

# MINUTES

## STANISLAUS COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Meeting  
November 3, 2005  
9:00 A.M.

Regional Fire Training Center  
Fire Science Lane  
Modesto, CA

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### CALL TO ORDER

The first regular meeting of the Stanislaus County Fire Authority Board of Directors was called to order by Stanislaus County Fire Warden Gary Hinshaw on November 3, 2005 at 9:05 a.m.

### PLEDEGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chief Hinshaw led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

### ROLL CALL

Present: Les Alderson, Curtis King, Burbank Paradise FPD; Steven Barrett, CDF Santa Clara Unit; Dan Davis, City of Ceres; Karl Curnow, Ken Schroeder; Denair FPD; Brian Sorenson, Keyes FPD; Jim Miguel, City of Modesto; Kevin Blount, David Whipkey, Mountain View FPD; Mike Wilkinson, City of Oakdale; Rob Hoyer, Oakdale Rural FPD; Dale Skiles, Thomas Burns, Salida FPD; Steve Mayotte and Kim Morante, Stanislaus Consolidated FPD; Gary Thompson, Westport FPD; Jim Kinnear, Patterson/West Stanislaus FPD; Mike Passalaqua, Woodland Ave. FPD; Gary Hinshaw, Ray Jackson, Mimi DeSimoni, Stanislaus County Fire Warden's Office

Absent: Hughson FPD, City of Newman, Turlock City, Turlock Rural FPD

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chief Hinshaw introduced Rick Robinson the Chief Executive Officer of Stanislaus County. CEO Robinson focused his remarks on the extraordinary progress made by this group over the last 12 months. He restated his belief that this group should continue forward working on integrating service platforms and searching for common solutions to problems. He also made it clear that the County is not interested in trying to take away the autonomy or in running each district, but they are interested in giving their support to the vision and the work of this group. There are many challenges ahead including the LAFCO municipal service reviews and their recommendations. He went before the Board of Supervisors to ensure the continued funding of the \$300,000 General Fund Contribution for the 2005-2006 fiscal year and if the progress continues, he will work on getting that extended to the 2006-2007-budget year. He again thanked the group for their work.

Chief Skiles expressed his appreciation on behalf of the fire service for CEO Robinson's support of the Fire Authority concept with the Board of Supervisors.

## Public Comment Period

There were no public comments

## Communications

There were no communications

## Financial Report

Chief Hinshaw stated that since this was the first meeting, there would be no financial reports, however, in the future there will be a report on revenues related to the County Fire Service Fund, the expenses incurred, and the annual budget for services.

## New Business

It was approved by the assembled group to slightly rearrange the order of items under new business. Items 7.6, 7.7, and 7.8 were reordered to discuss them in a more logical sequence.

**7.1 JPA and Agency Resolutions-** The following agencies turned in signed resolutions and JPA documents: Burbank Paradise, City of Ceres, Denair FPD, Keyes FPD, City of Modesto, Oakdale Rural FPD, Salida FPD, Stanislaus Consolidated FPD, Woodland Ave. FPD, and Stanislaus County. The following agencies have passed their resolution but did not turn them in: Mountain View FPD, City of Patterson, and Westport FPD.

**7.2 Meeting Dates and Times-** Chief Skiles suggested that the first Thursday of the month seemed to work. There was discussion regarding the regular meeting dates in relation to the Stanislaus County Chief's Association meetings. There was further discussion regarding the diminished ability of the Chief's Association to conduct business on matters that the Fire Authority would have discussions on in the future. There could be potential Brown Act violations if there is not a clear delineation between the business of the two organizations. It was agreed by the organization to continue with the first Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the RFTC until there is clarification between the two groups.

**7.3 Conflict of Interest and Form 700-** There were Form 700s made available to the entire group. Mimi DeSimoni said she was informed by the Board of Supervisor's Clerk that new law requires all board members to fill the form out within 30 days of taking office, regardless of whether the organization has formally adopted their conflict of interest code or not. These forms are also available on-line in an interactive format. We should have a draft code for the next meeting, but everyone should bring the form back for proper filing.

**7.4 Agenda Distribution-** Chief Hinshaw pointed out that there is a difference between what we have to do for posting, and what the organization should do. He suggested that each agency representative provide the Fire Warden's office with a list of who they would like to receive an agenda. Suggestions included Chiefs, Board Members, City Managers, Mayors, and City Clerks. It is up to the representatives to designate who would be appropriate. The agendas and minutes will also be available on the Fire Warden's web site: [www.co.stanislaus.ca.us](http://www.co.stanislaus.ca.us) under Emergency Services – Fire Warden - Current Events.

