

Stanislaus County Fire Authority
Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
March 2, 2006
Regional Fire Training Center
1220 Fire Science Lane, Modesto, CA

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- Chief Skiles called the meeting to order at 0905 hrs. The flag was saluted.

ROLL CALL: The Following agency representatives were present:

Chief Les Alderson	Burbank Paradise Fire District
Chief Steve Barrett	CDF – Santa Clara Unit
City of Ceres	Commander Dan Davis
Chief Karl Curnow	Denair Fire District
Chief Jim Miguel	City of Modesto
Chief Kevin Blount	Mountain View Fire District
Chief Mike Wilkinson	City of Oakdale
Chief Rob Hoyer	Oakdale Rural Fire District
Chief Bill Kinnear	City of Patterson
Chief Dale Skiles	Salida Fire District
Chief Steve Mayotte	Stanislaus Consolidated Fire
Fire Warden Gary Hinshaw	Stanislaus County Fire Warden's Office
Assistant Chief John Barindelli	Westport Fire District
Director Bob Kimball	West Stanislaus Fire District
Chief Mike Passalacqua	Woodland Avenue Fire District

Also Present: Director Walt Luihn ORFD, Dennis Wister, Public Works, Paul Spani, Buck Condit, Kim Morante and Chief Wiegand, Stanislaus Consolidated Fire District, Deputy Fire Warden Ray Jackson and Mimi DeSimoni.

There were no public comments.

MINUTES

Chief Curnow motioned to accept the minutes from the last meeting; Chief Miguel seconded the motion. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Fire Prevention Report- Chief Hinshaw gave an overview of the report on the Fire Prevention Bureau and its relationship to the One-Stop Permitting program the Public Works Department is working to implement. The report is a draft that was compiled by the Fire Warden's Office staff with the help of Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Prevention personnel. The report outlined current processes and targeted improvements. He pointed out that the portion of the report focusing on the One Stop Permitting process was only a small part of what was found. Since

the Board of Supervisors asked for a report in 60 days as to how fire would assist in implementing the One Stop Plan, there were three points that Chief Hinshaw would like addressed in that report:

- 1- The need for a full time Fire Plan Checker at the counter 40 hours per week, and a ½ time clerical support position to be shared with Public Works;
- 2- That the software Public Works is considering for tracking should be integrated with fire plan checking activities; and
- 3- That the fee structure that is currently in place needs to be updated to fund the appropriate staffing levels needed to perform the fire prevention activities related to new development.

There was extended discussion regarding fees, and taxes. It was stressed that the Board of Supervisors needs to understand the deficiencies within the fire service and assist us in getting fee increases to help us address those. There was general agreement that the Less Than Countywide Tax should not be used to provide services to Developers at a loss to the fire service. Chief Hinshaw suggested that if we could recoup the cost of providing Fire Prevention Services to new development, we could use revenues previously used to fund those services for other much needed services. Chief Mayotte did not want the needs of Public Works to determine what our staffing level should be. Director Bob Kimball made a motion to direct staff to move forward with the concepts presented in the report and continue to look at methods to fund Fire Prevention services; Chief Blount seconded the motion. A roll call vote showed a unanimous yes vote by all represented agencies with an abstention by the Fire Warden's Office.

- B. Fire Investigation Report – Chief Mayotte reported that he has not had time in the last 60 days to devote to an analysis of the Investigation services being provided. He will be out of town for 2 weeks in March so has requested that Investigators John Silviera and Paul Spani work with the Fire Warden's Office to develop a report. The report should include input from the other stakeholders including the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office and the Arson Task Force.
- C. Mobile Data Computer Project – Chief Skiles gave a report on the MDC program, how the original infrastructure was paid for out of Homeland Security Grants, and how it has evolved since then. Currently there are 5 departments involved in the program: Modesto, Ceres, Salida, Oakdale City and the Fire Warden's Office. The monthly ATT circuit charges, paid for by the individual agencies, are currently paid for and billed out by Modesto FD. They would like to get out from under that responsibility. Chief Skiles suggested that the Fire Authority could act as the administering agency with the approval of the Board. There was interest among other agencies in getting involved in the program. Chief Hinshaw suggested that although Homeland Security grants will be diminishing, this is a project that may qualify. Chief Wilkinson made a motion to support the Fire Authority acting as administrator for this program; Chief Mayotte seconded that motion. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.
- D. Business Plan- Chief Skiles continued the discussion from previous meetings regarding our need for a business plan to present to the Board of Supervisors to outline our service priorities and levels of service. He suggested that we start with the following list:

- Prevention
- Investigation
- Administration / Finance
- Communications

Training
Operations

There was discussion regarding how many services we would like listed in our business plan. Chief Hinshaw made a motion to list all services provided but identify the top six categories above as top priorities. Chief Barindelli seconded the motion. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

- E. Fire Investigator Vehicle- Chief Mayotte reported that the Fire Investigator vehicle has 134,000 miles on it and needs to be replaced. Per the contract all capital purchases must come back to the Fire Authority for approval. Stanislaus Consolidated has a vehicle that is new but has not yet been put into service. Its cost is approximately \$26,500 plus equipment costs. He would put that into service for the Investigators with the Fire Authority's approval. There was discussion regarding the Fire Authority's ability to own assets and how it would handle the purchase of the vehicle. It was suggested that Chief Mayotte bring back a staff report to the next meeting and the Fire Authority will have a financial report to determine if there are funds available from the Less Than County Wide Tax to purchase a vehicle.

The meeting was adjourned at 1135 hrs on a motion by Chief Barindelli and seconded by Chief Mayotte.

Mimi DeSimoni
Clerk of the Fire Authority

Approved 4/6/06
Motion by Chief Mayotte
Second by Chief Barindelli