



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



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**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2010 MEETING OF
THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

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

Staff members, Jeffrey J. Morrisette, State Fire Administrator; James Carroll, Program Manager; Stephen Coulon, Adjunct Instructor; Mark Lewandowski, Deputy Director of Training; Yvonne Lewis, Executive Secretary; Eric Munsell, Program Manager; Adam Piskura, Director of Training; William Trisler, Program Manager were present.

Attendees took a moment to pledge allegiance to the flag.

Chairman Carozza called on State Fire Administrator Morrisette for the Introduction of guests.

Mr. Morrisette said for a point of information, some of our Commissioners may be surprised to see a Stenographer here with us this morning. Due to our staffing challenges we are exploring this as a possible remedy to assist us in more quickly compiling our meeting minutes to ensure compliance with Freedom of Information requirements.

Mr. Morrisette said at this point, he will ask for self-introduction of guests.

Guests to the meeting were identified as, Jim Belote, First Vice President, Connecticut Fire, Police Association (CFPA); Carl J. Catalanotto, President, CFPA; Michael Egan, Secretary, CFPA; Stephen Verbil, Department of Public Safety (DPS)/Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET).

Chairman Carozza extended a welcome to guests and called on Mr. Morrisette for a staff recognition.

Mr. Morrisette said to begin this morning's meeting; we would like to make a special staff recognition presentation, which he turned over to Director of Training Piskura for some background.

Mr. Piskura said most of you know that the majority of the Academy's programs are delivered through Adjuncts. We currently have approximately 200 Adjuncts on the books. They go through a very arduous and rigorous selection process, and what we're looking for is not only their ability to teach, but certainly their subject matter expertise. That's why they're employed but sometimes they go beyond our expectations; they go beyond the expectations of our students. Certainly, that's appreciated and when known is acknowledged. A fairly recent event was brought to our attention that one of our instructors recognized a particular abnormality in the student body and pursued what was the root cause of that and then actually offered to make certain connections to mitigate the circumstances. He said this is no where within our

expectations of what these instructors are employed to do, and we greatly appreciate not only this person having that ability to make a reference but also to recognize the circumstances and actually assist these people.

To give you a little more detail about this, I'd like Program Manager, Eric Munsell, to fill in the gaps.

Mr. Munsell stated as Mr. Piskura had indicated, a lot of our instructors when they're out in the field are subject matter experts in that particular area, but they also have other outside experiences like we all do and Instructor Coulon was doing an Officer I program for us down in the southwestern corner of the state. The programs have changed dramatically from years ago. It's more of a learning-facilitated discussion type of environment where we try to learn from past experiences in addition to giving them the material that they need to be our future leaders. In one of the discussions that was presented from a student, Instructor Coulon picked up on that a couple of the members of a particular department were having, for lack of a better word, psychological issues over an incident that involved their department where it was a near-death experience. Three members had to bail out a window, jumped out a window, with significant injury and, again, very close to a couple of them were trapped and could have died. Instructor Coulon's past experiences, outside history working with the New York City Police Department, and, as such, being detailed to the New York Fire Department and training their safety battalions -- and still to this day training their safety battalions took it upon himself to meet with the individuals, make some phone calls, make some connections, and I believe as high up as the Commissioner of New York City Fire Department, and they worked with Mr. Coulon in getting these individuals some assistance that had gone previously unattended. It had been many years, and some of them were really having serious issues. Upon getting the intervention that Instructor Coulon was able to bring to them, one of them actually came up to him and said he felt he'd been born again, and he had basically started with a clean slate. Mr. Munsell introduced Instructor Stephen Coulon.

Mr. Morrissette presented a recognition certificate to Mr. Coulon and stated we're thankful you're here with us today, and in grateful appreciation for your outstanding service and going beyond the call of duty, the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control would like to present this Certificate of Appreciation to you in recognition for your efforts.

Mr. Coulon said thank you. I am blessed to have been in Public Safety for 47 years. I went to my first fire in 1963. I was a career firefighter, career EMS, EMS instructor and career police officer in my time, all of which is in New York City except for career firefighter, which was up here in Connecticut. Those of us who do this job daily know that eventually there can be a price to pay for what we do. I knew almost immediately in that class that there were problems.

I knew what needed to be done. I identified the problem, talked to them, counseled them -- not the exact members, but the representative of their department -- and I promised them in class, that we were going to get them some help. All three of them were trapped in a residential fire; all three of them had to bail out a third-floor window; all three of them were badly hurt and because of the nature of the beast, they couldn't get the help they needed. I called my boss, the Chief of Safety in New York City, Chief Raynis and when I had that conversation with him, sitting right next to him was Commissioner Casano. Commissioner Casano literally said, how many are there, and how soon can they get here? It happened and it took a while to get everybody down to New York City where we do things a little bit differently. The counselors

who do the stress counseling are all firemen they're not PhD's; no disrespect to any organization or profession, but they've been there; they've done that. When I got word that the counseling was over with and they didn't have to go back, one of the men who were suffering the most said he felt like he had been cured of cancer. We don't look for these kinds of awards. I'm proud to work with you all. I will continue to do so, and I'll hang this in my office with pride. Thank you.

Chairman Carozza said that certainly is a great way to start the day and our meeting and congratulations and thank you again on behalf of all of us.

Mr. Coulon replied thank you.

Moving to item 2.) Approval of the Minutes of the September 28, 2010 meeting.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Kowalski and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2010 meeting. Motion carried.

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

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

Chairman Carozza said if there not any objection, we'd like to move to Number 5b.

