



**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 NOVEMBER 30, 2010 MEETING OF  
THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

Chairman Carozza called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. with the following members present: Commissioners Brady, Dagon, Hilbert, Kowalski, Mitchell, Nelson, Nicol, Ross, Stankye and Walsh.

Staff members, Jeffrey J. Morrissette, State Fire Administrator; Mark Lewandowski, Deputy Director of Training; Yvonne Lewis, Executive Secretary; Edward O'Hurley, Certification Coordinator and Adam Piskura, Director of Training; were present. Chairman Carozza said good morning Commissioners. We'll call the meeting to order. If you will, please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendees took a moment to pledge allegiance to the flag.

Chairman Carozza said thank you. If you can, for our guests, maybe we'll do a self-introduction starting right here.

Guests to the meeting were identified as Louie Sheehan, New England Disaster Training Center, Logistics; Al Boudreau, Director of Logistics for New England Disaster Training Center; Barry Rickert, Deputy State Fire Marshal; James Belote, First Vice President, Connecticut Fire Police Association, (CFPA); Jan Belote, Mr. Belote's wife; Alyce DeAngelo, CPCU, API and Director, Good Works Committee for the Connecticut Chapter of the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters.

Chairman Carozza said thank you, and welcome. We will go to the first item on the agenda if there's no objection we're going to go to Number 5 under New Business.

Moving to Item 5b.) NETDC Overview- Mr. Morrissette said at this time, I'd like to invite Al Boudreau to give an overview of the NEDTC facility as our host here for today's meeting. Al?

Mr. Boudreau said good morning, again. My name is Allen Boudreau, the Director of Logistics for the New England Disaster Training Center. A little bit about myself I've served for 22 years here at Camp Hartell. I started off as an enlisted soldier, and then I went on and got my commission as a Second Lieutenant; and then I did a tour of duty over in Iraq. Hurt my back a little bit while I was over there, so I resigned from the National Guard and got a great opportunity to come here. Since my military background has been in maintenance and logistics for 22 years, they thought that I could be a good fit for this facility in helping get the facility stood up. Our intent for the New England Disaster Training Center is to provide civilian and military participants the opportunity to

train here to support the civil authority if there should be a man-made or natural disaster in the State of Connecticut. We're offering this as a regional asset, but in the future -- which we've already accomplished that -- we actually want to make this a national asset. So, our intent, again, is to train individuals to support the civilian authority. The National Guard. That's our primary mission, is that we don't come walk in and take over a situation. What we do is we provide assets and equipment and personnel to assist the civil authority in taking care of a man-made or natural disaster, such as what happened in Middletown, Katrina, and Haiti. Now, the facility started about three years ago. What happened is it became a brainchild of the Department of Public Health to set up this training facility on Camp Hartell, and we started working with Congress, Congressman Larson, and Congressman Murtha, to get an \$8 million defense appropriation; and in the defense appropriation after 2009, we were granted \$8 million to build this facility.

A lot of that money was built on improving the infrastructure for Camp Hartell with improving the sewer lines, the electrical lines, and the IT lines -- the Internet Technology lines -- underground for future construction that's going to happen here with the Combined Support Maintenance Shop, which is going to be about a \$50 million project that's going to be built here in the next two years. And in the next year and a half, we're going to be building the 14th CST, Civil Service Support Team's, Headquarters, which is a close partner in disaster response with the NEDTC. They're going to be built right here in this open field and that's about a \$12 million project. But through Congressman Larson and through Congressman Murtha -- God bless his soul; he's passed away since -- they made this project happen. So we were very thankful for their assistance. One of the great things about this facility is last summer we had a national disaster medical scenario training that was done here. We brought 328 people from throughout the United States over to Bradley Air National Guard Base, and they did a national disaster medical scenario training. And the great thing about this facility, working with our partners -- the Air National Guard, the Army National Guard, the Fire Academy, the Urban Search and Rescue, FEMA, DPH -- is that our proximity -- when they've run these exercises in the past down there, I think it was Fort McClellan, Alabama, you literally fly into Atlanta, jump on a bus for two hours, and drive to Fort McClellan; but with this facility, you literally fly into Camp Hartell. Five minutes after you've grabbed your bags, you're over at a hotel, and a couple minutes after that, you could be at this site. So, really big improvement on the capabilities of the NDMS and other folks that are going to be training here. As you can see, our partners are in close proximity to us. We have our friends at the Connecticut Fire Academy, and going clockwise, we have the USAR rubble pile. That is the old USAR rubble pile that's on the DOT land over by Perimeter Road, by the airport, and then we have our 8th Army Aviation Support Facility, which is directly across Route 75 from us. And what that gives us [is] the capability of teaching first responders, medical personnel or others, how to exit/enter a helicopter, what are the right safety protocols to use around a helicopter, and how to evacuate patients. So that's a great asset for us. And then you can see Camp Hartell-New England Disaster Training Center at the three o'clock position on the photo and Bradley Air National Guard where we had the NDMS exercises last July with 328 people. As you can see, there are our partners. And this is what we want to do with the Army and the Air National Guard. There has to be a benefit: Not only does the facility have to support the civil authority,

but there has to be a green and blue benefit, Army and Air benefit. So what we want to do for this facility when it's not being used is we want to train soldiers in combat life-saving techniques. The reason that so many soldiers are surviving from the battlefield right now is because there are Combat Life-Savers. We used to call them "medics." They're in the -- we still have medics, but those were dedicated people, maybe one per company, one per platoon. Well, the Army strategy now is to put one per vehicle, or if you have dismounted troops, you're going to have one per squad, so the survivability rate for these soldiers -- they've got medicine; they've got IV's. So we want to conduct that 68 Whiskey -- that's the official military name, training for it -- right here at the facility, and then take those medics, those paramedics from the Air Force, the medics from the Army, Combat Life-Savers, and have them work with civilian authorities, because the first time that you want to work with somebody is not when there's an incident. You want to work with those folks, as you all know, prior, so you can work those relationships out. As you can see, in the far left hand corner of this picture, we have the classroom which we're presently in. Right outside what we'll be using for a parking area is actually the mobile field hospital pad. That's where DPH can set up a 25-bed hospital, their shower and latrine. Over here, there's a connection, and that's where they would set up to do their medical training; and directly across the street from the hospital pad, you have a climate-controlled warehouse. A couple years ago when we had the H1N1 outbreak, there was a need for a climate-controlled warehouse to store pharmaceuticals and to store climate-sensitive gowns, gloves, what have you, and so we built that for the Connecticut DPH. Then we have our maintenance shop, which is in the center. Behind the maintenance shop, we have a shower/latrine building. One of our goals here is that, let's say hypothetically there was an incident in, say, Boston or New York, and you had, similar to Katrina, you had a bunch of equipment, people, pushing into those affected areas and you needed to stage equipment. Well, with that shower/latrine building there and with the facility space that we have here, we could literally stage equipment, stage personnel, and push them into the affected areas. So that's one of the things that we're trying to push here, is to get on the National Disaster Response Plan as a staging area for this facility. And then directly behind the shower/latrine, you have the Trench Rescue Prop. The Fire Academy has already used that on two iterations. It's great for Firefighter I's. You don't have a collapsing trench to work with. You have something that's fixed. You can get in there. You can repeat your exercise, reset it, do it over and over and over again before you actually go out, dig a trench, and then have that material sloughing in on you. So it's a great prop. It's got a confined space area to extricate somebody from a manhole cover. It's probably one of the best trench props in the United States from the ones that we've gone out and looked at because it's got depth; you can flood it; you can pump it out. There's a lot of versatility there. And then to the right, you have our Urban Search and Rescue rubble pile which simulates a collapsed five-story building. I can say without a doubt that that is the best rubble pile in the United States. We've been down to TEEX, we've been to Virginia Beach, we've also been to Lakehurst, New Jersey, and we took all of those, working with Mark Dawson, who's a FEMA-accredited dog handler. With his input, we built the best rubble pile in the United States right there, so the USAR folks are dying to get up here. Matter of fact, Task Force 1 has their first drill this weekend, and as we go by later, you'll see how they've already preset the fun house, which is that elongated building that the large arrow is pointing to. That's our fun house, and what it

is, is there's pre-cut-out portions in walls, in the ceiling, in the overhead. So that literally you can go through--and it's reinforced with rebar -- that you can go through, puncture a hole through concrete, work horizontally, then go up through the ceiling, work back horizontally, get up to the roof, extricate a patient, and then have to pull that person back.

