

March 25, 1997

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MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 1997 COMMISSION MEETING OF
THE COMMISSION ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Chairman Carozza with the following members present: Commissioners Andresen, Haber, Kowalski, McCarthy, Milewski, Munkenbeck, Nicol, Peabody and Vendetta. Commissioners Chatfield, Johnson and Mullen were excused. Staff members Morrissette, A. Ouellette, A.T. Ouellette and Piechota were present.

Guests to the meeting were identified as Thomas Kennedy, and Raymond Kiernan, both of the Northeastern States Fire Consortium.

Mr. Kennedy reported on activities of the New England Consortium Task Force which include solicitation of funding from FEMA for the development of a standardized Fire Officer curriculum to be piloted by the Consortium. Other activities include monitoring funding associated with terrorism training, seeking access by fire departments to drug forfeiture assets as well as availability of excess military surplus equipment to fire departments.

Chairman Carozza inquired if any legislation had been drafted.

Mr. Kennedy replied they are currently working on a number of potential bills.

Chairman Carozza asked Mr. Kennedy if he had spoken to anybody at the IAFF.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he had been in contact with that organization.

Chairman Carozza thanked Mr. Kennedy for his presentation to the Commission.

Returning to the regular order business Chairman Carozza stated if there was no objection, three items need to be added to the agenda concerning; Accounts Receivable, State Data Center Proposal and CPR Affiliate Change.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner McCarthy and SECONDED by Commissioner Peabody to add the three new items to the agenda. Motion Carried.

Moving to item 2) on the agenda Chairman Carozza asked for approval of the minutes for January 28 and February 25, 1997 meetings.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Peabody and SECONDED by Commissioner Kowalski to approve the minutes of the January 28, 1997 meeting. Motion Carried.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Peabody and SECONDED by Commissioner Kowalski to approve the minutes of the February 25, 1997 meeting. Motion Carried.

Moving to item 3), Committee Reports Chairman Carozza asked for approval of the Staff Reports for January 15 - February 14, 1997 and February 15 - March 14, 1997.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Peabody and SECONDED by Commissioner McCarthy to approve the Staff Report for January 15 - February 14, 1997. Motion Carried.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Peabody and SECONDED by Commissioner Kowalski to approve the Staff Report for February 15 - March 14, 1997. Motion Carried.

Moving to item 4 a.) under Unfinished Business Mr. Morrissette gave a facility update. He stated that there was nothing significant other than two donations received recently. These include a large potted plant for the main foyer as well as a fixed monitor nozzle for the new pumper. One major issue still outstanding is that of the reimbursement from the FAA for the installation of the sewage pump. A draft contract was received from DPW to initiate this reimbursement. It is being reviewed to possibly include a long term maintenance agreement concerning expenses associated with the shared sewage line. The Attorney General's Office is involved in this matter and will need to approve prior to execution.

Moving to item 4b.) Mr. Morrissette reported that he had hoped to have a final proposal for the Commissioners to review concerning recommendations of the Minor Firefighter Training Study Committee. He stated that he and a few members of the Study Committee have started drafting a proposal for modifications to certain skills contained within the current NFPA 1001 Standard. In the meantime two representatives from the Labor Department came to the Academy to witness demonstrations concerning a number of the skills which they had ongoing concerns with. In most areas they appeared fairly satisfied with what was demonstrated. They are awaiting the final proposal for review and consideration. Running in parallel with this matter, it was reported last month that one of our instructors has written a draft program which the Academy plans to advertise and deliver this July. This program will be a five-day overnight summer camp for members of

Junior, Explorer and cadet type of firefighter training entities. All of the current Labor Department restrictions will be followed. The first year of this program we are limited to 40 students. We hope to obtain possible funding for this program through the State Firemen's Association which received a grant from the National Volunteer Fire Council.

Moving to item 4 c.) Mr. Morrissette brought to the attention of the Commissioners Bill #6494. He indicated that substitute language has been submitted to make this firefighter training bill more palatable. The bill was joint favorably approved out of the Public Safety Committee last week into Finance, Revenue and Bonding. The Public Safety Committee members who were originally opposed to the language appeared to be satisfied with the substitute language. There is still some discussion about putting a cap on the Bill in terms of a maximum dollar amount that this dedicated fund would have to fund fire service training. The fund would be administered by the Commission primarily as a reimbursement fund to local fire department and regional fire training schools. The revenue would be derived from a one-half of a 1% surcharge on the direct premiums for domestic insurance. This is money that is currently coming into the General Fund.