Moving to item 5b.) OSET Public Safety Projects Report – Mr. Morrissette said he wanted to give Steve Verbil an opportunity to make his presentation early in the meeting. Commissioner Rob Ross had originally hoped to be here today and provide a presentation. He was not able to, so he did ask Steve to step in and provide an overview of some of the Public Safety projects as it relates to the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET). There was a briefing at the Career Chiefs which Mr. Piskura had attended, and he felt there was value in bringing the information to the Commission. He said as most of you know, I do represent this body on the E911 Commission, and there's so much that is actually going on within that organization, literally tens of millions of dollars' worth of grants and activities. I did also want to recognize Steve in that he's served as the Acting Director of OSET for the period of time while a search for a new Director was ongoing, so I do want to recognize him for his outstanding leadership during that time.

Mr. Verbil said I appreciate that. He said in my previous life, I was a career firefighter before they pulled me into working for a police department and managing a 911 center and then a little bit of time out in the boonies; and I came to work for the State and now work as Emergency Telecommunications Manager inside OSET. You know we're part of DPS, and so it's always interesting to work as a former firefighter inside DPS. It makes things slightly different and interesting. Mr. Verbil said we're going to talk about some of the projects that OSET is working on and Commissioners should have a copy of the PowerPoint presentation available in their package. There'll be a couple of changes only in numbers because from the time this presentation was given, a couple of the numbers have changed, so that'll be in there. He said the Emergency Notification System is one of the projects that is under OSET's purview, and that is on a directive from Governor Rell that happened to us about 18 months ago before the

2009 hurricane season, we wanted once and for all to have a message notification system in place on a statewide basis, and the Emergency Notification System was that system. This is a system of notifying people by reverse telephone calls, but it's not reverse 911. One of the things we looked for really quickly was the ability to use a very fast, very quick method of calling millions of telephone lines. There are about somewhere in the vicinity of 1.4 to 1.6 million telephone lines in the State, and you all may recall you were buying, systems that you owned your own box. It didn't take a genius too long to figure out that in a case of where you had a tanker load of tetraethyl gas that had flipped over on the road; you had 2,000 people to call. Even if you had a very effectively crafted message with thirty seconds' worth of talk about stay in place, shelter in place, close your doors, don't go out, turn off your air conditioner, whatever those things you'd be saying, you'd all have to admit thirty seconds is about as good as you could do. Do the math and try to notify 2,000 people during that scene and you can see that the phones are going to be ringing in a house where they're dead already. So we looked for a solution which would call extremely quickly, and that implied a large, service bureau style. We identified a company, who only did emergency notification that wasn't involved in a whole bunch of other things, and we even got permission from Purchasing to buy off of GSA; and that's how we wound up with Everbridge. The system was rolled out in the time frame around July of 2009, and what's happened after that time was, that was the State system; and we had to train the PSAPs. Our focus has been on Public Safety Answering points. Frankly, it has to be that way, because our funding comes from the 911 surcharge, and we had gotten a legislative change to allow us to spend 911 surcharge money, which otherwise could only be spent on the 911 system and things associated with it, on this new Emergency Notification System. It was the passage of that legislation signed by Governor Rell which prompted phone calls to their office saying, when are you turning it on? And we were able to get it turned on pretty quickly. But one of the things that's important in a reverse notification, Emergency Notification System, is public buy-in. Not just the fact they know it's there; the fact that there are an awful lot of our folks who don't have telephones anymore. We estimate right now in the State of Connecticut about 20 percent of our citizens have no wire-line phone at home. They depend entirely on cell phone service. That percentage is only going up. Forget all the other problems with cell phone service as a substitute for alert. One of the problems is we have no way of knowing what those numbers are. So a successful Emergency Notification System requires buy-in from the public. The public knows that there's a way to sign up, creation of a web site -- that's on the bottom line, www.ctalert.gov-- and a public relations program. We rolled a press conference out June 28th, and then what we've done is the public service announcements that you see Lieutenant Vance or perhaps you've seen a couple others. We have the Chief of Hartford who appeared on one of those PSAs. And those have been running for a while. You should see in your handout it says about 20,000. We're at 25,000 sign-ups right now so far on the State website. 911 including the kids who don't seem to know how to call but only know how to text. Our current system can't deal with multimedia, can't deal with somebody who wants to text, can't deal with automatic crash notification systems that send data automatically, and it can't deal with other multimedia like text-messaging. The next generation 911 is an effort by the community in the United States and Canada to come up with a new, IP-based method of receiving phone calls that allows us to buy open architecture equipment. It's cheaper, actually, for us to go out and buy computers. What it's required to be run on is a high-speed network. You can either buy the high-speed network from a vendor, or you can build it yourself. The State of Connecticut decided to build it themselves for a whole bunch of reasons. *(A copy of the meeting transcript is available for more detailed information on this presentation).*

Mr. Morrissette said just a quick comment on Public Safety Data Network. Bill Higgins, who serves as my Fire Plan Coordinator, has been asked to do some of the ground work on the Fire Service side of that network, establishing the points of contact and where that connection to each and every fire department will be through this fiber system.

