

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Education Committee

### Meeting minutes

March 16, 2005 – 19:00

## Wethersfield Fire Department

### Company #3, Keliher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:06 with the following members present:

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn  
Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Lloyd Niles, Al Hawkins  
Hartford Fire School - Jim Baldis  
Middlesex County Fire School – Jay Woron  
Valley Fire Chief’s Regional Fire School – Peter Wols  
Wolcott Regional Fire School – Bob Massicotte, Paul Perrotti  
Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Ted Schroll  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jim Wilkinson, Rich Nicol  
Connecticut Fire Academy – Jeff Morrissette  
Guests: Don Ouillette, DPW; Fred Piechota, Ed O’Hurley, CFPC Certification

There were no representatives present from the Stamford Fire Department Regional School, Fairfield Regional Fire School, or the New Haven Regional Fire Academy

Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.

By consensus of those present agenda item #4 was moved to the top of the agenda.

#### **4. J.P.R.s for testing – Director of Certification**

Mr. Piechota reported that the NFPA has adopted the Job Performance Requirements in order to better define the psychomotor skills objectives. Certification staff has attempted to lay out a number of tasks in order to attain the objective of defining the requisite psychomotor skills performance. Currently twenty-six JPRs have been developed for Firefighter I testing. There are approximately one hundred and fifteen practical skills included in the Firefighter I program. The JPR testing performs validation against eighteen to twenty percent of those skills. Some of the JPR skills are tested on a candidate individually and some are tested as a group exercise. If any student fails to successfully complete a particular skill during a JPR evolution they are re-tested on only those skills for which they were deficient.

Complaints from the group relative to the JPR testing format were:

- This testing format was logistically difficult and time consuming.
- This testing format required an excessive number of station evaluators.
- The excessive number of evaluators added to the excessive amount of time involved made this format expensive.
- Several testing locations did not have all of the equipment on the list compiled by the certification staff immediately available. Since no one at the facility knew which JPRs were going to be tested in advance, it was difficult to secure the equipment on the testing date in a timely manner.

There was discussion about whether the JPR testing could be performed on another day during the course delivery.

Mr. Piechota pointed out that there was a committee of CFA instructors that were currently working on a project to try to simplify the JPR testing process. He also offered to communicate to the contact person for each testing location what specific equipment would be required for each testing date. This information would be forthcoming between twenty-four and thirty-six hours before the scheduled test.

## **1. Status of properties acquisitions**

Hartford County School - Reportedly the issue of property currently discussed was on the agenda for the Bradley Commission meeting last week.

Eastern Connecticut School – A meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow to meet with the property owner to discuss purchase of the property. The Commissioner of Public Works feels that he has the right to purchase this particular property as “sole source”.

## **2. “Holding agency” for acquired regional fire school properties**

Patrick O’Brian from Office of Policy and Management wants to know who is going to hold title of any property acquired for one of the regional fire schools.

Al Hawkins distributed a hand-out for discussion about seeking “quasi state agency” status for the Connecticut State Firefighters Association in order to have that agency hold title to all newly acquired properties. It was pointed out that the existing arrangement relative to the New Haven and Fairfield schools could probably continue if the property was owned by the municipalities and those municipalities entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the state Department of Public Works.

Other options discussed for exploration were to ask the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control to become the holding agency. Commissioners Nicol and Wilkinson will bring this option back to the next meeting of the C.F.P.C. for input.

Commissioner Wilkinson offered to bring the property ownership issue back to the Executive Committee meeting of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association to solicit their interest in becoming the holding agency.

## **3. New Haven Burn Building/Renovation - status**

A site visit for prospective design teams will be conducted at the New Haven Fire Academy on March 22. Interviews of the short-listed design teams is scheduled to take place on April 13.

## **5. Discussion about suggested course assignment by C.F.A. (attached)**

Jeff Morrissette distributed a handout entitled “Certification Eligibility Policy”. Jeff pointed out the this document should say DRAFT on the top of the page and that the “Rescue Technician” under item A should say “Rescue Technician – Structural”. Jeff reported that the Connecticut Fire Academy is receiving calls weekly requesting elevated levels of training.

Jeff reported that some of the curriculum used by the C.F.A. has been reviewed by Charter Oak Community College. These programs offer the students C.E.U.s from the state college system.

After a brief discussion the committee member present expressed that this proposed policy seemed to be consistent with the “Mission Delineation” policy previously approved by this committee and the C.F.P.C.

Pete Wols made a motion to endorse the policy with the corrections noted by Mr. Morrissette. Rich Winn seconded the motion. Rich Nicol and Jim Wilkinson abstained, all others present voted in favor of the motion.

Jeff reported that he would bring the draft policy to the C.F.P.C. for their approval.

## **6. Legislative Session 2005 – what’s new**

Al Hawkins reported on two meetings attended by representative of the education committee on March 10 at the Legislative Office Building.

The first meeting was with Rep. Denise Merrill (chair of appropriations committee), Rep. Walter Pawelkiewicz, Ted Schroll, Scott Bisson, Al Hawkins

Discussion about operational funding

Suggestion by Rep. Merrill that reorganization of Ct. Homeland Security incorporate provisions to utilize infrastructure to be funded by the capital improvement for delivery of programs, allocation of appropriate funding to support the schools as venues.

Merrill and Pawelkiewicz committed to setting up meetings with leadership of Public Safety Committee to discuss pursuit of operational funding through revised Department of Homeland Security for C.F.A. and regional fire schools.

The second meeting was with Rep. Walter Pawelkiewicz, Jim Perras (Sen. Williams staff), Clark Hansen (Williams budget person), Ted Schroll, Scott Bisson, Al Hawkins.

Discussion about capital bond funding needs

Five year capital plan showed first year \$10 M, second year \$16 M, third year \$9 M. In actuality the first year is already funded, second year will probably only require \$10 M, but we need to have a contingency in place for year three. Education committee anticipates that we could be ready to build-out two schools in year three and want to make sure that funding available keeps pace with project progress. The actual dollars needed each year throughout the project should come from Commissioner Fleming (DPW)

#### **7. Standardization Committee – S.O.P., injury management, forms**

There was no report from this committee.

#### **8. Other items from membership**

Jeff Morrissette reported on the Limited Access Highway program for this year. Letters will be going out to eligible fire departments. Either a check or a voucher could be provided this year in the amount of \$530.

Jeff also reported on reorganization of the state department of homeland security. Jeff has been appointed to chair a training committee. The new organization will be trying to incorporate the established fire service training infrastructure into the training plan. Anyone with specific training requirements is asked to incorporate those into a letter to Jeff.

Jeff also reported that the initiative for statewide credentialing of all emergency services personnel was getting organized.

Available dates were solicited from those present for an April meeting. Dates were April 21, 27 and 28. Al Hawkins will solicit the availability of those absent and email committee members with the selected date.

**Next meeting subsequently scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2005 at Wethersfield Co.#3.**

Submitted by:

Al Hawkins, chairman