and budget reductions and that may not make it workable but we do have to come up with some sort of arrangement so that we can continue the Q testing process. The DMV is conducting Q testing predominantly on overtime and as a rule that makes the DMV nervous not so much for the Q but they also do it for CDL's. He said overtime testing in general causes concern and they are trying to eliminate it and their Personal Services budget which pays the overtime has been cut.

Commissioner Nelson said he has strong feelings on this issue. Thirty percent of firefighters die each year responding or returning from incidents. He said the people that we train and put on the apparatuses sometimes are young people that don't have the experience driving heavy vehicles. It's an extremely large liability for the fire service and we need DMV's help with making sure there is a standard above and beyond us because we have a tendency to take care of our own. He said although he understands the expenses of DMV he thinks it's extremely critical especially for the volunteers to have a outside third party observation to ensure that the people we put on those apparatuses are at least prepared to drive that apparatus. He said we need the DMV to be responsible for issuing the license and he doesn't want that mitigated in any way.

Mr. Morrisette said after the meeting with Mr. McGarry we had a lengthy internal discussion with several staff members in attendance. He said a number of concerns were identified in terms of our ability to provide the service and the obvious ones are funding and staffing. DMV week day testing is provided free of charge and weekend and evenings is at an overtime rate. If the agency was to take the responsibility our rate would possibly be reduced however we would have to begin charging for the week day testing. The other concern was becoming a regulatory agency and the general perception of that. He said the feeling is we have more than enough on our plate today and it would just further compromise our ability to provide quality services. He said a personal opinion of one staff member is that maybe CDL is the way to go although from a fire chief's perspective that does add a significant burden and responsibility to them individually and to their organization. Additionally we discussed the possibility of our agency taking some type of a lead in association with the Connecticut Fire Chiefs and Career Chiefs. He said those discussions haven't taken place but we have a meeting scheduled tomorrow to

meet with the Connecticut Fire Chiefs just to apprise them of where the issue stands today and seek their input.

Mr. McGarry said he foresees in the near future that if a department wants a week day test for a firefighter or department they would have to show up the Regional Market in Hartford or other locations where testing is being done. He said the DMV doesn't have the staffing to maintain going out and conduct the test for individual departments.

A discussion period followed on the issue.

Vice Chairman Kowalski said this was for discussion today and thanked Mr. McGarry for providing the information that we got today.

Moving to item 5f.) Lodging Procedures – Mr. Morrisette said this is just to advise the Commission that from time to time we do not have the ability to schedule a Duty Officer when we have a lodging reservation. At those times an administrative decision is made and we allow people to lodge at the Academy at night without supervision. He said from time to time it becomes a discussion of the staff and he wanted to ensure the Commission was aware of it. He said we're trying to provide the service but at times we just don't have the staffing to come in, especially for last minute lodging requests. We certainly want to exploit what we have here for amenities and be of service. He said we do provide lodgers with our evacuation procedures and emergency contact information.

Commissioner Dagon asked if someone is designated as a point of contact for the group.

Mr. Morrisette said no, we advise them that if there is a problem they can contact Troop W for a true emergency by calling 911.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if we're talking about the Recruit Class too.

Mr. Morrisette said no, the Recruit Class is scheduled and we always coverage. Recruits also have a curfew whereas other lodgers do not. He said we currently use an outside answering service to assist with reservations and that's not working well so we're contemplating modifying that process and moving it back in-house.

Moving to item 5g.) DAS Investigative Report –Mr. Morrisette said we did send a copy of the report to Commissioners back in July regarding DAS's internal investigation report pertaining to alleged employee misconduct by staff of the agency, specifically as it relates to an incident during the Introduction to the Fire Service program one year ago. He said this was one year in the making and what was sent to Commissioners was DAS's summary. He said it is our feeling internally that one year ago we took swift and necessary action at the time and this report is after the fact. He said we feel we've already addressed the issue and it's disappointing that it took a year to complete this because a lot of people's status was up in the air. He asked if Commissioners had any questions or concerns. He said we had two very successful programs this year.

Moving to item 5h.) Legislative Proposals – Mr. Morrisette stated that any agency legislative proposal(s) must be submitted to OPM by October 15th. He asked if Commissioners had any

thoughts or ideas to share. He said it is his intent to draft wording that relates to the issue of Regional Fire Schools and putting this body into the decision making process regarding designation of future schools. We would accomplish this through consultation with the CSFA Education Committee.

He said we've heard that there is funding through grants for improvements to a facility in Darien and we've received word from the Farmington area that they are moving forward with a possible multi-town training facility. He said to his knowledge they are not looking to receive designation as a Regional Fire School. Rather just to support their local needs. He also said we did review wording from last fiscal year.

