

Capitol Region Fire Chiefs Association (CRFCA)
ESF-4
February 22, 2007 Minutes

Next Meeting: March 22, 2007

Location: Newington Fire Department, 1485 Main Street

Convene: Called to order at 7:00pm by President William Austin

Attendance: William Austin (WHFD), Douglas Whalen (Bradley Int'l Airport FD), Frank Papa (NFD), Tom Gill (NFD), Jamie DiPace (AFD), Dave Celapinski (EFFD), Tom McMahan (KFD), Art Gold (BHFD), Bill Lewis (WFD), Roger Nelson (BFD), Vincent Palmeri (EHFD), William Perez (EHFD), Rich Frohock (NBFD), Hillel Weisel (AFD), John Shaw (ESF-8)

Minutes of previous meeting: January 25th, motion to pass minutes (Gold/Perez). Approved

Treasurers Report: Checking account: \$5,318.11, Savings account \$4,289.51, Motion to accept report (Perez/Celapinski). Approved.

Old Business:

Project P/Salamander technology discussion- The Project P sub-committee chairman Chris Brewer has meet with Cheryl and a purchase requisition has been put together for DEMHS approval. The system will be reviewed with the assistance of the sub-committee, Matt Nelson, GFD (purchased the same system) and Litchfield County FD (purchased same system a few months ago). The Statewide fire emergency plan committee will also be provided with information and given the opportunity to provide input so the system can be used as a Statewide accountability system in the future. A numbering system and data entry have been discussed and a final program will be available prior to the system going on-line. Chief Austin notified the group that the Citizen Corp committee in the Capitol Region would like to take on this project and provide the staffing to make ID's and be available in emergencies to provide accountability control on scene. This will give the project some assistance in getting started as it will take some time to badge every Firefighter in the region.

AD HOC nominating committee for 2007- Bill Perkins will be putting together a notice to send out to members. If anyone is interested in running for President, Vice President & Secretary/treasurer please notify Chief Perkins. Elections will take place at the June Meeting.

Alerting systems- the money for the capitol region and DEMHS reverse 911 systems has been released and a vendor has been awarded the project by the

State. The system still has some time before it is up & running. The Capitol Region alerting program at RICS is looking into vendors to provide a better system when calling out ESF staff for emergencies or notifications of events. Global Connect that is being used at Manchester & West Hartford is one vendor that the region is looking into to accomplishing a stronger alerting program. More information should be available next month.

RCC upgrade- The regional communications center upgrades are in the design phase with architects, more information will follow at future meetings.

Training report- nothing to report

MDT update- Committee is meeting March 2nd to go over purchase of the tough books and the final plans to get the system on-line with the regional fire services. The initial tough books to each Town will be discussed and a final number issued may vary depending on the number of Towns that want to participate. Singular has donated modems to go with the computers and this may help keep some of the costs down. The program is looking to cover the first 6-months of the service contract when given the computer and all of the programs. A complete report will be available at the March meeting once the committee has time to put together the final program.

Greater Hartford Public Safety Academy- A Charter high school with a public safety curriculum is being discussed. Chief Austin has been working on this program in the Capitol Region along with other members of Public safety and the Board of Education. As more information becomes available Chief Austin will present it to the Association.

New Business:

IMT Training- the State is working on Incident Management teams (IMT) and training for the Capitol Region should be conducted in April 2007. This training will require the student to attend 6- days of training conducted by the National Fire Academy. This will be an ODP approved training program.

USCG SAR training program- Chief Gary Ouellette (Middletown FD) will be putting together a department assistance & marine inventory program for the USCG SAR program. The USCG will travel up the Connecticut river and utilize Capitol Region assets from time to time. Please provide Chief Ouellette with any marine type resources and staff that have water training skills.

FY07 Grant- no update available, the process will go to mid-March.

ESF-2 communications update- all municipalities should provide a point of contact to RICS at CCSU, if a point of contact has already been provided please make sure it is updated with the correct information. UHF intercity channel has been procured and will be placed on the Glastonbury repeater site. Please hold

off on changing all UHF intercity radios until Keith Victor has the final information. Once the information is available Keith will notify everyone and a time period will be put in place to change over frequencies.

ITAC & ICALL will be ready for the upgrades by April 1st. the Black boxes approved by the interoperability committee will be tested in Wethersfield on Sunday during an Ice drill.

Congressman Larson- It was discussed to have this association look into seeing if Congressman Larson's office can assist volunteer fire department with the tax abatement program and get the IRS rules changed to have the money tax free.

VFIS insurance- Vice President Jamie DiPace provided an overview of the problems that face volunteer firefighter and workers comp coverage when they get hurt at the firehouse. It was discussed that the firefighters W/C coverage will only take effect if they are responding or working at a fire call. Station injuries while cleaning up and other type injuries are not covered. The VFIS program provides for additional coverage to the firefighters at a minimal cost. Many departments have been picking up the coverage for firefighter. Chief DiPace advised the Chiefs that they should check their coverage for staff.

Fire Apparatus Safety Inspections- DMV subsection (a) of section 4-168, pursuant to section 14-11d of the CT General Statutes, proposes to adopt a regulation regarding "Fire Apparatus". The purpose of this regulation is to provide standards for an annual safety inspection program for fire apparatus.

Future meeting dates: 3/22/07, 4/26/07, and 6/28/07

The next meeting will be hosted by **Newington Fire Department located at 1485 Main Street, Newington**. Meeting time is 7:00pm.

*****PLEASE NOTE A CHANGE IN THE MEETING LOCATION FOR THE MARCH MEETING. *******

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10pm

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Whalen

CRFCA Secretary/Treasurer