Mr. Verbil said that's a good point that I should have brought up, but here's the list that we had to provide to the Feds as part of the application. Understand that the list of fire departments you see there, we found out, I think on a Tuesday, that we had to give them a list, and it was done by Wednesday night. So, obviously, there's some fine-tuning about where the locations are. There's also another piece there that nobody's talked about here. It's the 300-plus-pound elephant in the room, and that is there's a governance issue that has to do with it. Some folks are thinking: hey, a high-speed data network; this will be important. I plug my computer in, and I can talk to my neighbors. Obviously, that's not how it works. There has to be governance, both because we have to provision the service for users that may be citizens. Public Safety users obviously have a right to use it, but there's a cost for us to modify the network to do that. It's going to be way less than if you were to buy the service yourself -- and we think we can provide a very good service -- but I'm a proponent of "good fences make good neighbors." If we all walk into this with clear-eyed expectations of what the network can do for you and what services it can provide, then you get a statement from us about what your service level agreement looks like, because as my boss, Bill Youell, who works for Rob Ross, is fond of saying: We've turned ourselves kind of like into a phone company here. We're providing a service. We can order systems, we can repair systems, and we're the network operating center, and all those things that go into what happens at two o'clock in the morning when if you're using our network and your fire station is not connected anymore, who do you call? What's our obligation to you? We can't walk into this without having those questions answered. That's the governance issue. That's starting to happen right now.

Mr. Morrissette said the reason I brought up Bill's name was predominantly because over the last week I've been getting calls from fire chiefs asking if the information he is soliciting is real. They think it's some type of a Nigerian Ponzi scheme. So I'll just bring it out to your attention, in case you receive a phone call from a fire chief asking if this representative of the Commission is actually doing work on our behalf.

Commissioner Brady said two questions. So right now it's not clear who's going to actually operate this?

Mr. Verbil said from the point of view of DPS, DPS is operating the system. 60 percent of it is Public Safety. DOIT may disagree, but we, frankly -- we're the Department of Public Safety. We're not the State Police, and we're also not Information Technology; and we don't think that anyone's going to get in between us and our money unless you're a firefighter or else EMS. We do public safety. So DOIT is part of the facility, they are an important part, but we believe we're going to be running this.

Commissioner Brady said second question. My understanding is that every fire department and we have 169 towns.

Mr. Verbil said and more than that fire departments.

Commissioner Brady said so does that mean that each fire department -- and how does it relate to the stations? If you can clarify that.

Mr. Verbil remarked as I said, the list was put together very quickly, and what has happened, some towns have multiple -- the list of fire departments have multiple drops. That doesn't make a lot of sense to me, but that doesn't mean that's not how it's going to happen. If you have a municipal career department in a large city, you got one drop, even though you have six, seven, or eight stations. If you have a town of 5,000 that had three fire departments -- fire districts, not fire departments, you'd get three drops. From the point of view of what the network should be able to do, clearly you would think that the place with the career department with five stations might be looking at this network [thinking]: It's a great way to get fire station alerting to finally work right and connected, wouldn't you? But they wouldn't have that ability because we provide nothing to them. Yet for the fire department that's got three different stations in a town of 5,000, it really doesn't need station alerting because the stations aren't manned. They're going to have the connection, but they won't be able to use it. So there has to be some -- and that's one of the things that Rob Ross is involved with along with Bill Youell, about taking a look at the list. That list was actually developed by Mike Bryant and you all know Mike Varney who is part of the group that worked with us on the application. By the way, DOIT was the applicant for the grant. That's where it gets kind of sensitive, what we're talking about, and that was at the direction of the Governor.

Commissioner Brady said just a comment, if you're going to try to put it where you get one drop and where there's three small groups, you're going to get a lot of push-back.

Mr. Verbil said yes. We're well aware of that.

Commissioner Nicol said just to clarify you said the PSAP regionalization study was going to be done by the end of this year?

Mr. Verbil said no. I think we're going to be selecting a vendor to do the consolidation study, hopefully by the end of this year.

Commissioner Nicol inquired what the time frame will be on the study.

Mr. Verbil said it is envisioned for completion within one year.

Commissioner Nicol said the time of 2011?

Mr. Verbil said that's when it would have been done had the bill been signed. But it was vetoed, so that time frame no longer exists. We're agreed for the project to take as long as it needs to take, so I really can't tell you. I haven't seen the Statement of Work in its current form. I can't tell you what they're looking at for the time frame now. I think they want to make sure they reach all of the constituents, so that takes longer than a year, in my mind.

Commissioner Nicol said and, obviously, when that study is completed, will be available to the public?

Mr. Verbil said it's paid for with public funds, absolutely, yes.

Commissioner Nicol said thank you.

Mr. Morrissette said one last comment. One of the fiber drops is expected to be to this facility, the Connecticut Fire Academy, as well as other State facilities. We were directly involved in some of the original planning in terms of the scope of this system, looking out into the future in terms of how we as an agency can utilize and benefit from it from a training, certification, and information dissemination perspective.

Commissioner Kowalski said one last question. Will other additional data drops be available for purchase in the future?

Mr. Verbil said I don't know. I'm trying to think of where we would want to go other than that. From the point of view of the Federal Government, we're middle mile. "Middle mile" means we connect one place to another, but we don't necessarily provide services for you. As a middle mile provider, we're going to use that middle mile to do our services using the 911 fund money. We build the end. We build the connections at the ends. That means that given a governing process in place, absolutely, any comer probably can use the network. I can tell you that the Government is going to look at public safety very differently than Joe Schmo's internet service provider, because that's literally what it's -- in order for us to take this federal money, we have to be able to provide service to underserved areas. If a firefighter goes some place where they've got no broadband, they can buy services from us. We won't mix it with 911 or anything else. It'll spin off on its own little fenced-in prairie and all that, and they'll pay you whatever it costs; and we would charge them, just like the carriers charge them. And the idea being behind this was to provide stimulus by providing jobs for people within the fiber, and, secondly, to provide high-speed data where for some reason carriers didn't want to provide it because they saw no market. So, if for no other reason than we have to provide it for all comers, absolutely, but if it's public safety we're talking about, it's very, very different, because there is no cost for the carriage. There's only cost for whatever the modifications are that we have to do.