Commissioner Mitchell said he's concerned with the Town of Farmington calling it a Regional Fire School and there has to be as distinction or it will somehow create a problem for us.

Mr. Morrissette said that is something we can discuss with the Public Safety and Security Committee.

Moving to item 5i.) Live Burn Instructor Certification Pilot – Mr. Morrissette said this may be a future legislative initiative but not for the upcoming legislative session. Mr. Piskura has a program which we are going to be participating in which he would like to share with the Commission.

Mr. Piskura said the ISFSI has put together a program of certifying live burn instructors into two modes; one would be live burn instructor and the other would be the live burn instructor that's in charge. It's an external certification and because some of their speakers have been here they've become infatuated with our facility and they would like to do the PILOT here so we negotiated for the full time staff and some adjunct staff through as well as open it up to some other folks in the state of CT preference to the Regional Fire School. He said between our staff and the Regional Fire School people we should fill the class. We still haven't anchored the dates as yet but it would be the beginning of next year and it will involve using the facility here and if it's still available the Class A burn building in MA. It will be a vetting process

Commissioner Nicol asked as far as the NFPA future standards if there has been any discussion with the ProBoard or IFSAC.

Director of Certification McGowan said he hasn't heard anything.

Mr. Piskura said that would be premature because the standard has to exist first and then those agencies would be involved.

Moving to item 6- Comments from the public – Mr. Morrissette stated that we are joined by Chief Baldwin from the Southbury Training School and asked if he wished to address the Commission.

Chief Baldwin said he wished to bring the Commission up to date on a project that's been ongoing for the last year. The Department of Developmental Services and the CFA obtained a FEMA Fire Act grant last year for fire prevention safety. The project for which funding was

received has been unofficially rolled out. They developed curriculum and an on-line program for the staff in group homes across the state and will mandate that these staff of group homes take this training. It's been a cooperative effort and materials will be distributed shortly. The end product is a web-based curriculum users will go online to utilize and there will be questions and answers. He said there will be a mail delivery to all fire chiefs and fire marshals. He said also through this funding they were able to generate some fire prevention safety kit brochures and with leftover funds they were able to procure two computer operated stove fire simulators. One of these stove fire simulators will be housed here at the CFA and the other will be at the Southbury Training School and will be available for statewide use. He said while he's here he wanted to take the opportunity to thank Mr. Piskura and his staff and there will be some material going out within the next month.

Moving to item 7 – Matters to be raised by Commissioners or staff – Mr. Morrisette said most are aware the East Hartford fire department received one of the fire station construction grants for \$3.3 million. They are the first in the state and hopefully not the last.

He also said he doesn't believe Commissioner Nicol or Stankye had mentioned this but after the CSFA convention when the Governor was questioned about why the New Haven project wasn't on the Bond Commission's agenda last Friday she did indicate to Commissioner Stankye and Chet Haber that they are looking at potential stimulus funds to support the Regional School projects.

Commissioner Stankye said that it wasn't specifically stimulus funds but possibly federal funding for regional training facilities.

Mr. Morrisette said to that end we're hoping that the general contractor will hold their pricing for the New Haven project which was extended out through November. He said we're also hoping there is a Bond Commission meeting either in October or November to allow an awarding for the New Haven project because the Hartford County project won't begin until after New Haven. He said we have only seen preliminary plans and we're anxiously looking forward to seeing the final plans.

Mr. Morrisette said we distributed a spreadsheet which identifies all of the equipment that was provided to the Academy by the military department as part of the New England Disaster Training Center. We've received flat screens and other equipment in the classrooms is some of the fruits of that labor. He said all the funding had to be encumbered prior to the end of this month which ends the fiscal year and things are moving forward. He said Mr. Piskura had informed him that DOT will provide two of the passenger cars for the project at Camp Hartell. We're still looking for a chemical tank rail car which was also mentioned at the Regional Fire School to see if anyone has the ability to locate one for us. He said we're very grateful to the military department for the investment.

Mr. Morrisette said within Commissioners' packet was the DEMHS investment priorities/justifications for the new fiscal year federal funding. He asked Commissioners to review the document as they are scheduling their meetings to look at future budgets and priorities in terms of a strategic plan for investments in the future.

Mr. Morrisette said Mr. McGowan has confirmed the re-accreditation site visit for IFSAC and asked him to provide an update to the Commission.

