

Connecticut State Firefighters Association

Education Committee

Meeting minutes

June 28, 2007 – 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

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

Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Ted Schroll, Charles Stankye, Jr

Burrville Fire School – Rich Winn

Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins

Fairfield Regional Fire School – Doug Chevenello

Hartford Fire School - Chet Haber, Mike Jepeal

Middlesex County Fire School – Jay Woron

New Haven Regional Fire Academy – Bill Seward

Stamford Fire Department Regional School – Tony Conte

Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School – Peter Wols

Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Rich Nicol

Connecticut Fire Academy - Jeff Morrissette

Guest: Ct. Department of Public Works - Don Ouillette

No one was present from the Wolcott Regional Fire School

Al Hawkins reported that he had not yet compiled the minutes for the April meeting.

1. Status of properties acquisitions

Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School – The seller has agreed to sell 14 acres for \$600 k. The state will pay for the sub-division by an outside developer.

Eastern Connecticut Fire School – The seller agrees to do all environmental clean-up. There may be an agreement as early as next week. It will take approximately one year to complete the clean-up.

Middlesex County Fire School – DPW has not received an information from Middletown. Jay Woron arrived at 19:45. he reported that three appraisals have been completed on the property. Middletown is currently waiting for the seller to react to the appraisals.

Burrville Fire School – D.E.P. and D.P.W. will start to talk about getting a lease agreement in place.

2. New Haven Renovation – Design

Don Ouillette reported on the escalation in construction costs. From 2002 until 2007-2008 there has been a 40% increase in construction costs. The project estimated costs currently are \$5.5 million. The design work is continuing, there is still no M.O.U. between the state and the city of New Haven.

3. Hartford County – Design

See item #2. The initial cost estimate after the scoping meeting was \$8.7 million. That has now been pared to \$5.5 to \$6 million but remains significantly over the \$3.2 million budget.

Don estimates that with current escalation of construction costs that the actual costs of the capital projects may be:

Fairfield - \$8 million

Valley School - \$10 million

Willimantic - \$10 million

Burrville School - \$10 million

There was a lengthy discussion about the time required for the state property acquisition process.

4. Certification update – Thomas McGowan

Tom discussed several initiative taking place in the office of Certification.

He is attempting to establish a central location for policies and procedures. Staff currently has a draft manual that consists of approximately 50 pages. This document will provide detailed information on operational guidance.

There is a major initiative to redesign the web site. That work should take until November.

Certification staff is working closely with Training staff on the Fire Officer program. Fire Officer I is anticipated to rollout in August with Fire Officer II to follow in September-November. The evaluation for the program will be project based.

There is now an updated test bank for the Public Fire Education program.

Tom talked about the changes to the Firefighter I and II programs. Going forward there is a effort to exclude ropes and knots from Firefighter I. The ropes and knots would become a prerequisite program.

The Rescue Technician program will pilot this fall with training for the U.S.A.R. team.

There is pressure to make the Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operational training a certification program.

Reaccreditation by I.F.S.A.C. has been pushed back about six months. That process will probably begin in August.

The Certification office is developing a number of marketing materials. Tom provided hand-outs.

Tom also reported on physical problems encountered while attempting to provide practical skills exams at various fire stations and other inadequate facilities.

Tom also wants to add approximately 20 instructors for examiners.

5. 2007 Budget status

Ted Schroll reported that all new funding initiatives were funded at 50% of the original budgeted amounts. This reduction was applied to the Training Bill. The Commission on Fire Prevention and Control has established a sub-committee to make recommendation as to how best to implement the training bill and to distribute the funds to the end users. The C.F.P.C. has asked for representation from this committee. Chet Haber, Rich Winn and Al Hawkins will participate in the discussions. The initial meeting will take place on July 19th at 10:00 at the Connecticut Fire Academy.

Al Hawkins will email to the regional school directors asking them to reassess their fee structures. The general feeling of those present was that the regional fire schools should work to standardize the number of contact hours for programs, whether text and workbooks are provided, and what the cost would be to the students.

6. Other items from membership

Peter Wols questioned the need to apply the NFPA 1403 standard for a redundant water supply to fire training conducted by kindling a fire in a barrel. There was a brief discussion about the amount of detail in the standard and the point was made that generally when injuries have been sustained by participants that there were several if not many safety issues allowed to exist.

7. Next meeting date

The next Education Committee meeting will be on July 26, 2007 at 19:00 at the Wethersfield Company #3.

Submitted by:
Al Hawkins, chairman