Commissioner Kowalski said the reason I asked is, that entity where you have six districts, or six stations, within that area and you only have one drop being provided for free.

Mr. Verbil remarked right.

Commissioner Kowalski said can that other five be provided at charge?

Mr. Verbil said well, a couple things would happen. First of all, FiberTech, because it's a State contract, you can purchase their services to run fiber to those other four locations at the State bid price, and the equipment isn't necessarily to light it. You can buy it at the State bid price because we priced all that. So, actually, for a municipality, they buy at our prices from the State vendor, which are very good rates.

Commissioner Kowalski said do you have a ballpark on the per mile cost on FiberTech?

Mr. Verbil said yes. If it's on-net, if the fiber is already there, somewhere in the vicinity of \$4,000 a mile. That's for a 20-year lease. That's how we buy it. Actually, what happens is, at the end -- what we've done is, we had a choice of actually owning the fiber, which meant that we'd have to maintain it. What we're doing is we're paying for the fiber, 40,000 for new fiber,

one-time charge, buys it for 20 years. That includes – we add on -- we want them to own it so they maintain it for us, and there's a maintenance charge on top of that. It's roughly 40,000, for new-plowed ground, per mile, for fiber where fiber hasn't been before, but if the fibers already there -- what happens is, when FiberTech puts it in, they drop in at least 96 strands. When the State buys -- when we buy 40,000 per mile, we buy 12 of the strands; 12 belong to the State. They can do with the rest what they want. We use two of them, or four, depending on what's going on, which means there's always State-owned fiber on all of those rights of way that we've already paid for. So for municipalities where FiberTech is actually in town, you may be surprised when you read how much of it is actually on there, and what you're going to wind up paying for is the lateral, across-net, to get to a particular firehouse or a particular library, something like that.

Commissioner Kowalski said thank you.

Mr. Verbil said any questions? Thank you very much for your attention.

Moving to item 4a.) Budget/Staffing Update - Mr. Morrisette said we did disseminate to the Commissioners, and he appreciates the feedback on, the reduction option proposal. Those were submitted to OPM. He said he know they're currently reviewing all of the reduction proposals, so if there are any questions let him know. He said he has not disseminated the document to the regional schools as of yet. They do have a meeting this Thursday evening, so it's my intent to speak to it at that particular meeting.

Mr. Morrisette also said the staffing piece was just an update regarding the Secretary I vacancy. There are interviews scheduled for next week on two separate dates, and we have approximately 10 to 12, individuals to be interviewed for refilling that particular position. Regarding the Fiscal Administrative Officer vacancy, we do have approval to refill from the Governor's Office. It is going through the OPM approval process. It's currently at Step II, our Budget Analyst Supervisor and then the Budget Director at OPM. We don't anticipate any problem. The only problem is, though, we were advised by DAS that they are downgrading the position to Fiscal Administrative Assistant. I did have a lengthy discussion with them and asked for reconsideration, but at this point in time it doesn't appear as if that will be reconsidered. Once approved we will need to clear both any SEBAC and reemployment lists so our time frame is to try to get that filled prior to the close of the calendar year. It's very important to have a little bit of overlap with our retire/rehire to ensure continuity, as well as provide the basic level of training. Lastly, you are aware I did disseminate to you a resignation notice from our Director of Certification Tom McGowan, so the Firefighter Service Analyst position will become vacant on November 5th. I have had a discussion with the Secretary of OPM already and need to make contact with the Governor's Office to get refill authorization. My concern is with all of these positions that we move as expeditiously as possible considering a new administration will be taking over. So I think we can certainly take care of the Secretary I position, the Fiscal position, and I think the major concern right now would be the Fire Service Analyst position in that there is no current list; that would have to be tested, so you're looking at, my guess, a minimum of four to six months. He asked if there were any questions.

Moving to item 4b.) CSFA Education Committee Report – Commissioner Nicol said the Education Committee has not met since our last Commission meeting, so they will be meeting on Thursday. He said he's sure he will have a report, for our next meeting.

Mr. Morrissette said we do have also, under Item 5c, a letter from the Education Committee which we will take up later in the agenda.

Moving to item 4c & 4d.) FY 11 Supplemental Grant Program Update and FY 11 Entry Level Training Reimbursement Update – Mr. Morrissette said last month he requested items 4c and 4d both be tabled and he'd like to request that again. We still have not received a full accounting of the status of those two grant programs. The current retire rehire hasn't had an opportunity to process any payments within either program. The one of greater concern is the Supplemental Grant because he did make a promise to those that would be receiving a direct payment that we would process those at the beginning of the second quarter. We'll do our best to jump on that as quickly as possible. And, again, we anticipate about 50 percent of the entities will seek a direct reimbursement rather than the voucher program.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Kowalski and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Nelson to table items 4a and 4b).

Moving to item 4e.) DOD/DOD Contractor Certification- Mr. Morrissette said Commissioner Brady had established a subcommittee, or chaired a subcommittee in reference to the literature.

Commissioner Brady said we had a meeting last month. Subsequent to the meeting where Tom McGowan presented his document on qualifying aspects for specialty certification, invited all members of the Commission to participate. A couple members did come, as well as Adam came from the Training Division and also Eric Munsell and Jim Carroll. He said we discussed this for a long time, and basically what we agreed to recommend to the Commission was Mr. McGowan's original document, with the addition of the word "and" under "Qualified Instructor." I think everybody probably should have a copy that says: "An individual authorized by a sponsoring/host agency to teach the specialty course/topic leading to certification and an individual who can produce documentation attesting to affiliation and instructor credentials" and so forth. That was the Committee's recommendation that we – number one, first you be authorized by an agency, and you would have to have credentials to validate that you were an instructor certified to teach a particular class.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Kowalski and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Nelson to accept the change into policy for discussion purposes.