Mr. Boudreau said you'll see that we've actually got an automobile stuck in one of those blocks, that there's chambers there, and they're going to put up a black curtain so that you can't see what you're doing. You're going to have to work your helmet lenses. But they're going to get through one of those concrete blocks, and you're going to run right into an automobile. How do you deal with that? So there's going to be some great training there this weekend, and if anybody would like to come up and see that this weekend, be my guest. And then you'll see across the street, we're going to have their crawl phase --that's what we call it in the military -- where they're going to be doing their basic lifting, their basic shoring, and then their cutting and burning operations across the street. So they practice it across the street, and then they take those skills that they learned across the street in the training area and bring it over to the actual fun house and the rubble pile to execute it. And then you'll see in the back corner of the installation there, the northwest quadrant, you'll see the Train Rescue Prop, that I have to thank Adam Piskura and his team for getting us a Dow Chemical car, getting it up here, and taking care of us, because that's the first slice of the pie. And then what we want to do is, we're going to have two additional Metro North trains. One is going to be on the tracks so that if you wanted to do a basic rescue, you can go in, enter from the platform, pull somebody off of the train. Then we're going to have another train, another Metro North train, that's actually going to be diagonal across the tracks up at probably about a 35-degree angle, so that when the train's on its side, it's a lot different trying to get somebody out of a train. Instead of walking up an aisle, you have to hop over the chairs to get that person out. So, as a matter of fact, the Fire Academy was here about two weeks ago, and they actually extricated somebody from underneath the train. And they were actually using their lifting bags and jacks, and it was a great day; we got some positive feedback from that. Again, I talked about the \$8 million that we got from Congressman Larson and Congressman Murtha in this year's budget. We're asking for an additional \$3 million to sustain and to do future construction. Right now we're trying to get approval to put a separate rappel tower here, a separate -- another climate-controlled warehouse, and basically do some infrastructure improvement to the facility, buy some curriculum items, and get whatever we couldn't take care of with the first \$8 million, take this additional \$3 million and top it off and give a premier training site for the State and for the region. And that's all I have. Do I have any questions?

Mr. Morrissette said you mentioned the Metro North cars. Is there an updated status on those? We were having some difficulty with the DOT acquiring those. It was going to be a long lead item, but I understand that may be expedited?

Mr. Boudreau said we got a letter of commitment from the current commissioner --and we've got it in writing -- so when the new administration takes over, that we do have a commitment that when they retire two railroad cars, because they're upgrading their cars,

that we're going to get those two. So, we've got it in writing, and we just have to make sure that the new administration follows through with that commitment.

Mr. Morrissette said thank you.

Mr. Boudreau said and if you're interested, later on this afternoon we can take a driving tour around the facility and we can discuss the individual props and we'll show you what it is your tax dollars are going towards. Thank you for your attention.

Chairman Carozza said thank you very much.

Moving to item 1.) Recognition of James Belote - Mr. Morrissette said Mr. Boudreau actually provided a very nice segue for us to recognize an individual who was very instrumental in securing the Dow Chemical tank car on behalf of our agency, as well as making arrangements to transport the vehicle here. At this point, I'll turn it over to Mr. Piskura. He has some additional comments to share with the Commissioners.

Mr. Piskura said sure. Nobody can accomplish things alone, and we use all the resources we have available. I first met Jim Belote many years ago as a neighbor. I was in Danbury, and Jim was various ranks -- including fire chief; right?

Mr. Belote replied yes.

Mr. Piskura said at the Volunteer Ridgefield Fire Department. And we were struggling to -- NEDTC was very gracious in funding this railroad prop, getting the rails in, the ties, the bed, everything, the station platform, and we were running out of contacts for railroad cars of all types. Some of our staff had gone to Massachusetts to look at things, certainly been all over Connecticut looking for spare parts, for these vehicles, railroad cars -- what's called "rolling stock" -- and we weren't getting very far. And we had a casual meeting with Jim Belote, and he picked up on the fact that we were having difficulty in locating a railroad tank car, specifically; and he offered to provide assistance. And I said, well, let's have at it. What I found out is that through Jim's connections as a stockholder in -- Norfolk Southern, he had a little bit better access than some of us to some people. And it didn't happen overnight, and I'm sure it took many, many phone calls and many types of communications back and forth; it started looking promising, and eventually connections were made. Once the connections were made, there was an offer of a railroad tank car, and the railroad tank car that was -- that part of it, the acquisition, Mr. Belote made the handshake and made the convincing argument that this should be donated because it's a nonprofit operation, which certainly we are. Then the secondary piece of the odyssey started where it had to be transported up here, where again Norfolk Southern stepped up to the plate and offered to transport it here, which was another financial investment that they took over. So in great gratitude, we'd like to take a moment today and recognize Jim Belote's contribution to us acquiring this railroad tank vehicle which, as you heard, has already been used in the June Fire School and Rescue League, which we just completed, and we did things that we never could do before. And what Mr. Boudreau was referring to earlier was, we took victims and pinched them between the station platform and the

rail carriage of the tanker and then also underneath so we can prove to the students that we can actually lift a railroad tank car, and it went very well. So, Jim, if you would like to go up to the front of the room, please.

Chairman Carozza said On behalf of the Commission, I'd like to present you with this Certificate of Appreciation in grateful appreciation of outstanding service to the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control and the Connecticut Fire Service, congratulations.

Mr. Belote said thank you. Thank you very much. This was -- this was really a learning experience, and it began at the June Fire School two years ago. That's how long it took. And what happened was, I was up early the day before a fire police training class, and I was there talking with Mr. Morrisette and Mr. Piskura; and they showed me the plans, and they told me about the problem. And I said, well, one of my Citadel classmates is a vice president at Norfolk Southern. So, I said, Well, I'll call him, because he had donated quite a bit down there. As a result, when I called his office, he had retired three months premature, and so I started from a web site and worked my way back up the food chain in Norfolk Southern and came to find out that they don't own railroad tank cars. They don't own any cars other than the engines. All of the cars are owned by industries. So then I went to Dow Chemical and started up that food chain to get a car, and it was found, I think, in Louisiana, where they sell the demolished cars, or the out-of-service cars, for scrap; and they're pretty expensive. So I finally got a commitment to get the car. Then I went back to Norfolk Southern, and I think they delivered it right up to here. So it was, you know, it was a learning experience all the way around, and I want to thank you and I hope all the firefighters in Connecticut really get to use this facility because it's a great, great facility. Thank you very much.

Chairman Carozza said thank you.

Mr. Morrisette said at this time, we'd also like to recognize one of our visitors, Alyce DeAngelo, joining us again this year from the Connecticut Chapter of the CPCU Good Works Committee. Over the past three, four, years or so, that committee has made a donation to this agency, and she is back this year again to present a donation to the agency on behalf of the Property Casualty Underwriters group. So, welcome, Ms. D'Angelo.