**7.5 Designation of Chairman-** Chief Hinshaw opened the discussion regarding the designation of a chairman. The JPA agreement assigned the role of Administering Agency to the Fire Warden's Office. He said this would be appropriate due to the staff and resources his office has available to take care of the administrative and financial business of the organization, and currently the funding for the JPA flows through his budget. In the future the group could decide to change that. However, Chief Hinshaw wanted someone else to hold the position of Chairman. Chief Mayotte made a motion to retain the County Fire Warden's office as the Administering Agency for the Fire Authority; Chief Davis seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chief Miguel pointed out the hard work that Chief Skiles has put into the formation of the organization and nominated him as Chairman. Chief Blount seconded the motion. Chief

Skiles voiced his concerns over some issues with the position. He stated that there is a fair amount of work involved with the organization, and he wants to be clear on the expectations of the group. With the additional amount of time, research, work and travel there may be an issue of cost to the Chairman's agency. He has taken a great deal of criticism over his motives over the last year and he wants to know that now that the group is formed, the divisiveness of the past will discontinue. The challenges ahead require common ground and support and he believes that since this now is more than just an association, the vote and support of each member of the organization is extremely important. The success of this organization belongs to the group as a whole not just to the Chairman. Chief Hinshaw outlined some of the difficulties of the last year and echoed Chief Skiles' concerns. He stated that this Board must be united behind its Chairperson.

Director Tom Burns, Salida Fire, stated that Salida's Board has been behind this project from the start, but it should be allowed the opportunity to approve his appointment. Chief Miguel amended his motion to reflect that he nominated Chief Skiles for the position of Chairman of The Stanislaus County Fire Authority, pending the ratification by his Board of Directors, Chief Blount seconded the motion. A roll call vote reflected the following:

Les Alderson, Burbank Paradise FPD	Yes
Dan Davis, City of Ceres	Yes
Karl Curnow, Denair FPD	Yes
Jim Miguel, City of Modesto	Yes
Kevin Blount, Mountain View FPD	Yes
Rob Hoyer, Oakdale Rural FPD	Yes
Bill Kinnear, City of Patterson	Yes
Dale Skiles, Salida	Abstain
Steve Mayotte, Stanislaus Consolidated FPD	Yes
Gary Thompson, Westport FPD	Yes
Mike Passalacqua, Woodland Ave, FPD	Yes
Gary Hinshaw, Fire Warden	Yes

Motion to appoint Chief Dale Skiles as Chairman of the Stanislaus County Fire Authority was passed.

Chief Davis made a motion to nominate Chief Passalacqua to serve in the capacity of Vice-Chairman. He stated that Chief Passalacqua as been a constant supporter of the organization. Chief Miguel seconded the motion. A roll call vote reflected the following:

Les Alderson, Burbank Paradise FPD	Yes
Dan Davis, City of Ceres	Yes
Karl Curnow, Denair FPD	Yes
Jim Miguel, City of Modesto	Yes
Kevin Blount, Mountain View FPD	Yes
Rob Hoyer, Oakdale Rural FPD	Yes
Bill Kinnear, City of Patterson	Yes
Dale Skiles, Salida	Yes
Steve Mayotte, Stanislaus Consolidated FPD	Yes
Mike Passalacqua, Woodland Ave, FPD	Yes
Gary Hinshaw, Fire Warden	Yes

The motion was passed. Chief Thompson had stepped out to conduct business. Chief Hinshaw pointed out the need to elect a Clerk/Secretary for the organization. Chief Hoyer nominated Mimi DeSimoni; B/C Sorenson seconded the motion. A roll call vote reflected the following unanimous vote:

Les Alderson, Burbank Paradise FPD	Yes
Dan Davis, City of Ceres	Yes
Karl Curnow, Denair FPD	Yes
Jim Miguel, City of Modesto	Yes
Kevin Blount, Mountain View FPD	Yes
Rob Hoyer, Oakdale Rural FPD	Yes
Bill Kinnear, City of Patterson	Yes
Dale Skiles, Salida	Yes
Steve Mayotte, Stanislaus Consolidated FPD	Yes
Mike Passalacqua, Woodland Ave, FPD	Yes
Gary Hinshaw, Fire Warden	Yes

**7.6 Rules of Procedure-** Chief Skiles assumed the role of Chair and led the discussion regarding rules of procedure. These will become important in defining how the organization does business. It was suggested that a committee look at other organizations documents, put together a document and bring it back to the Board next meeting. The committee will consist of Chief Davis, D/C Hoyer, Chief Miguel and Mimi.

**7.7 Define Goals and Objectives-** Chief Skiles stated that the success of this organization up to this point is largely because we've met our objectives. He would like the organization to define 3 or 4 core goals and objectives to measure our future decision against. There were several ideas. Chief Mayotte volunteered to head a committee to work on that, Director Tom Burns, and Ray Jackson also agreed to help.

**7.8 Establish Organizational Chart-** Chief Skiles stated that he did not advocate have numerous standing committees. He instead preferred that committees have a stated purpose, and a conclusion once the work has been done. There was concern that the organization does need representatives on outside standing committees to deal with such issues as EMSC and SR911. These will be addressed in the future.

**7.9 Budget-** Chief Skiles made the request that at the next meeting Chief Mayotte and his staff prepare an accounting of what the District is owed for services for the first 4 months of the year, and that they present what the cost will be to continue providing that service. Along with that, the group may make recommendations for the future budget. The group's focus will be on what revenues will be available, and what services can be provided with those revenues.

**The next meeting was set for December 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Regional Fire Training Center.** (It was changed from the first, due to the League of Cities meeting that week.).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Mimi DeSimoni, Clerk of the Fire Authority

Approved: Motion by Chief Mayotte,  
Seconded by Chief Hoyer  
Unanimously passed