Commissioner Nelson said he was at that meeting, and he certainly does approve of the document as to the way it was presented. If it's a Non-Firefighter Entry Level course that's available for certification, probably our accreditation actually requires in some way that they truly have a good course syllabus given by a good course instructor that we're going to wind up doing certification outside the Fire Service. But several people from the Fire Academy have approached him with concerns, and he just wanted to give them some time to make a presentation, particularly from the Training Division. They think it's opening a can of worms, that we're going to start making certification for other State employees --DEMHS, et cetera and at this point -- he heard that argument originally. He said he personally supports the document as it exists right now, but he would like to table it for one month to give them an opportunity to make a presentation to us on what their concerns are.

Chairman Carozza asked Commissioner Brady if he concurs.

Commissioner Brady said he concurs, he asked Commissioner Nelson for a motion to table it.

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Nelson and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Brady to table DOD/DOD Contractor Certification until next meeting and until our Training Division can actually give us a presentation of their concerns. Motion carried.

Moving to item 4f.) Fire Police – Mr. Morrissette said we're carrying the Fire Police as Unfinished Business as noted in the minutes. He said he don't know if there's any issues that need to be addressed at the present time and he knows we have representatives from the Fire, Police Association here with us again this month.

Mr. Catalanotto, President of the Connecticut Fire, Police said truthfully, it's rare. I don't have that much to say, so I'm going to let my First Vice President and my Secretary do the talking today.

Mr. Egan, Secretary of CFPA said one of the purposes of the Connecticut Fire, Police Association is to improve the training that Fire Police receive in the State of Connecticut. He said he believe a purpose of the Connecticut Fire Academy also is to provide training for the Fire Service; therefore, it's requested that adequate training be provided for the Fire Police. Our training has gone from a Basic Fire Police course, an Advanced Fire Police course, to where we are today, which is Connecticut Fire Academy providing only Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and Traffic Incidents Management Systems (TIMS) training. Much of the present proposed course is strictly an overview of those programs, which probably has more meaning for a Fire Chief and Fire Service Officers than for the person that's going to be out there actually doing the traffic control and other duties. Additional problems with this proposed course is that it's setting policy and not training the pertinent content that is needed. It misquotes the MUTCD. It clearly states that things are required, where in the MUTCD actually says that they "may" be used. In another area, it states that a certain sign is required with specific wording from the MUTCD. The MUTCD suggests different words may be used. Then NFPA 1500, 8-7-11, states, "Members used for traffic control purposes shall receive training that is commensurate with their duties and in accordance with applicable state and local laws and regulations," and there is a State law for Fire Police; and that should be covered in the training. The proposed training does not do this. It's a one-size-fits-all aspect of traffic control, and it does not provide traffic control to cover Fire Police duties and responsibilities in depth. Traffic control training must be broken down to where it is -- where the responsibilities of certain phases or portions are implemented. If this training goes forward, the cost to municipalities will be beyond the willingness or the capabilities of the Fire Service budget to handle: The cost for signage, the cost for training, the requirement for flaggers to be trained by approved courses. There are only two courses that are approved by DOT in the State of Connecticut. One is the ATS and the other is the National Safety Council; and they charge quite a bit for those courses. We need training that is not fragmented, that is specific to what we do. Perhaps SOPs and SOGs would be a good starting point prior to the training. Please review the position that we submitted last month. Thank you for your time.

Chairman Carozza said thank you and asked if there are any other comments.

Mr. Belote said yes. Just a little history lesson, Fire Police are a creature of the Northeast. They go down as far as Delaware and up through Maine. As Mr. Catalanotto said earlier today coming in, they're sort of like the band that plays at the funeral 90 percent of the time, but when

you need in a small town additional traffic police and additional personnel, you need them well-trained and you need them in a timely manner. The other part of the history lesson is, if you look at the people here, we're not young. Fire Police are the older members of fire departments that have been firefighters, want to still keep active and serve their communities. There's a lot of training that's being put out and put on by Fire Police. Within the past year and a half, from FEMA, we have ICS 100, 200, and 700. These are on-line course, but a lot of the people involved in the Fire Service that are their ages and older don't have computers; therefore, it's very difficult to get that training. Also, from Mr. Munsell, we just found out, because he took the three-day class in Fairfield, the Fire Police need Haz-Mat training, both Awareness, which everybody knew, but they also need some of the core classes; and that's a lot of training for Fire Police. In addition to that, what's being planned for the MUTCD and the amount of time involved in that is going to take a system that is working but it may break the system. So, as Mr. Egan said, we need more practical and less time-consuming and travel-oriented training. We need more Train-the-Trainers to go around to departments, because when you're training, you know, training 60- and 70-year-olds, if they're traveling at night, they don't want to go that far. So you almost need to tailor your Fire Academy training to come to them so in your deliberations, please keep these thoughts in mind, that you're dealing with older firemen that need training but can't travel that far. If you make adjunct-only instructors for this, it's going to be, number one, very expensive for the local fire departments, and we may end up breaking the system instead of improving the system. Thank you.

Chairman Carozza said thank you and asked if there are any questions or discussion? Do we want to just refer this to the Training Division?