Ms. DeAngelo said thank you. All I can say is, Wow. I have a son who's on the USAR Team, and he has described the facilities at Brainard on occasion; and this is nothing like that. So, congratulations. I'm really excited about everything you're doing, and I always love what the Connecticut Fire Academy is doing. I don't know if -- I see some new faces in the room this year, so I'm just going to talk about the CPCU for a little bit so you get an idea of where I'm coming from; and then we'll present the check. But it's Property Casualty Underwriters, and what it is, is it's a society composed of people that have taken over ten courses on a college level in the insurance industry. So they get a really broad, thorough knowledge of insurance from soup to nuts, and once you've completed that CPCU designation, then you can join the society. And the Connecticut Chapter is part of

the national chapter, and we have a long, proud history of promoting ethics and leadership and professionalism in insurance.

I'm kind of proud of that. The Good Works Committee is a standing committee of the Connecticut Chapter, and one of the foundations, the foundation, of our committee is community outreach. So what we do is, we take the monies that we are allotted from the net proceeds of our golf tournament that we give on an annual basis, and we divvy up that money to organizations that we feel are making a difference in the lives of families and children. We also look at education and health and safety. So this particular award, it kind of -- it permeates all three of those principles, because you have your education and you have your health and safety, and, of course, you're protecting your community. I also wanted to talk a little bit about the relationship between insurance and the Fire Service. I don't know, I'm not sure of everyone's background, so if I'm telling you something that you already know, just tell me to be quiet; but one of the rating variables when we're rating a policy for people in the community is called "protection class." I'm sure you all know what that is, but depending on the protection class, which has a lot to do with what you guys and your people do on a daily basis because it's the availability of water, it's how long it takes you to get to the scene; it depends on the kind of equipment you have, among other things. So the better you are at your job, the policyholder in your area will be very grateful for a rate reduction. So, Connecticut Fire Academy, this is very special for me. Both of my sons have graduated from here and have gone on to take additional courses, and I can't say enough about it. I think it goes without saying that what you're doing provides the knowledge and skills for our firefighters and EMT personnel to take care of the community and protect families and children, but one of the things that you do that's really close to my heart is the care that you give to ensuring the safety of the personnel when they are fighting a fire or doing many of the things that firefighters do that aren't really fighting fires. So this emphasis on safety of the fire personnel is really important to me, and I'm so glad that you do such a good job in protecting the people that protect us on a daily basis.

Mr. Morrisette remarked it's a pleasure.

Ms. DeAngelo said so, here you go.

Chairman Carozza said thank you very much.

Ms. DeAngelo said and just to let you know, what we did is, we donated \$1,080 for the purchase of three sets of Command Vests. These are used for Hazardous Materials and Officer Training classes, and I felt this was a good way to spread the CPCU around.

Mr. Morrisette said thank you very much.

Chairman Carozza said thank you on behalf of the Commission and certainly on behalf of the entire staff here at the Academy. Thank you very much for your continued support.

Ms. DeAngelo said you're very welcome. I wish we could do more.

Chairman Carozza said thank you so much.

Ms. DeAngelo said hope to see you next year.

Moving to item 2.) Approval of the Minutes of the October 26, 2010 meeting.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Kowalski and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2010 meeting. Motion carried.

Moving to item 3.) Staff Report October 15, 2010 – November 14, 2010.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Kowalski and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the staff report for the period of October 15, 2010 through November 14, 2010. Motion carried.

Moving to item 4a.) Budget/Staffing Update – Mr. Morrisette reported regarding the budget. He said he did transmit electronically a copy of Governor Rell's transition budget as was released a couple weeks back to you. We've also included a fresh copy with the applicable pages in distribution to you this morning. I don't know what level of discussion you want to have. Obviously, this is a transitional budget. It's something that is not necessarily going to be adopted in part, in whole, but essentially it provides a framework for the new administration in terms of what the projected revenues are and what the projected expenditures will be based upon current services and other issues. As noted in the electronic mail that I had sent out earlier is, as part of the package there was a proposal within the document to essentially merge POST and the Fire Commission as a group. That is just part of the initial statement on page 11 of the document. You know, again, there's no specific dollar figure available in terms of savings specified for that particular merger, but it's lumped in with elimination of a number of agencies and offices throughout state government, as well as potential mergers, et cetera, throughout state service. I did have a discussion with the executive director of POST last week regarding this to see if he had any idea in terms of the origination of this proposal. He did not. Jokingly, he stated that he thought it was a power grab on the part of the Fire Service, you know, and I mentioned we thought the same thing; it was a power grab on the part of law enforcement. But, you know, we both agree. We both share the same budget analyst within the Office of Policy and Management, and I did put a call in immediately to that person who as of yesterday had not returned the call. I finally did reach back out to him again, and at that time he basically stated that he wasn't in a position to share any details with me and basically that it was awaiting essentially a meeting with the new administration talking about transition issues. He thought that may have occurred late -- mid last week and he would check to see if he could get back to me, which at the end of yesterday he did. And his basic statement was, where, again, in the budget does that show up? So, again, that's our budget analyst. He wasn't even aware that that proposed merger was in the document. When I pressed him a little bit more, you know, I said, do you recall discussions, or are there any detailed documents related? Because if you look further into the budget, transition budget document, there's really no impact to personnel



or budgets. And, you know, basically, his statement was, that there were just general discussions about agency elimination, mergers, consolidation, et cetera, and this was just a concept that had come up; and, again, at his level, he was not even aware that it actually made it into the transition document. So, you know, again, we kind of parted ways to keep each other informed as issues were brought to light. One positive thing I can say regarding the transition budget relates to the proposed capital budget which is very important to us. We haven't had any capital facility money in a number of years. You can recall probably about two bienniums ago through an accident on the part of the legislature, specific funding for our agency for improvements to the CPAT facility as well as improvements to the Connecticut Fire Academy facility were accidentally left off the final appropriations document, so we never got that funding. But within this proposal, at least -- essentially, the majority of the money that we have requested -- other than improvements to the CPAT facility -- were fulfilled in whole, and it also appears that the capital equipment money, which, my understanding, none was appropriated in the last biennium, there's also proposed funding for that, as well, which is very important because we're knocking on the door to some significant equipment, capital equipment, replacement, specifically fire apparatus. So that's pretty much an update in regard to the transition budget. It's just that; it's a framework. It's something for a new administration to step off with, and where they take it from there is really, you know, unknown. I'm sure there'll be, you know, discussions going on daily in terms of, you know, the health and welfare of state government agencies as a whole. So I'd be happy -- I'll try to answer any questions, but I don't have a lot of details at the present time.

Chairman Carozza asked any questions?

Commissioner Nicol said talking about that capital equipment; I see you had a note in your administrative report that it got rejected, and are you going to refile that or not?

Mr. Morrisette said that's something separate. That's actually capital equipment purchase funding, which was actually approved two years ago.

Commissioner Nicol said Okay.

Mr. Morrisette said we have to submit a document, a request for an allotment of the bond funds, which I did submit, and it was kicked back. I've utilized the same format for, you know, 15-plus years. We've never had a problem. OPM did ask for more specificity in terms of the equipment. I think they're tracking things a little bit closer than what they used to do. Basically, what we used to do is ask for the allotment and then we would essentially hold that money within the agency, and as equipment, these replacement issues, came up, we would address those. It may be nothing like what we proposed because, obviously, there's always bringing down emergencies that come about that we have to address that kind of reprioritize themselves by themselves. So, I did resubmit in more specificity to OPM last week, and we're just awaiting that approval, again, because the concern would be if it's not allotted, again, those funds could be swept come January. So we want to get them allotted to the agency, and hopefully -- I know one of the pieces of replacement equipment that we're looking at was actually only on state contract, I

think 'til the end of this month. So, you know, again, I don't know if there's another possibility to get an extension on that, but, again, we can't do anything until we have the funds allotted.

Commissioner Nicol said thank you.

Chairman Carozza asked if any other questions?

Commissioner Mitchell said because there was a comment here regarding mergers, should the Commission be taking some proactive stance as opposed to waiting for it to drop? I don't know your thoughts, your ideas?