Commissioner Vendetta stated that the recommendation from the Residential Sprinkler Task Force should be going out on the floor this week.

Chairman Carozza reported that the Legislative Reception held on March 19 hosted by the Joint Council of CT Fire Service Organizations was very successful. In our estimation it was quite successful. Over 65 legislators and/or members of their staff attended.

Moving to item 4 d.) Mr. Morrissette stated that the Appropriations Committee Budget Subcommittee hearing took place. In our estimation it was quite successful. We had a number of detailed questions which were asked some of which we had to come back and do some homework on. Mr. Morrissette indicated that he has a meeting scheduled with Senator Bozek who seemed to have most of the questions.

Moving to item 4 e.) Mr. Morrissette stated that the agency is in a deficit situation with respect to the Limited Access Highway account. As was mentioned at the last meeting, the agency has sent a letter to Fire Chiefs to inform them of the situation. Several Chiefs sent letters thanking us for keeping them up to date and indicating that this was an important program for them. Our Budget Analyst has indicated that a request would be made for a deficit appropriation of approximately \$80,000. This should take care of the backlog of claims.

Moving to item 4 f.) Mr. Morrissette stated that several months back the Commission had approved the staff's desire to seek permission to maintain the distributorship for IFSTA and Fire Protection Publication manuals through Oklahoma State University. There's been a delay because the agency wanted to have the contract reviewed by Attorney General's Office as well as by our Budget Analyst who had some concerns with the revenue that

would be derived. The Budget Analyst felt that any revenue derived from sales should be deposited into the General Fund. Essentially what we indicated was the sale of these publications directly provides a service to our constituents and would not generate a significant amount of revenue for the agency. All manual sales directly or indirectly are necessary reference books for programs administered by the Commission. The Attorney General's Office has approved the distributorship. Their main concern was from the sole source purchase of manuals. We responded that there really is no competition in this area and that we wouldn't be locking out another publishing company. The contract has recently been approved by the Executive Board in Oklahoma. This gives us the ability to begin the ordering process. A grand announcement on this matter will not be made until all of our administrative procedures are in place. Oklahoma State will be paying for two of our staff members to travel to OSU and meet with them sometime in April

Commissioner Kowalski stated that he thought that this was a great program and inquired whether any consideration had been given about distributing NFPA materials to the fire service.

Mr. Morrisette stated that to his knowledge NFPA does not sanction distributors.

Moving to item 5 a.) under New Business Mr. Morrisette reported about the Northeast Consortium for Fire Officer Training. He indicated Tom Kennedy was doing a terrific job on behalf of all states involved. He is essentially a one-man army working on behalf of all firefighters.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kowalski and SECONDED by Commissioner Haber to authorize the Chairman and State Fire Administrator to provide support to the NE Consortium for Fire Officer Training. Motion carried.

Moving to item 5 b.) Mr. Morrisette gave a staffing update for the agency. He reported that Wayne Bindas of the Training Division has given his resignation effective March 27 It is anticipated that an offer letter will go out shortly to a candidate currently on the employment list for that position.

Item 5 c.) Mr. Morrisette stated that the agency still has six Accounts carrying balances of under \$200. We have exhausted all avenues for collecting on these items. He asked the Commission to approve writing off these items as uncollectable.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner McCarthy and SECONDED by Commissioner Munkenbeck to authorize the State Fire Administrator to write-off the six outstanding Accounts Receivable items. Motion carried.

Moving to item 5 d.) Mr. Morrisette stated that the agency had received a proposal from the Department of Administrative Services, Data Center and asked Mr. Piechota to explain it.

Mr. Piechota explained that as part of the State's Data Center Disaster Recovery Plan, the Data Center is in final negotiations on a contract with IBM in Poughkeepsie, New York to provide a facility for duplication of Data Center hardware. One factor in this contract is that a local control or emergency operations center (EOC) is needed in Connecticut to operate and manage the systems in New York. Some of their staff people who are also from the fire service were familiar with this facility. They recommended this facility to their supervisors who were here recently to look over the facility as a possible EOC. They need things like a location with easy access to the facility, the ability to have the area they are working in be secure on a 24 hour day, seven day a week access basis, ample parking, a redundant power supply, working space for up to 20 people, computer connectivity to the Data Center which we have already, storage and telephone support for which we have the ability to expand. Everything they need is here along with overnight lodging and food service should that be necessary. If the Data Center would go down in Hartford, they would move their operation to the Academy and in a matter of minutes be operational to remotely operate the State's backup Data System. Overall this facility would suite their needs very nicely. They indicated they will completely take care of any expense necessary to make this work. The benefit to the Commission could be pretty significant.