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Brady and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mitchell to refer these issues to the Training Division. Motion carried.

Chairman Carozza said thank you very much for your appearance here this morning and your suggestion.

Mr. Belote said thank you for listening.

Moving to item 5a.) CREC Public Safety Academy – Mr. Piskura said as you know, it's currently located in a reclaimed elementary school in Enfield. They have been looking throughout the CREC Region from Hartford up north to build a new facility, and what they announced to us at the last board meeting was that they are actually going to build a new structure in Enfield. So they've received the funding, and they will be building a new structure. They already have suggestions from all the Public Safety entities that have been previously submitted, and the next thing would probably be architectural drawings that we've been looking at. One of the suggestions that the Fire Service made, for example, was to incorporate CPAT -- equipment into a gymnasium. We couldn't use it as an alternative location, but those types of devices would be provided to expose the students to what would come if you were to pursue that career and have to meet that requirement. He said likewise, law enforcement has its exercise devices there also, their tests; which goes beyond -- for those of you who are familiar with the Cooper's Test, it goes beyond the Cooper's Test. Something that we're going to participate in fairly shortly is that in the past year the State Police recruits have gone to the Public Safety Academy and met with certain classes and discussed the occupation, why they're pursuing it, what is it like to be in a recruit school -- things like that, and we're going to be sending four of our firefighter recruits up to do a similar thing; and hopefully this'll happen

periodically throughout their school year. One of the things that they're asking for all the time is adult mentors. Many of these students, the only time they talk to a male adult is in school, and they don't have a lot of role models; they don't have a lot of conversations with people, just people in general, not even talking about the profession, or any Public Safety profession so, they're always looking for people to literally drop in that school and just have a conversation with a student, and this is random.

The Career Fire Chiefs will be meeting at the CREC Public Safety Magnet School for the first time as a group next week, I believe, the first Tuesday of the month. Again, there's always an open invitation whether you go with that meeting or go on your own. Check in at the security booth. They'd be happy to accommodate anybody that has any interest in Public Safety, and they're very proud. They just loaded in I believe four, portable classrooms. Every year they add a grade. Next year they will be up to high school senior, so they'll have a complete chain of events for all Public Safety occupations. He said it's pretty exciting to have been with this project and to actually see it come to fruition.

Commissioner Kowalski asked when the estimated building construction time frame is.

Mr. Piskura said they're amazing. They should get it done in a year once construction begins, and they have the funding. Not to be quoted, but it's around \$30 million.

Commissioner Kowalski asked if that means they're going to break ground like next week.

Mr. Piskura said oh, no. They're still going through the permit process.

Commissioner Kowalski asked is Dr. Townsley still involved with that project.

Mr. Piskura said No. His role is that he starts these new schools, then he moves on to the next one.

Commissioner Nicol asked are they going to consider dormitories with that new facility.

Mr. Piskura replied no. One of the issues with these types of schools is no sports.

Commissioner Kowalski said but it doesn't result in lower enrollment.

Mr. Piskura said no. It's a highly pursued magnet school.

Moving to item 5c.) CSFA Education Committee Request - Mr. Munsell said it's actually being discussed again in the subcommittee at Thursday night's meeting prior to the regular meeting. It's scheduled. It's an ongoing issue concerning the introduction of the certification process for hazardous materials, because it hadn't been done prior to meet the NFPA 472, 2008 Standard. And with that, with the significant changes that NFPA did, the issues are primarily centered around that FPA committee and what they've done to it, and in the certification process, they're testing multiple functions -- Awareness Level, Operational Core, and eight Mission-Specific. We're only one of two states that are doing all these Mission-Specific, which are actually Technician Level, and it's a prerequisite in order to get Firefighter I. So now you're getting these 18-, 19-, 20-year-old kids or new hires in fire departments that you're cramming a lot of material into, and the failure rate is a little higher than what was initially expected. There

were issues concerning fixes for it, and one of the major issues is the use of the Emergency Response Guidebook during the testing process. We've done a survey of states in the country, including the National Fire Academy, and overwhelmingly their recommendation was, yes, use it, because in Haz-Mat we teach nothing to memory except you want to remember where you put the book.

He said the Certification Division is, he thinks, going to be looking for guidance from you on that in the future, but that's not for me to bring up. The Committee is looking at that as an issue, because there are easy fixes, and that was the primary concern. Everybody's passing the Operational Level. They're all failing the Awareness, and it's because of the memorization factor of the questions that are being asked. They ask them to actually memorize the White Pages and specific bullets, and that kind of thing, which these guys are still trying to learn hoses and ladders and everything else, so you're just inundating them. So, that's what the Committee's meeting about, and I think they're going to make a proposal to you upon some further clarification. But we have provided them with data; we have provided them with input. A couple of the members have sat through the Train-the-Trainer and seen what we're offering as a program. That was the other issue that you as a Commission body need to be aware of: We were offering a certification here since August of 2008 and there was no formal program. The formal program just got released within the last few months. So, not that it was the cart before the horse, but none of even the private vendors were providing a full program that was available to the students. So they were kind of all up -- the State was kind of in limbo as to what do we teach? And the other part that we found out was that in order to meet OSHA, the OSHA level is down here (indicating), and the NFPA requirements are way up here (indicating). And there's just a lot more information, and it's a time frame and money issue.

Commissioner Kowalski said as part of a regional fire school instructor program, I agree with the comments that were made here. I also agree with the Education Committee's request that the Certification office provide a copy of the ERG to each student seated for the subject New Britain exam. I agree with that, and I would like to see that as policy. I hate to do this without a representative of the Certification Division here, but.