Chairman Carozza said well, I have -- I reached out to the Governor-elect, and we've actually -- we're trying to put together a meeting of not only members here at the Academy but the entire Fire Service. So that was my suggestion to the other leaders of the Fire Service; that we all sit with the Governor-elect as a group, and certainly these types of issues should be discussed with him. We'll hopefully do that within the next week or so.

Commissioner Nicol said sounds good to me.

Commissioner Kowalski said I think a lot of that -- and, Jeff, correct me if I'm wrong -- a lot of this, this was out already. The essential dissolution of the Fire Commission would have to be done legislatively, so it's really not a small task. It's not a matter of sweeping divisions together. It would be a matter of having a proposal to legislatively eliminate it. So I think we have enough time to facilitate some meetings prior to and maybe down the road depending on what the Chair talks about after his meetings, maybe talk to the Co-Chair of Public Safety and say, okay, this is what the potential is, and we'd really like to protect the integrity of the Commission. So that move, I think, will be the best thing to do down the road, and that session is opening in February; so we'll talk about it in the January time frame, I would assume.

Mr. Morrisette said I think the bottom line is everything is on the table, but we've looked at the scope of the problem with the State budget -- and everything is certainly on the table. You know, I don't know that we would be immune to that, although what I try to communicate when people ask me the question is, while there's always room for improvement, in speaking with agency heads and other people in other agencies, I mean, they have difficulty supplying paper and pens for their employees. You know, from that standpoint, we've been, you know, in a very fortunate position to be able to continue operations. While the stress level has certainly increased upon the employees, and, obviously, people are doing a lot more with less, you know, we certainly are fulfilling most of the requests, maybe not as quickly as we would like to, but, you know. So from that perspective, we are certainly not part of the problem. We have not caused the State budget crisis, and if you look at our total budget, probably more than 40 percent of our agency budget does not directly impact this agency. It's grants to others. So if you really look at our budget, we are a drop in the overall bucket, and what we do very well is we

leverage all of our private funds, our fees and tuitions, to actually provide very good services with very little money. So, if anything, we should be looked at as a model of efficiency, with the caveat there's always room for improvement, and we know what those areas are; and we could certainly be part of the solution. We are not part of the problem.

Commissioner Kowalski said one last item on follow-up with what Mr. Morrisette is saying is what may happen is what happened -- some of the older members here will remember. When Governor Weicker took office and we were in the precursors of the income tax, they had it set up they were going to sweep all our outstanding accounts right in and then make it at the end of the year, sweep it every year. So it was a revenue producer. And we went to see the Governor that year, and we were pretty forceful and we were able to maintain this account; and I think probably we'll have to do the same thing again. But they don't need legislation for that, so that would be -- it's an enticing amount of money even though it's just a drop, but, still, every little bit counts when they start to sweep things up. So that could impact our operation substantially.

Chairman Carozza said any further questions or discussion? Thank you.

Mr. Morrisette said just a quick staffing update, as well. As all of you are aware, we do have three full-time vacancies at present, starting with the Secretary I from this past July; the Fiscal Administrative Officer, which has been downgraded to a Fiscal Administrative Assistant position with the death of Ed Bycenski; and, finally, with Tom McGowan's resignation a little more than a month ago or so, the Fire Service Analyst / Director of Certification position. We do have approval for refill on the Secretary I and the FAA; again, it got downgraded to FAA. Interviews were done for the Secretary I. They did come up with a candidate that they would like to hire, and we're still kind of in a waiting pattern with that because there are some other issues that have crept up. The FAA position, there were 21 applicants for that position, which I think I narrowed it down to about seven for interviews which we'd like to schedule probably within the next five to ten business days. And then, finally, the Fire Service Analyst position, which I do not have refill authority as of yet. Ed O'Hurley has graciously stepped in to be the point of contact for that agency, or for that specific division and I appreciate him stepping up to the plate and kind of carrying on the duties and roles of that particular office. Again, from a timing standpoint, it couldn't happen at worse time just because this is a very busy time within the Certification Division, so there are a lot of issues that are ongoing.

Lastly, we did advertise for sixteen vacancies for adjuncts, eight in Training and eight in Certification, which my understanding is there's a lot of interest in those positions, and those have been long kind of outstanding that we've been trying to get established for well over a year. So, with that, there's a lot of flux, you know, a lot of transition issues. Again, the timing is very difficult. We'd like to make do with what we have and try to address them as quickly as we possibly can, because, again, when the new administration comes in, there could be a halt on any new positions; there could be further delays, et cetera.

Chairman Carozza said any questions or discussion?

Moving to Item 4b.) CSFA Education Committee Report.- Commissioner Nicol said since the last Commission meeting, the Education Committee met on October 28th, in New Haven at the New Haven Regional Fire School. Project Manager Don Ouillette reported that the State was scheduled to close on the Eastern Connecticut Fire School property next week, which was a week after our meeting. Don recommended that representatives of the Eastern Connecticut Fire School schedule an informational meeting with local town officials to discuss any local concerns regarding their proposed school. Representatives of the Valley Chiefs School Committee met with the Beacon Falls town officials this past week. Don indicated that the Beacon Falls site is now owned by the State. Don indicated that the Memorandum of Understanding for the Burrville and Fairfield sites should be sent out soon. The next bonding meeting should be held in early December. Don indicated that the New Haven School reconstruction was going well. The Hartford Fire School low bid was BDF Construction Company at 3.6 million. The estimated project bid was 4.2 million. General discussion was held regarding the Haz-Mat Training Subcommittee meeting that had been held earlier. State Fire Administrator Jeff Morrisette indicated that the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control had agreed at their last meeting to allow students the use of D.O.T. Emergency Response Guide Books during written testing. Mr. Morrisette discussed Commission budget adjustments that will affect the Regional Fire Schools. General discussion was held regarding a letter from the Waterbury Area Fire Chief's Association on the status of the relocation of the Wolcott Regional Fire School to Cheshire. The next meeting will be held on December 2, 2010, at Wethersfield Fire Department Company No. 3.

Chairman Carozza said thank you, are there any questions?

Mr. Morrisette said just one correction. For the name of the low bidder for the Hartford County project is PDS, PDS Construction out of Bloomfield, I believe. Also, just an update on the budget adjustment that Commissioner Nicol had mentioned. I did send, I think, the Commissioners an e-mail out that most of you may be aware that 25 percent of our second quarter allotment was held back by the Governor because at the time there was about a 45-and-a-half million dollar budget deficit for the current fiscal year. Again, you've got to shuffle the deck of cards, but I believe that deficit had gone away; so she did release the other 25 percent of those funds. So the checks were already cut for the Regional Fire Schools, I believe.

Commissioner Stankye said they're all gone.

Mr. Morrisette said the other nice thing about it, too, is 25 percent of our agency allotment was held back for personal services and other expenses, so we were, you know, we were somewhat in dire straits in terms of cash flow, which that kind of helps us out until we get to our third quarter allotment anyway. So that did take place. The last item I did mention I would bring up to Rich Winn, who's the Director of the Burrville Fire School in Torrington, was back several years ago, the Commission had voted to take on the responsibility as the agency of record for any land acquisitions. So, again, the land

acquisitions that have taken place recently for Willimantic as well as for the Beacon Falls location were procured in the name of our agency. We are the holder of that particular land. One of the issues that had come up recently is they're trying to finalize negotiations on the MOU with Department of Environmental Protection for the land in Burrville State Park for the Burrville Fire School, and the question was, Would we be the landholder of record? I did research the Commission minutes. We pretty much spoke about acquiring new land. This is somewhat of a unique situation that it's already State property, but from an MOU perspective it may be of assistance to those negotiating this agreement with DEP that again we be recognized. I think the spirit of the discussion included it at the time, but the actual motion at the time spoke about acquiring properties, not necessarily leases. So, you know, I don't know if we want to take it up under New Business or -- I basically stated to Rich that I did not foresee any difficulties or any opposition on the part of the Commission with fulfilling that role if necessary. He's not gotten back to me if that is actually necessary yet, but I did want to bring it up here in case you want to, you know, propose something a little bit more far-reaching than acquiring new property for Regional Fire Schools to include other properties such as lease situations, what you have at Burrville, or if we just want to go on the spirit of the discussion that took place at the time.