Mr. Morrisette stated that he had discussed this matter with his Division Directors and they felt this proposal was something which they could support.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Peabody and SECONDED by Commissioner Kowalski to authorize the State Fire Administrator to follow through on the Data Center proposal.

Commissioner Kowalski commented that the agency should assure that everything be in writing for what exactly the DAS Data Center will take over during an emergency.

Mr. Morrisette stated that the agreement for the Data Center would be presented to the Commission for review before it is signed.

A question and answer period followed.

An AMENDMENT to the motion was made by Commissioner McCarthy and SECONDED by Commissioner Milewski that any negotiations with DAS Data Center be at the advise or consent of the Chair and/or the Co-Chair or their designees through the State Fire Administrator. Motion carried.

Moving to item 5 e.) Mr. Morrissette stated that Mr. Ouellette would report on this item when he returns to the meeting.

While waiting for Mr. Ouellette, Chairman Carozza asked if there were any comments or matters to be raised by Commissioners or Staff.

Commissioner Munkenbeck stated that he hoped that the Commissioners had already received a letter from him in reference to commenting on the new training programs offered by the State's Community Technical Colleges. Thanks to the Commission's efforts, the CT Safety Institute was born on March 17 and is already moving on the first step which is getting comments on program and degree changes. The first fire department to host a program is the Simsbury Fire Department and another is Occum. The College is also working with several others.

Commissioner Haber read notes from retired Chief John McAuliffe of the Wethersfield Fire Department and another from retired Assistant Chief Chet Haber of the Berlin Fire Department thanking the Commission for the Certificates of Appreciation presented to them.

Commissioner Nicol inquired whether the Commission was represented at the EMS Conference on March 21 in Cromwell and whether the Administrator had any issues to bring to the attention of the Commission.

Mr. Morrissette stated this was the first opportunity that the Commission had to staff a booth or have a presence at the conference. There are a lot of rumors out there saying that the Commission is trying to take over EMS. We try to explain that the Commission had established a sub-committee to look at the issue from the point of view that we want to insure that the fire service's EMS training needs are handled the way they should be handled. We don't have an established agenda right now, rather we are learning more about the system. A couple of our instructors had the opportunity to present workshops which I am told went extremely well. This was an opportunity for the Commission to make a presence and to let a lot of people know we are in the EMS training business.

Mr. Ouellette stated that we thought this would be a good opportunity and very worthwhile for the Academy to be visible not only to the EMS community but also to our own customers that we don't always reach. He stated that he was very pleased to be able to get known by some of the little outlining communities represented.

Mr. Ouellette stated that right now the CT Fire Academy is a CPR training facility under the auspice of the American Heart Association. As a CPR training facility the Academy is given the ability to issue CPR cards. With all the changes to the EMS system here in the state there will be will be a major change in how facilities are authorized to offer training. Only five facilities will be CPR designated for the entire state. AMR, Yale New Haven

and Manchester Memorial Hospital are rumored as those which will be designated as CPR facilities. The Academy probably should apply to be a CPR facility. If we don't become a facility, in order to provide CPR training we will have to go to one of the designated facilities and pay whatever fees these facilities want to charge. If the Academy applies and is designated as a CPR facility it will be of great service to the fire service. The down side to this is that the application fee may be as high as \$5,000.

A question and answer period followed.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner McCarthy and SECONDED by Commissioner Milewski to authorize the State Fire Administrator to investigate the feasibility of the CT Fire Academy applying to be designated as a CPR facility. Motion carried.

Commissioner McCarthy stated that in reading the Staff Report he noted donations the agency had received from various companies and wondered what the Commission did for recognition of those companies.

Mr. Morrissette stated that typically a thank you letter is sent and occasionally we do a press release to have the donation published. The Commission can't endorse equipment; however, we do our best to ensure that all the equipment we have at the Academy receives a lot of exposure.

Commissioner McCarthy inquired if more should be done in the way of recognition for these companies.

Mr. Ouellette stated that during the June School or other special programs we give those companies that donate vendor space at no cost.

Commissioner Peabody recommended that maybe the Commission needs to do an appreciation night and invite all the companies who have made donations.

Chairman Carozza adjourned the meeting at 11:05 A.M.

Dated: _____

Secretary, Commission on Fire
Prevention and Control

COMMISSION MEETING OF 3/25/97
MOTIONS

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STAFF FOLLOW-UPS REQUIRED

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