Mr. Morrissette said well, he's going to be that person in a week.

Commissioner Kowalski said my opinion, subject to discussion, would be to go ahead and state that policy that the ERG is provided as part of the written examination.

Mr. Morrissette stated that he doesn't necessarily disagree with this at all -- but there will be some other proposals forthcoming which may be an actual relaxation of the scope of the training and testing that is currently being offered. One of the quick fixes for this is to do away with the ERG as part of the written examination, and make it a mandatory skill as part of the practical examination where the students would be given an ERG for reference. The problem with the written test, from my experience, is logistics. Some examination boxes are shipped to proctors to save time and money. This will cause additional shipping costs. Also, after an exam is administered, somebody's going to have to spend a significant amount of time going through each and every ERG because invariably students will mark up those books and they will leave clues, some intentional, some unintentional to other students that will access the same books at a future date and examination. We're going to be throwing ERG's out. One of the easiest solutions here is to integrate the ERG use competency assessment into the Practical Skill Examination as a mandatory skill. Currently it's offered randomly on certain test days.

Mr. Munsell said that is part of the practical skills currently. They do have ERG scenarios.

Mr. Morrissette said it was his understanding the ERG's are tested as a random skills, other students may have a skill related to the NIOSH guide.

Mr. Munsell said no. The ERG is a requirement of the standard. And a lot of it is simple stuff. It may be simple placarding or whatever. The problem with the written exam is, the canned test that we buy, the test bank that has been provided to the State, which is kind of out of our control, it's computer-generated, and they're not quite sure what test questions will be asked. And at the Awareness Level, being the basic level, you're kind of limited in your options as to what you can test without having the book there because the Awareness Program is centered on the ERG and identification. There are concerns, as Commissioner, or Administrator, Morrissette has indicated, and some simple fixes that some states have opted to do is make copies of certain pages and only provide the pages that can be discarded so they aren't marking up and everything. But that seems to be the major issue, is the Awareness, the questions they're asking. They're asking these students to memorize factions (sic), and there's also a couple of what we would consider -- in their defense, the students aren't being given the opportunity to get -- we're trying to cram ten pounds into a five-pound bag and saying there's still room for more. A lot of agencies are providing the students with the exam prep book as part of their course and saying, "Study this and you'll pass," and they have it taught as a program. So there are a lot of issues with time frames, money constraints, and other issues that get involved here.

Commissioner Kowalski said just so I understand what you're saying here. The point being that, I think as a stop gap, we knew when we were going into this program, I thought, or you were adding the Haz-Mat skill set to the program, that there'd be some adjustments down the road, and I think this is one of those. We need to make, I think, this adjustment now and then look at future considerations down the road, in which case we can come up with a plan.

Commissioner Mitchell said he agrees with Commissioner Kowalski about the ERG, but if there are any other additional adjustments, do you have any thoughts what they would be? I would hate to push this out five or six months and have other folks have a bad experience.

Mr. Morrissette said yes. I've not personally attended the subcommittee in the past two months because of other obligations, so Eric and Tom have been attending in my place. My understanding is that you could have a recommendation put forward to essentially, as Eric had indicated, eliminate the mission specific levels. This would reduce the contact hours of the program while still covering the core Awareness and Operations levels.

Commissioner Brady remarked you said the subcommittee's going to be meeting soon; correct?

Mr. Munsell said yes. They're meeting Thursday night.

Commissioner Brady said my suggestion would be that we wait and not make an immediate move on the ERG but get all of their suggestions and look at those as a whole rather than just cherry-picking one at a time.

Mr. Morrissette said just as a stopgap, I believe Tom has developed two new examinations with the ERG questions eliminated, so those are on standby. They're not currently being utilized,

but, again, I think we can integrate more detailed ERG skill activities, you know, as part of the practical skills testing component; and that should alleviate the problems as every student would have access to any necessary reference materials as part of the skills test. So that is one option which will alleviate the anticipated logistics issues.

Commissioner Mitchell said the only question I would have is do we have anybody within the next month who will be taking an old test that's going to be modified into something different? That's why I'm wondering. We're going to be shifting horses here.

Chairman Carozza said let me hear from Mr. Nicol and then Mr. Kowalski.

Commissioner Nicol said I just want to mention I did receive notification that they will be meeting Thursday at six o'clock and that I think they have some other --there's some other issues that will probably happen. So that's what I would suggest, that if we could hold off for maybe until another month and then, you know, discuss all the items, including whether or not we want to provide the Guidebook or not, even though it may affect some pending examinations.

Chairman Carozza said Mr. Kowalski.

Commissioner Kowalski said Yeah. Again, I kind of disagree with that point, because this is -- in my estimation out in the field, it is causing, you know, some heartburn out there, and we're teaching these guys, we're beating it into them, "crack the book." In fact, I kind of disagree a little bit about giving them excerpts from the book because I want them to crack the book and read where it's coming from. It's a skill level to crack that book open, and I think that's a very important function. So having said that, I don't think it's a big deal to make this minor change now and give them a book during the test, and then when the report comes out and says, "You need to do this, this, this, and this, it'll go through. We can take a little bit more time on understanding all the points of the change instead of rushing it through next week and coming back in another month, discussing it again at this meeting, and then maybe taking action at the 1st of the year or whatever. We have hundreds of people that are going to be taking this test. If it's just a matter of giving them the ERG and letting them use the text that's required of them to do this written test, give it to them. That's my point.

Chairman Carozza said further questions?