Commissioner Stankye said what about the land that we're leasing now for the Hartford County School? Aren't we part of the lease?

Mr. Morrissette said well, the only agreement right now is that that property is in our name. We only as the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control have care, custody, and control. At the time, I had inquired, those Commissioners who recall, whether this Commission wants me to negotiate some type of an agreement with Hartford County, and at the time, it was, No, let's just rely on a handshake. And that's what we've done for 16-plus years, you know. Is it the best way to operate? Probably not. You know, do they get a good deal? Absolutely, they do. So, again, you know, we can look at that in the future, but the Bradley property lease is in the name of the Commission.

Commissioner Stankye said what about where the CPAT is?

Mr. Morrissette said that, again, is State property. You know, that's not --

Commissioner Stankye said it's still State property?

Mr. Morrissette said yes, it is. It was transferred to our agency by the DOT.

Commissioner Stankye said that's what I'm saying. So we acquired that?

Mr. Morrissette said exactly. So this was just a situation that Burrville has in terms of negotiating an MOU and some type of an agreement with DEP where they call it a "Camper permit" or something. I don't know.

Mr. Morrissette said right.

Commissioner Kowalski said yes. Just as a comment for New Business, perhaps we could add to our verbiage of our previous – modify our previous arrangement to add "assume administrative control," and that way it would clarify that point perhaps? Would that be an acceptable solution to it?

Commissioner Nicol said yes.

Chairman Carozza said any objection?

Commissioner Nicol said just a comment, what about the Wolcott site, also?

Mr. Morrisette said we're just following up with DPW because I have nothing in writing from DPW in regard to the actual -- you know, obviously, it's in legislation that the land was transferred to us, but we have nothing in writing anywhere.

Commissioner Nicol said you have the transfer from Connecticut to the Waterbury Area Fire Chiefs?

Mr. Morrisette said to the Commission.

Commissioner Nicol said to the Commission.

Mr. Morrisette said right, right. So we have nothing in writing for the Beacon Falls per se. I signed the purchase agreement for both facilities, but we've never received anything back in terms of a deed or, you know, any type of documentation that the land is actually ours. DPW is holding those documents. So we just need a copy for our files.

Moving to item 4c.) FY 11 Supplemental Grant Program Update - Mr. Morrisette said we did have some positive movement regarding the Supplemental Grant Program. We had tabled this item for a couple of months, but I did request mutual aid from DAS Small Agency Resource Team to help us process the claims that were outstanding for the Supplemental Grant Program, which they did do. And as of last week, I believe 76 claims for direct payments were paid out to the eligible volunteer fire companies, and I do know -- I did check with one of them who was checking back with us on occasion, where is his money, and he did say he did get the check either last Friday or Saturday. So that is good news. So to date we have 76 payments made to volunteer fire companies eligible. There are 56, or 53 vouchers that have been requested by eligible fire companies, and then no responses from 32 fire companies. There is a list which is in your packages today. I do see representatives of some of the fire companies here, so hopefully we can follow up with any of those. But I think we're in better shape right now than we have been in past years in terms of outstanding claims to date, and I think everybody will be happy with their check, which they should have received last week. So that's the current status of that particular program. And we'll be doing some outreach to the 32 fire companies that we've not heard from, and we'll try to shake the bushes to

make those payouts, again, because there's nothing that says that those funds won't be swept sooner than later.

Chairman Carozza said any questions or discussion?

Moving to item 4d.) FY 11 Entry Level Training Reimbursement Update – Mr. Morrisette said the Entry Level Training Reimbursement, is still on hold. That is our project number two that we're going to be working with DAS. To date, we've had a significant number of certifications take place between last July and the current date, and what we need to do is go in and reconcile the status of all those because I honestly don't know what was paid out and what was not paid out to date; but DAS did indicate that they would assist us with that particular endeavor. Also, we're getting in, as I stated earlier, into the busy season again with testing and certification, so we will want to begin processing those payments as quickly as possible in anticipation of, again, a potential sweep of funds. So that will be ongoing probably over the next 30 to 60 days to make any payouts. Eligibility as approved by this body and the policy is that they're eligible up to one year from date of certification, so there may be some cleanup we have to do that reaches back into it. If people don't let us know that they've retested, then we really don't have a way to go in and really verify. If this program exists next year, what I would almost propose is an overhaul of this, that there is no pre-approval, is that if people are certified that the application comes in to us as we make payment. I think we're doing double-duty right now. The reason we did that was valid up front. We were afraid that we wouldn't have enough money to pay out all the claims. It's actually to the contrary -- we're giving money back every year -- so I think we'll be able to keep closer tabs with a policy shift next fiscal year if there is funding for that particular program.

Chairman Carozza said any questions?

Moving to item 4e.) Fire Police Training Update – Mr. Morrisette said Commissioner Brady has chaired a subcommittee. He is not here today, but Victor Mitchell was present in a meeting that we did have last week with the Fire Police Association.

Commissioner Mitchell said we met last Tuesday. It was a very, very positive meeting. One of their trainers, Greg Webster, shared his PowerPoint and what they do for training, and I think when all is said and done, we're all basically the same. I think we've always been facing the same direction, but I think now everybody knows we're facing the same direction. Some of those ideas we'll massage with the training we're doing now. So, again, I think we've definitely moved very forward with all this. They still want to have input. They still want to see what's going on over here. They're still somewhat of a stakeholder from the Association's point of view, but I think we've definitely turned a corner. They're not here, so. Well, Jim's here.

Mr. Belote said I just want to thank the Commission for their work in enhancing communication between the two groups. I think it's very important that the Fire Police get representation, but I also think it's a valuable asset, especially with our State disaster plan, because no community in this state will have enough police officers in a large

disaster, and by incorporating the Fire Police -- and right now I'm in the process of sending our constitution bylaws to the Secretary of State to get a change from a training organization to a responding organization so we can fold into the Disaster Plan Group that I sit on through the Academy with Bill Higgins.

Chairman Carozza said anything further?

Mr. Morrissette said I don't know if Mr. Piskura has any more to offer, just from the training side of the meeting. You know, I think the only point I wanted to make was, we tried to reinforce the fact that we're not looking to make any changes to the Traffic Control for Emergency Responders curriculum. We're trying to standardize that across all response disciplines. I think what we heard from the Fire Police was more so that they really -- there are other related duties, other duties, that Fire Police do that they're really looking for the stamp of the Academy on the training. They obviously do the training currently -- and, as was mentioned, Greg Webster does have a very nice program that he did share with us -- but they -- they value, I guess, the recognition or the -- the curriculum as presented by this body, so.

Mr. Piskura said in the future when it looks like it's going to become a certification course, it will have to be -- it'll have to follow the path of every certification course, be taught by a Certified Fire Service Instructor I. There are some skills involved in addition to the cognitive end of it. So, that's the future. So as the course is fleshed out now, then it is going to follow that, that obligation that we have to fulfill the standards. Through this meeting that occurred, that we will try to incorporate their concepts in a separate stand-alone chapter that will meet their expectations, but, again, that wouldn't necessarily be part of a future certification course. It's optional -- it could be taught; it doesn't have to be taught -- but I think it's a win-win for everybody that we'll be able to pick up the pieces of both what the [our] obligation and the expectations are and what theirs are and meld them into one document that can be separated if the person using it wants to separate it; and we're empowering people to go use this document, as we do with many of our curriculums.

Chairman Carozza said thank you. Anything further?