Mr. McGowan reported that we continue to work through the Certification division and with the adjuncts to put together the program that has to be delivered to them ahead of time. He said they are scheduled to be here November 3-5, 2009. He said it will be a three member team from IA, AZ and Ontario. They are going to be looking at our 31 certification levels. He said they will need to possibly interview a few Commissioners and asked that Commissioners keep the dates open. He said we haven't had enough conversation from them as to whether they will need to conduct interviews in person or whether it can be through a telephone conversation but somewhere during those dates they will need to meet with staff and Commissioners.

Mr. Morrisette said we had received communication from an Elaine Speranza from Wethersfield named. He said she wrote a letter to him, the Governor and some other elected officials seeking support for designating fire stations in the state of CT to be the receiving location for old flags that need to be destroyed. He said he's bringing this before the Commission to see what their position is on this. He said he doesn't know if it's an initiative CT fire chiefs would like to take on. Possibly town or city halls may be better locations because they are staffed in every community usually more frequently than a fire house.

Executive Secretary Yvonne Lewis extended an invitation to Commissioners for the annual firefighter's memorial service schedule for Sunday, October 18th at 12 noon. Four names will be added to the memorial the LODD in New Haven and North Coventry as well as two historical LODD from the town of Branford.

Mr. Piskura reported that there will be road closure on Perimeter road from the Academy to Route 75 and unfortunately it occurs during the Memorial service so the only way to the Academy will be from Route 20 in East Granby. He said we've put that over the listserv and will continue to get the word out.

Commissioner Hilbert stated that attendance has been low at the memorial service so they are making every effort in his corner of the state to get people to attend. He asked Commissioners to get the word out so we can have a good showing for the Governor and other elected officials that will be in attendance.

Commissioner Stankye thanked the Commission for their confidence in keeping him as Secretary and that he will not be attending the October meeting as he will be traveling out of the state.

Commissioner Brady asked if we've heard anything on the CPR/AED issue.

Mr. Morrisette replied that he and Commissioner Kowalski will need to follow up with the Senator before the next legislative session.

Commissioner Kowalski said he will be contacting the Senator this week to schedule a meeting with him and he'll let everyone know so if they would like to attend and discuss the issue regarding CPR/AED certification.

Mr. Morrisette said he did notify the Regional Schools that when the date is set we would let them know in case they want to attend.

Mr. Piskura reported that we did experience our first supposed H1N1 student in the recruit program. He said we have a policy in place and it's been shared with the Career Chiefs. He said that person was removed and the room was sanitized, etc. The recruit lost five days but he will finish and graduate with his class.

Mr. Piskura also reported that we've received another donation from the CPCU Society of \$1,000 and she will make the presentation to the State Fire Administrator during a meeting of their organization.

He also said that the Department of Developmental Services grant was received by them but they've also saw fit to donate a stove to us and we had a demonstration here where almost all the staff went through it. He said it's a very high tech trailer which also incorporates disaster management and we'll be able to transport it around the state on request just like we do with our kids' safety house and the various other outreach programs we have for public life safety education. He said we were very pleased to acquire it.

Commissioner Kowalski asked when it will be available for use.

Mr. Piskura said probably within the next 30 days.

Commissioner Nicol said the CFDIA annual dinner is scheduled for October 7th and the Chief of the Mohegan fire department will be the keynote speaker. He also said the award will be given out and the recipient of the award is well known to the Commission so it will be a special night at Elizabeth's Restaurant in Rocky Hill.

He also said the Mid Atlantic States of Fire Commissions conference will be held November 5-7 in Louisville, Kentucky. He reminded the Commission that we are scheduled to host the conference next year.

Mr. Piskura said if any Commissioner is interested in purchasing a shirt or jacket to stop by the Bookstore and see the Manager for samples.

Commissioner Kowalski said the Executive Director of the CT Auto Dealers Association Jim Fleming who is a good friend of the fire service contacted him pertaining to a donation from their group to the Regional Fire Schools. He said he will be sending the information to Mr. Morrisette for the Commission as he's not sure what's involved.

He also said there is an initiative going on through the IChiefs pertaining to the junior firefighters program and that is going to be a paper that is being written currently. It has been ongoing for the last four months. He said he and Commissioner Brady sits on that Committee to write the paper and they will be using the information and background that they gathered over the last three years to write this paper for the junior firefighters. He said they are currently discussing what junior firefighters can do and the feeling amongst the Committee is they should do nothing until they are 21. He said they are hoping to have one more major meeting and hope to have it ready for the VCOS conference in November.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Blaschik and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Murphy to adjourn the meeting.

Vice Chairman Kowalski adjourned the meeting at 11:36 am.

Dated:

Charles M. Stankye, Jr., Secretary