

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

Meeting – October 27, 2005 – 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:12 with the following members present:

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn

Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Lloyd Niles, Al Hawkins

Fairfield Regional Fire School – Scott Bisson

Hartford Fire School - Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal

Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School – Peter Wols

Wolcott Regional Fire School – Jim Tzraski, Kevin Engle

Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Charles Stankye, Jr., Scott Potter

Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol

Connecticut Fire Academy – Jeff Morrissette

Guests: Don Ouillette, DPW

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

The minutes of the August meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as corrected – motion by Jepeal second by Winn.

1. Status of properties acquisitions

Don Ouillette reported that the advertisement for property for the Willimantic school went out on October 14th. Submittals are due by November 1st. After submittals have been received each property will receive a tour / review and then a selection committee will be formed.

Don suggested that the Fairfield Regional Fire School administration begin discussing an arrangement with the local PZC, building official and fire marshal in order to head off problems with the Fairfield project. Local administration needs to be aware of D.P.W.'s procedures in order to avoid turf issues that could delay the project.

Hartford County School still does not have a M.O.U. for the property that has been discussed at Bradley Airport. The D.O.T. has requested an annual lease payment in the amount of \$35,000 for the property. The C.F.P.C. will continue to work with D.O.T. to attempt to seek a waiver of these fees. If the fees are waived, the M.O.U. is ready to be signed. If the lease fee remains, O.P.M. wants a funding source identified prior to execution of the M.O.U.

Don suggested that as the 2007 – 2008 capital budget is compiled we may not have much progress to show. It could be difficult to justify the need for additional funding. We are almost one year behind in spending 2004 bond funds.

Don also pointed out that construction costs have risen by 12 – 20% since the compilation of the budget for the capital improvements at the regional schools. We will need to watch the construction costs carefully in order to appraise legislators on the possible need to supplement funding.

2. New Haven Burn Building/Renovation - status

Don reported that bond commission meetings have been cancelled for October and November. He hopes that a meeting will take place in December. At this point the design team for the New Haven project is waiting for approval of funds so that they can get started on the design. Meetings have been held with New Haven city administration to negotiate relief from local PZC, building office and fire marshal actions and the associated fees.

3. Homeland Security Training opportunities

Jeff Morrisette reported that he has had ongoing discussions about NIMS training with Deputy Commissioner Sandford. Homeland security funding for 2003 and 2004 did not provide funds for training. Funding for 2005 will provide for training. Commissioner Thomas of DEMHS has appointed a training advisory committee which is chaired by Jeff Morrisette. The training priorities established are National Incident Management System and Incident Command System. The NIMS training program is scheduled for implementation November 8, 2005.

Paul Benyada is compiling a program that included NIMS I-100, I-200 and I-700 merged into one presentation with powerpoint. Upon completion of the program all three test would need to be administered. Paul estimates that the program will take between four and six hours to deliver depending upon the audience.

Jeff also reported that the intent for program delivery is to utilize DEMHS, the Connecticut Fire Academy, the Police Officers Training Standards Council, and the regional fire schools to deliver the NIMS and ICS training to communities across the state. Reimbursement for the C.F.A. and the regional fire schools would be coordinated through the C.F.A. Upon completion of delivery by a regional fire school a request for reimbursement would be submitted to the C.F.A., they would fund the delivery and then periodically group the expenses for requests to DEMHS for recuperation of their expenses.

Al Hawkins will communicate with Jeff to provide a list of all reimbursable expenses. This list will be provided to the standardization committee so that they can develop a uniform reimbursement request and class roster form for use by the regional fire schools. Some of the expenses discussed were instructor salaries, benefits costs, meals / refreshments, flyers, mailings, printing, and any facility overhead / administrative costs.

Jeff also reported that there will be a Weapons of Mass Destruction train the trainer program conducted at the C.F.A. on November 17 and 18. This will be the last such course offering for quite some time. The deadline for registrations is tomorrow.

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

The committee will work to expedite a uniform reimbursement procedure for NIMS and ICS training.

5. Other items from membership

Rich Nicol reported that the Ct. Career Fire Chiefs are requesting that the C.F.P.C. find funding to cover the costs of the Recruit School. Of the members of the Mid-Eastern Fire Academies three states provide fire service training free to municipalities. The Massachusetts Fire Academy does not charge municipalities for training.

There was a brief discussion about the recurring free-lancing issue. The general feeling was that the lack of state funding for fire service training contributes to the lucrative independent training businesses.

Jim Tzraski introduced Kevin Engle who is now assistant director for the Wolcott State Fire School. Kevin will be added to the distribution list for the committee.

Lloyd Niles reported that he would be stepping down as a representative from the Eastern Connecticut Fire School to this committee effective December 31, 2005.

The regular meeting date for November will fall on Thanksgiving. It was decided that we will cancel the November meeting. The next meeting will be on December 22, 2005 at 19:00 at Wethersfield.

Submitted by:
Al Hawkins, chairman