Moving to item 4f.) DOD/DOD Contractor Certification - Mr. Morrissette said this was tabled last month. I don't know if there's been any additional discussion on it. I know, Mr. Lewandowski, you had, I think, requested through Commissioner Nelson to table this particular item. I did hear back from John Brady, because I think he was kind of chairing that group also as to whether there were any further discussions since that time.

Mr. Lewandowski said yes, we met and came up with some recommended language, and I sent them off to Mr. Piskura. I do apologize for not getting back to the Commission. The month went by rather quickly, so, kind of a blur, so it didn't get out to everyone.

A VOICE: What are the crossed-off lines, Mark?



Mr. Lewandowski said the crossed-off lines -- basically, anything in bold was something that we'd like to recommend be added in there or be considered as a point of discussion. The crossed-off lines are stuff that, just, we feel could be removed, and that's kind of a draft of what we came up with. Obviously, one -- it's kind of ironic, because back a few months ago, as Mr. Morrissette alluded to, looking to hire instructors for both training and certification -- in some of our programs we do run short on having qualified people to teach the program -- Bill Trisler approached me and asked me if I would be a Fire Service Instructor. He said, Listen, I know there's some great teachers out there, but they're not certified as a Fire Service Instructor. Can we use those? I said, I really don't know. I went to Tom McGowan at that time, and his response was, as long as they work in conjunction with a certified Fire Service Instructor, they -- that work would be okay. But it's somewhat like an EMS program where you have an EMSI who oversees the program and you may have an EMT that teaches that program. So it's kind of the same thing. And then this came out, which is kind of all conversely different. So our belief is that if someone's doing training, a Fire Service Instructor should be signing off for them, and we shouldn't just allow anybody to do that because it's down-watering our program as the Fire Service. You can't go to POST unless we merge, that you can't go in there and sign off for a police officer. You can't sign off for EMS unless you have the credentials to do so. I believe that's what the intent of these NFPA programs is. As far as other people needing to get certified, the NFPA sets standards for us in the Fire Service, not for EMS, not for police or anyone else. There are -- however, we do recognize direct-entry programs that do allow for people to come off the street and do that without being attached to the Fire Service, but I think we should watch what we do with that. For example, I know that Hazardous Materials was one that came up when you're aware it's an operational. Police officers do not need to be certified in EMT training to competently do their duties. So, again, the certification applies -- the NFPA Standard applies to the Fire Service, not EMS or not anything else out there. There are applicable standards for those such as, you know, EMS training for, or Operational Training for EMS Responders, stuff that's totally different than what they would do if they were firefighters. So, again, that's kind of some of our thought process behind that and looking at this and giving everyone the ability to certify coming off the street. Lastly, I do recognize -- and I did talk with Commissioner Nelson about it. I do recognize other disciplines do need to get this training, but our belief is its competency training under OSHA law, not under the NFPA. Again, the NFPA is for us, and, as I said, we need -- at least from where I'm sitting -- we need to keep those standards pure to us. That's no different -- again, the police, fire, EMS, those disciplines, we have to follow their rules and regulations to fit in, and I believe the same applies here, because, again, competency-based training for those people. And that's what they require, versus us requiring certified standards to do our job.

Commissioner Kowalski?

Commissioner Kowalski said yeah, I appreciate the input and the overview of this change. I would like to suggest that we table this for one more month and bring it back to the constituents to see what impact it will make. Probably not much, but I think it would be worthwhile to take a look at this before adopting it.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Kowalski and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mitchell to table this item. Motion carried.

Commissioner Nelson said could I recommend we have another meeting on this with that same committee and Mr. Lewandowski so that we can go -- I have a lot of questions on what we see here.

Chairman Carozza said sure.

Mr. Lewandowski said and I do apologize for the timeliness of it. Again, the month just caught up with me, so again I apologize for that.

Moving to item 5a.) 2011 Commission Meeting Proposed Schedule- Mr. Morrissette said I believe you have before you a proposed schedule for 2011 which Yvonne Lewis has distributed.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Kowalski and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stankye to approve the proposed 2011 meeting schedule. Motion carried.

Chairman Carozza said item b, we took care of. Any further New Business?

Commissioner Kowalski said yes. I would like to amend our existing motion. I don't know. Was it a motion?

Mr. Morrissette said yes. Unfortunately, I don't have a copy of it with me here. It's right on my desk. So if you'll give me five minutes, I'll return and grab it. I don't have the exact verbiage here. I do know Al Hawkins and Commissioner Nicol and I did review the document, or the motion, originally and felt that there was enough flexibility in it to, if necessary, allow the Commission to be the deed-holder, if you will, or the property-holder of record, in any type of an agreement with DEP; but, you know, from my perspective, I thought it was still necessary to bring it forth because that particular example wasn't shared when we first discussed it ten years ago.

Commissioner Kowalski said how about if we amend our policy to "assume administrative control over existing and future" as opposed to "operational control," and that's what I want to make clear. It's not an operational control factor, it's an administrative control factor, and I think that that's important to give you the authorization to do that.

Commissioner Stankye said I don't see any problem with that. I think it's cleaner that way. The schools are still going to run.

Commissioner Kowalski said right. And operational control --

Mr. Morrissette said regardless of whether the land was purchased or leased or --

Commissioner Kowalski said correct.

Mr. Morrisette said -- or other -- other agreements.

Chairman Carozza said you want to put that in a motion?

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Kowalski and **SECONDED** by Commission Stankye that we amend our current policy to include the assumption of administrative control over all properties. Motion carried.

Chairman Carozza said discussion?

Commissioner Mitchell said when you say "property," what do you mean?

Commissioner Kowalski said well, we have properties that are coming before the organization.

Commissioner Mitchell said you're talking land?

Commissioner Kowalski said yes.

Commissioner Mitchell said or are we talking fire trucks? Equipment?

Mr. Morrisette said land.

Commissioner Mitchell said just land. Because somebody is going to say you're going to buy us new fire trucks.

Commissioner Kowalski said all real property.

Commissioner Hilbert said this has been vetted by the Education Committee, and this is also their suggestion? Because I don't want to take action by this body that is going to be contrary to what the Education Committee would like.

Mr. Morrisette said well, it hasn't been put to them. The original action by this Commission has been vetted through, and they're well aware of it --

Commissioner Hilbert said sure.

Mr. Morrisette said -- and it's been in place ever, you know, what year it was actually --

Commissioner Hilbert said right.

Mr. Morrisette said -- voted upon, but we did research. We did find the actual motion, et cetera. The Chair of the Education Committee felt that the current language was

adequate to deal with the current Burrville situation. I personally was not as comfortable as he was and just thought it would be appropriate to bring it before this group. I wasn't anticipating any problems. I think we want to step forward where we can be of assistance in any negotiation. I think the only other issue I would have; I think Kevin used the word "all properties"?

Commissioner Kowalski said I used "all properties."

Mr. Morrissette said the only concern there would be is that some of the properties, i.e., New Haven, Fairfield, Stamford, are city-owned, so in that light, I don't think they would be pleased with that.

Commissioner Hilbert said I would just like to avoid members of the Education Committee being here en masse at our next meeting because of action we've taken today, that's all.

Mr. Morrissette said I'm just trying to make it cleaner and appropriate. It's not a power grab or a land grab.

Commissioner Hilbert said sure, I -- no, understood.

Mr. Morrissette said it's to assist them in acquiring property --

Commissioner Hilbert said absolutely.

Mr. Morrissette said -- in a timely manner.

Chairman Carozza said Commissioner Kowalski?

Commissioner Kowalski said how about if we "assume administrative control over all state-owned real estate"?

Mr. Morrissette said owned or occupied.

Commissioner Kowalski said owned or occupied. I was not trying to make it too complicated.

Commissioner Hilbert said let me understand a little clearer. One option is not to do anything -- what did you call it, "spirit," comments. So one option is not to do anything - - we pretty much captured it already -- and the other option is to assist you by clarifying what is in place?

Mr. Morrissette said right.

