

Stanislaus County Fire Authority
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2006
Regional Fire Training Center
1220 Fire Science Lane, Modesto, CA

CALL TO ORDER: Chief Skiles called the meeting to order at 0905. The flag was saluted.

ROLL CALL: The following agency representatives were present:

Chief Les Alderson	Burbank Paradise Fire District
Chief Dan Davis	City of Ceres
Chief Karl Curnow	Denair Fire District
Chief Jim Miguel	City of Modesto
Chief Mike Wilkinson	City of Oakdale
Chief Rob Hoyer	Oakdale Rural Fire District
Chief Dale Skiles	Salida Fire District
Chief Steve Mayotte	Stanislaus Consolidated Fire District
Chief Gary Hinshaw	Stanislaus County Fire Wardens Office
Chief John Barindelli	Westport Fire District
Director Bob Kimball	West Stanislaus Fire District
Chief Mike Passalacqua	Woodland Ave. Fire District

Also present were: Ray Jackson, Stanislaus County Fire Wardens Office; Tom Burns, Salida Fire District; Mike Botto, City of Oakdale; Bryan Nichols, City of Ceres; John Silveira, Paul Spani, Jim Weigand, Stanislaus Consolidated Fire; Mike Kraus, Tom Brennan, Mike Payton, City of Modesto; Walt Luihn, Oakdale Rural Fire District; Doug Flora, Woodland Ave. Fire District; Dennis Wister, County Public Works; Erin Kiely, Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chief Mayotte made a motion to approve the minutes with a correction to the reference of Director Kimball as "Chief;" Chief Miguel seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

Agenda Items:

- A. Prevention report: Chief Miguel pointed out that the report states the facts regarding the current level of service. Chief Passalacqua made a motion to approve the Fire Prevention Report in the current format; Chief Barindelli seconded the motion. Chief Mayotte said that although he hadn't read the report he does not believe that the Fire Marshal should necessarily be responsible for providing the services. In the report it was noted that the Fire Marshal is responsible for directing fire prevention staff and for setting policy. Additionally, Chief Mayotte noted in the fire plans comparison table, the number of personnel providing fire plans review is 1 not 3-1/2. Chief Jackson explained that the comparison table was an overview of all Fire Prevention Bureau services provided and the number of personnel that currently provides those services; it is not specific to plans reviewed. This information is explained fully in the prevention report. Chief Mayotte suggested that the SCFPD entry on the comparison table be asterisked to show that only 1 personnel provides the plan review function. Chief Passalacqua revised his original motion to include the revision to the comparison chart. A roll call vote was taken and indicated a unanimous yes vote to approve the Fire Prevention report.
- B. Fire Investigation Report: Chief Jackson gave an update on the progress of the Fire Investigation Report. Statistical information had been requested from the Sheriff's Office, Stanislaus Consolidated Fire District,

and other various agencies and has been now received. Department's standards, policies and procedures have now been requested. The report has taken somewhat longer than expected due to a delay in receiving information. It is expected that a draft report should be available by the June Fire Authority meeting.

- C. Business Plan: Chief Skiles gave an overview of how the business plan has evolved. The first draft was distributed in April. At the last regular meeting a workshop was scheduled. The workshop was attended by numerous agencies and provided an opportunity for discussion of service priorities. Once service priorities and expectations were defined, funding was assigned to each one. Chief Skiles went through each service level section of the business plan and provided an opportunity for discussion of each of the business plan components. He asked that, if after reading the document, anyone has questions or comments that they contact him. The plan is to take this document, as a draft, to the individual Board of Supervisors. Chief Mayotte wanted to ensure that it was understood that the funding identified for each service level component was specific to personnel and not the entire program. Additional funding would be needed to fully support each position. His hope was that other revenue could be generated for funding the services. Chief Barindelli asked for clarification that the Cascade system falls under the Special Ops component. Chief Hinshaw noted that the new Fire Mobile Command Post purchased with Homeland Security Grant Funds should also come under special ops. The business plan will be brought back for further discussion and approval by the Fire Authority at a future meeting.
- D. Approval for the Executive Committee to meet with Board of Supervisors: Chief Skiles said that the Fire Authority needs to meet with the Board of Supervisors individually to introduce them to our plan and try to obtain their support as partners. This will give the board members an opportunity to review our priorities and give them a chance to have input on priorities we have set for future years. Then as a group, the entire Fire Authority will take it to the full board in a public meeting; we need their support both financially and as partners. Chief Mayotte believed that educating them ahead of time is a good idea. Chief Miguel believes that we should let the Supervisors know which services the Fire Authority is capable of providing and which services cannot be provided with the current funding levels. Business may be conducted differently in the future depending on funding. There was discussion on the fact that we have taken the original vision and written a business plan, now we need the Supervisors support as partners. The plan is based on the priorities of the fire service and should not be based on what the board wants unless some additional general fund contribution will fund that program. Chief Hinshaw suggested that each chief make an opportunity to talk to their individual supervisors to stress how important their support is to the Fire Authority. It was agreed that the chiefs need to speak in a unified manner and let them know that services will be cut if the funding is not available. Chief Skiles requested that if anyone has changes they would like to see made to the plan, please contact him, Mike Passalacqua, Ray, or Mimi either by e-mail or phone. Chief Mayotte made a motion for the executive team to start educating the Board of Supervisors on fire service issues; Chief Davis seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.
- E. Contracts: Contracts for the services outlined in the business plan need to be developed. They will be started, but not completed before the business plan is approved. Chief Hoyer made a motion to begin work on the contracts for services; Director Kimball seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously passed.
- F. Fee Study: Chief Skiles questioned whether the Fire Authority should partner with anyone to do a fee study. There was discussion about a phased in approach to the new fees. Chief Mayotte made a motion to move forward with the fee study but to bring it back for approval before any monies are expended; Chief Barindelli seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously passed.

Chief Skiles repeated that if anyone has any questions, comments or concerns about any of the items discussed today, please contact anyone on the executive committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2006. It will be held at 3705 Oakdale Road. There is the possibility of a mid-May special meeting for the investigation report, and the business plan. Chief Hinshaw will speak with the CEO regarding a time line to meet with the Board of Supervisors and putting the Fire Authority on a Board agenda.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Chief Mayotte and a second by Chief Davis.

Mimi DeSimoni
Clerk of the Fire Authority

Approved on June 1, 2006 on a motion by Chief Mayotte, and a second by Chief Miguel.