Mr. Munsell said if I may add, sir, that would eliminate a good majority of the failure rate, and it would also eliminate a good majority of the issues that that committee does have. It also should be noted that one of the reasons that they decided not to, when they asked Dr. Ben Hirst, who was the provider of the exam questions -- he was here over a year ago -- they asked him what he felt about providing the ERG, and he said, well, then everybody would pass and I have an issue as a trainer, what are we here for? But I want to make sure that this young student knows how to use the text, and that is the majority of the issue. All the rest of the results have proven that the Operational Core, and even the Mission Specific, which were big bad wolves that everybody was scared of, they found out that nobody's failing those. It is Awareness Level and concern about ERG usage, and an easy fix would be the addition of the ERG. I think that would make a lot of the heartburn of the Regional Schools go away, as well. I'm worried that we're going to lose students. They fail this, and it's a prerequisite to get to Firefighter I or to go on in their career, we're going to lose students; we're going to lose firefighters. We need to do

what we can to help them and enhance them and encourage them to take our places. This is, to me, an easy fix. Thank you.

Mr. Piskura said I just wanted to share with you, I attended two of these meetings, and the only pitch-point issue and specificity is this one. In generality, Tom presented a statistical presentation, and the other conversation is about the high failure rate in certain fields and in certain locations. So to take action on a specific issue, I don't think you're going to see other issues as an item come forward, but you will see general conversation about, well, why is the failure rate X? And so, that's just to give you some level of context for what you're talking about.

Commissioner Brady said I guess I'm wondering would there be an issue of the student being required to bring in the ERG with him for testing?

Mr. Munsell said if I may, there are a couple of issues -- and I'm not speaking for Certification - - but I would have an issue if they bring a book that's filled in ahead of time; and they wouldn't know what the questions were going to be anyway. The other issue is, the funding has been cut back for the DOT ERG, and, in fact, whereas they used to provide agencies with extra books for training purposes, in the First Responders, Police, Fire, EMS, they have just enough to put in the glove compartment of the vehicle. I have them numbered; I have them labeled. When I replace one, I have to document it. And we have cases of them that we use for training purposes and I provided Certification with a case of 30. That would be our issue, and I think it would probably be more that we provide those ERG's so they're not stripping them off the fire trucks and bringing them here and forgetting them and damaging them and whenever ours get destroyed in training over time, which is why we keep extra. But that would be one of the major issues.

Chairman Carozza said any further discussion? I believe there is a motion on the floor. Do we have a motion on the floor, anyone?

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Kowalski and **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mitchell that we establish a policy currently to allow the use of ERG's on any future Haz-Mat exam. Motion carried.

Chairman Carozza said Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion?

Mr. Morrissette said just a question. Does it allow flexibility between the written and/or practical?

Commissioner Nelson said both.

Commissioner Kowalski said I think in the practical it's already allowed at that time -- that's what I think -- so it's really a moot point.

Mr. Morrissette said so we can essentially eliminate it from a written exam and just make it a skill.

Commissioner Kowalski said well, maybe down the road. I think at this time let's just -- you know, you're turning already to the written test. Let's just keep it going, with the written test, at

least. When they come back with their report, that may be the option in the end; there'll be no more ERG questions, so at this point, though, I don't want to stop the process, you know.

Chairman Carozza said any further discussion?

Commissioner Mitchell said of course, this has been an issue that's been cooking for a long time, and I think it's important that the Commission take a forward step on this. If we decide to modify the whole thing, that's great. Who knows how it turns out. If this is just one implementation which changes the complexion of it, then it's well worth it.

Chairman Carozza said further discussion?

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

Moving to item 7 – Matters to be raised by Commissioners and staff – Commissioner Kowalski said I have the honor of reading correspondence from the International Association of Fire Fighters. It states, Peter S. Carozza, Jr., president of the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut, was honored recently with the IAFF Local Leadership Award, a new award designed to shine a light on those who have led fellow fire fighters with distinction. "The International Association of Fire Fighters would not be where it is today without strong leadership at all levels of the organization,' said IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger, as he presented the award to Carozza during the IAFF's 50th Convention in San Diego August 25. "Leaders lead with strength of purpose, with clarity. They lead by example. Many times leaders are out front where we can see them. Sometimes they don't get noticed because they're too busy getting things done,' Schaitberger added. "Carozza, one of just eight IAFF officers to receive the award, has spent more than 20 years making sure the interests of Connecticut fire fighters are respected in the state legislature and have loyal allies on both sides of the aisle." And there's more. I'm in agreement. Congratulations.

Chairman Carozza said thank you very much. I appreciate that. Any other matters to be raised by Commissioners or Staff?

Mr. Morrissette said we have tentatively scheduled our next Commission meeting Tuesday, November 30th, we'll hold it at the NEDTC Training Center here in Windsor Locks. It's our intent to recognize an individual who worked very hard to secure a rail car for the project. We'll post the meeting location change notice with the Secretary of the State.

In addition, I did want to thank those Commissioners who had an opportunity to attend the Firefighters' Memorial a couple of weeks ago. We had about 300 to 350 people attend under beautiful skies. The ceremony was simple but very powerful.

Chairman Carozza said anything further? Just a quick comment. Let me first of all thank the Commissioners for their support and confidence electing me at the meeting last month. I appreciate that, but I do want to thank -- certainly want to thank our State Fire Administrator for his leadership here, and certainly Yvonne for all her work, and certainly the entire staff here at the Academy. These are the people that really are the nuts and bolts of this organization and do an outstanding job. I just wanted to thank all of you and make sure the entire staff is aware of that.

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

Chairman Carozza adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Dated:

Charles M. Stankye, Jr., Secretary