Commissioner Hilbert said okay.

Mr. Morrisette said you know, a lot of times when something's in statute, I'll have to go to the State Library and get the legislative history because I want to see the discussion that took place on the floor because that's very telling in terms of the intent.

Commissioner Hilbert said sure.

Mr. Morrisette said you know, you might not read the intent in the actual statute, so, you know, that's something that I do on occasion. So this is not in statute, so I'm just trying to look at what our intent was; and there was really no discussion regarding, you know, a potential lease issue. It was more buying the land, I believe.

Commissioner Nicol said I think that, you know, a lot of us probably are new on -- or some of us, I'm sure -- are new on the Commission when this originally was discussed. And correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Morrisette, but the history on this thing was when we got into the regional, you know, the reconstruction of the regional schools, the State was, you know, did not want to -- they wanted to be a stakeholder in the property before they put money into any property, any schools. So the question was who would be the holder of the property. At one point, it was discussed that the Comptroller's Office was under consideration.

Mr. Morrisette said yes. DPW, Comptroller.

Commissioner Nicol said what's that?

Mr. Morrisette said DPW, Comptroller's Office. There were several.

Commissioner Nicol said DPW didn't -- you know, they wanted to be the holder. The other option was the Comptroller's Office, and, of course, there was the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control. And, you know, our agency was probably the best one to be the holder of that property, and that's how we got to where we are today. So, that's why, I guess, you know, if there's some loophole in the . . . (trailing).

Mr. Morrisette said I think it's just a clarification that --

Commissioner Nicol said clarification.

Mr. Morrisette said that it would include lease properties, and I'll be happy to send out the full discussion and the motion as was presented whatever year that was.

Commissioner Nicol said I think also -- to answer your question, I think also the people involved with the Education Committee when the discussion took place several years ago were well aware of the background.

Mr. Morrisette said yes, they approved that action.

Commissioner Hilbert said I just see us struggling with the language a little bit with this motion, and I want to make sure that we don't offend any of the other interested parties that are stakeholders in this, that's all.

Chairman Carozza said Commissioner Kowalski?

Commissioner Kowalski said I concur, and perhaps -- we have an Education Committee meeting coming up in a couple days. Perhaps we should -- let me rescind my motion if the second will.

Commissioner Stankye said I'll rescind.

Commissioner Kowalski said we can give them an opportunity in a couple days to make sure that they're comfortable with that language and understanding the purpose is solely for administrative tasks versus an operational task. We don't want to have anybody misconstruing that.

Mr. Morrisette said and before the end of the day, I'll ship you out a copy of what took place, so.

Commissioner Kowalski said maybe we can give it a month to come up with appropriate language instead of off-the-cuff.

Chairman Carozza said Commissioner Mitchell?

Commissioner Mitchell said that's not going to affect these pending MOU's, is it, by delaying this or tabling this?

Mr. Morrisette said I don't know if it -- Mr. Winn hasn't gotten back to me with a status update. I said if we can help in any way, we're certainly available, so.

Commissioner Mitchell said I know they want to move on these.

Mr. Morrisette said right, yes.

Commissioner Mitchell said because it's been a long -- long in coming, you know they were supposed to be processed like a month or -- or two months ago, I think.

Chairman Carozza said if there's no objection, we'll table this until the next meeting. Any questions? Okay. Thank you.

Moving to item 6.) Comments from the public -- There were none.

Moving to item 7.) Matters to be raised by Commissioners and Staff -- Chairman Carozza said any matters to be raised by Commissioners and Staff?

Commissioner Nicol said yes. The issue that I just want to put on the table here is -- and it's only come up in the last couple years -- and it's the issue of texting. In fact, I talked to the Administrator a little bit about that. The reason why I'm bringing it up is the issue of texting during our training programs, all right? I'm not sure -- I guess -- I don't believe we have a current policy on it, and I'm wondering --

Mr. Morrissette said well, aside from the testing side, they're not allowed to utilize any type of communications equipment.

Commissioner Nicol said but it just seems that, you know, I bring it up to be proactive on it rather than having something occur that -- where we might have to take some action on it. I'm not suggesting that we take an action, but it's something to think about maybe, that we should maybe give some thought to. Maybe Adam has some thoughts on it, you know, for instance, what's done at the National Fire Academy. There are some exercises I can think of that probably texting, or training programs, would not -- students sitting in the classroom texting might not be a problem, but there are some exercises and training sessions where I think it might be a problem. For instance, if you're doing group exercises, I don't think it's fair to have a student sitting in a -- you know, you break a class up of twenty people. So if you put four or five people to develop some type of a project, they're working on an exercise in a classroom, and [you] have one or two students sitting in there texting messages on a cell phone when other people are trying to put a project together. The other thing is, when you're sitting in a lecture hall and the instructor's giving a lecture and he's asking -- he might be asking questions of some of the students to see how well they're getting the information that they're discussing, and you have a student sitting there not listening to what he's saying, he or she is saying -- they're texting on the phone -- and then he asks for a question or he points to somebody to ask them a question, they have no idea maybe what he's talking about. It could affect our classes, and that's why I bring the issue up. Thank you.

Chairman Carozza said Commissioner Kowalski?

Commissioner Kowalski said I think that there is a place for maybe considering some type of policy. However, I think in some of the contexts that you're talking about now, it's strictly an instructor situation where the instructor has to have control over his classroom and mandate or have certain policies within this operation, to say you're not going to use -- no more than if he would be on the phone, or no more than he'd be sitting there doing other things before the texting issue. I know that -- it's throughout the whole industry the texting thing is coming up, and I agree with what you said. There probably should be some type of policy, especially involving the testing protocol, which I'm sure there is. The problem is, it's really getting to the point where the instructor has to manage his class, is really what he has to do, instead of developing more policies, but I agree with being proactive. I'm just thinking at this particular point in time, you know, being an instructor, you know, you have to manage your class. You have to make sure you tell them, Get off the text, get off the machine, you know, I mean, come to the classroom.

Chairman Carozza said Adam?

Mr. Piskura said first of all, we do have a policy and it is in writing and it's about the instructors. They're supposed to make an announcement if you've got a cell phone device, put it on vibrate. As far as texting goes, they're allowed to receive text or phone calls, but they're supposed to leave the room in a quiet fashion. Again, it goes back to what Commissioner Kowalski said, the instructor's got to maintain control of the classroom. I'm amazed the complaints I get it's my instructors that are texting in front of the classroom.

Mr. Piskura said I mean, sure, it's funny now, but you get the complaint; and it's a legitimate complaint. We've got instructors that text and take phone calls while they're teaching the class. I mean, it's not rampant -- and it's addressed when it's brought to our attention -- but the point is, this is society. This is our culture. My personal feeling is I'd collect them at the door, and if I did that, I'd probably lose two-thirds of the class because they'll go, Fine, I won't take the class. And that's what I believe would happen. The whole cultural shift of our student base is that they multitask when they're doing their communications. When they're on a computer, they're not just on a computer, they're IMing, they've got -- so they have three or four different functions going simultaneously communicating with three or four -- they're blogging; they're talking to friends. All this stuff is happening simultaneous. When you look at the television programs that are broadcast and there's a video, then there's a trailer going from left to right and one going from right to left, that's not for me because I can't watch that stuff. I can watch the video or I can watch one of the trailers. These kids are watching all of that stuff simultaneous. I can't do it. You know good for them, they can, but the point is, if we try to police that and shut that down, they're not going to participate in the class; and these are conversations I've had with them. So we've got to deal with the technology and the communications bombarding this as they manifest themselves, and it's a real problem. And the biggest problem, I think, for the Fire Service community, not training and education, is, it's the camera stuff at an emergency scene. You're picking up national things everywhere, whether it is a law enforcement officer I just recently read about taking a picture of a situation we had here in our state. It happens everywhere in the United States, and there are policies on that, you know: Don't take pictures, you know, of some emergency scene. Better yet, don't carry the device. You've got so many of these devices being carried by first responders, that they're bringing all their personal communication devices with them, and that, again, is, What's your policy? What's your policy on that, and do you enforce the policy? So, it's -- it's -- yes, we have a policy. It doesn't say, don't do it. It says, don't do it obtrusively. And, again, if there's somebody sitting in the classroom and they're texting and they're listening or appear to be listening and they might be reading a book and looking at that, maybe they are doing all those things at once. I'm old school. It's not going to be me, but I have to bow to the subsequent generations.

Chairman Carozza said Mark, did you have any thoughts about that?

Mr. Lewandowski said again, I was just going to add we see a lot of students bringing their personal laptops. Instead of handwriting notes, they take it down on a computer,



you know. So, again, just echoing Adam's thing, there's a lot of different ways that these kids learn nowadays. It's something that pretty much all of us seem unaccustomed to, and, again, we have to adapt. I agree with what Commissioner Kowalski said. The instructor's up there to manage the class. If they can't do it, shame on them. And you know what else? If the guy wants to sit there and miss half the class, miss half the class, but, you know, when you're outside working for me, you'll make up for it. Bottom line, run the class.

Chairman Carozza said any other discussion? Any other matters to be raised by the Commissioners?

Commissioner Ross said I just wanted to give a heads-up to the members of the Commission that back in October the Code of Ethics Subcommittee and the Task Group is chairing a working group to study the international residential code relative to residential sprinklers. To date, we're at about 37 stakeholders that are going to be at the table being part of this discussion, so that should be fun sharing that. But if you have interest in it, there's going to be a report put out on behalf of it in the next couple months. They may reach out to the Academy to use the space for at least one event, maybe two. We're going to need to deal with the kind of training and education people that are going to be part of this working group, but that issue is being discussed. It is somewhat of a passionate issue on both sides of the fence. I don't expect this to be a 90-day committee. There's a lot of work to be done, research and evaluation, to come up with a recommendation back to the subcommittee as to what would the effect be in Connecticut if this was implemented and what the State would need to do in regulations and licensing and that sort of thing.

Commissioner Dagon said I just have a few questions. Is the group going to propose legislation, or -- is that its ultimate goal, to be a support group that might support legislation?

Commissioner Ross said no. The way it's tasked right now is to take a recommendation by the State Building Inspector, as well as the IRC language, and to study it and to come up with a recommendation, or report back to the subcommittee, to say: If this is adopted in Connecticut, this is what would need to be done as far as the licensing of plumbers, any legislative or regulatory changes that would need to be done, anything that's going to be impacted on that, if there's anything on the supply and demand side. There's a number of different ways this has to be looked at -- respect to water supply, you know, backflow prevention to emerging technologies that potentially would eliminate some of these questions.

Commissioner Dagon said thank you.

Chairman Carozza said Commissioner Kowalski.

Commissioner Kowalski said yes. And as a representative of the Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association, while we acknowledge this organization is going to be studying

this as a new concept, a lot of our data will be coming back from what we've been studying for since the 1990's. We have a lot of the documents to date, so we may go on to another task -- may -- depending on the Board of Directors, to look at legislation, legislative change, to allow it. This is pretty much the same track as you may -- back in 1985 when the proposal was for signal station smoke detectors in single-family homes, and the people were against that at the time because of the cost factors and because they were going to be putting home builders out of business and people weren't going to be able to buy homes at that time. So what happened was there was an amendment made to the General Statute to provide for smoke detectors in all single-family homes. We're doing quite well. The fact of the matter is, nationwide we can see the results of that through lower fire deaths, no question. So while DPS is going on the study side of things, which is understandable, the Connecticut Fire Marshal may be going on a separate task in which we would seek -- actually, the changes that we were having, looking at setting up separate meetings with the chiefs and organizations and all the other organizations to set up support for that. And Rob is fully aware of what we're doing, so it's not as though there's a lot of secrets. They're very welcome.

Chairman Carozza said okay. We could either retire for a break or we could just adjourn.

Mr. Morrisette said I just want to check with Ed O'Hurley. I know we've been dealing with a lot of housekeeping issues within the Certification Division I wanted to bring to your attention. One of the issues which really seems to be increasing in activity is requests for extensions on examinations, because there are so many moving parts, especially to our Firefighter I exam today with the addition of the Haz-Mat components and whatnot, people are maybe failing their first time around or failing a component of the exam, and, again, because of time delays and just the entire process, they could be bumping up against a one-year time limit which is normally allowed. So basically what we've been trying to use is discretion at the present time and granting extensions as we see fit; very similar to those familiar with the Fire Marshal certification, recertification, continuing education, is that, you know, the Fire Marshal Training Council does have some flexibility and latitude and discretion in terms of extensions. So that's one of the major issues. I don't know what others that you may [have]?

Mr. O'Hurley said another couple things. When we first started doing these Firefighter I Haz-Mat Ops, okay, it was an internal policy, and it stated that if you fail any one of the four, you have to take all four over again, okay? It's really fallen the same place as the different rescue programs. If you fail the practical end of a program, it's very difficult for you to get another date because they're few and far between. So what we did was after a period of time, if a person still could not get away with failing the operation or the awareness, we set them aside and give them another test individually. Again, it's creating chaos within our Certification Division. Just this weekend alone we have five practicals, three written. We are going to be touching almost 200 students this one weekend, and it's Firefighter I/Firefighter II Haz-Mat Ops and a couple other things. I'm getting my feet wet, so it's just -- I'm not going to bring anything to the Board right now, but I'm going to talk to Jeff. We have a couple policies. I would like to forgive. I know the NFPA

requires Haz-Mat Awareness and Ops for Firefighter I. I would like to have that removed until they complete the Firefighter I portion, take the test, then you move into the Haz-Mat Awareness and Ops. I think it's a better flow. I think a large majority of people will pass, okay? It's just food for thought, gentlemen. It's nothing, you know, but right now, like Jeff said, we are giving out a lot of extensions because of the situation. And so far, it's worked pretty good, but we have to make a change.

Commissioner Kowalski said just a question -- and if you want, you can jump in any time and comment -- has that point been brought to the Education Committee at all?

Mr. Morrissette said no. We just had that discussion recently.

Commissioner Kowalski said that may be something that -- maybe that will change some of the operational things on these Fire I's and Fire II classes.

Commissioner Stankye said Jeff, you can correct me -- maybe I'm wrong -- we have a subcommittee on the Education Committee that has been meeting regarding that. That's been a constant complaint, that the Haz-Mat is a big headache.

Mr. Morrissette said yes. I think what they wanted to see is, let's introduce the Emergency Response Guidebooks as you have agreed to with the written exams. We've already begun the flow of that process. The first exams, I think, are just taking place this week with the ERGs. Ultimately, as I had discussed last meeting, is I'd like to take the ERGs out of the written exam and just have it as a mandatory practical. The logistics involved in toting around books statewide, shipping them, getting them back, reviewing them, it's just, you know, we don't have the people or the time. So, you know, instead of sending out 50 books, we could have three books at a practical, and then you're essentially evaluating the same skills. You know, it is a skill. So, you know, again, we'll go through the cycle of exams that are in process now, but ultimately, you know, I think we'd like to, as was proposed last time around, is just integrate it as part of the practical. I think it'll be easier and it'll be more appropriate in terms of evaluating the learning. But, again, as we promised, we are doing that, and we'll look to see the feedback in terms of the results over the next couple of months.

Chairman Carozza said thank you. Anything further?

Commissioner Mitchell said are we going to be meeting in December?

Chairman Carozza said I want to talk to Tad Traytor (phonetic) about that. We'll let you know as soon as possible. Motion to adjourn?

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

Chairman Carozza adjourned the meeting at 11:04 am.

Dated:

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Charles M. Stankye, Jr., Secretary