

**Stanislaus County Fire Authority
Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2006**

The regular June meeting of the Stanislaus County Fire Authority was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at 3705 Oakdale Road by Chief Skiles.

The following agency representatives were present:

Chief Karl Curnow	Denair Fire District
Chief Jim Miguel	City of Modesto
Chief Mike Wilkinson	City of Oakdale
Chief Bill Kinnear	City of Patterson
Chief Dale Skiles	Salida Fire District
Chief Gary Hinshaw	Stanislaus County Fire Warden's Office
Chief Steve Mayotte	Stanislaus Consolidated Fire District
Director Bob Kimball	West Stanislaus Fire District

Also present were: Detective Joe Mello, Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department; Dennis Wister, Stanislaus County Public Works; Chief Mel Souza, Newman Fire; Mike Whorton, Shirley Koelmans, Carrie Silveira, Rich Boyd, John Silveira and Shawn Ehrenberg, Stanislaus Consolidated Fire; Director Tom Burns, Salida Fire.

Public Comments: None

Minutes: Chief Mayotte made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4th and the June 25th meetings; Chief Miguel seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

Agenda Items:

- A. Update- Chief Skiles provided an update to the group regarding the meeting that was held with the last two supervisors. The business plan was presented to Supervisors Mayfield and Simon on Wednesday and was met with a favorable response. They were pleased with the fact that the Fire Authority had brought them a plan and had done an analysis on the services provided. They were both in favor of a stronger partnership with the County with the Fire Authority taking the lead.
- B. Fire Investigation Report Draft- Deputy Fire Warden Ray Jackson gave an overview of the report that outlines a brief history, standards and guidelines for fire investigators and law enforcement, records management, the current service level of fire investigations including a workload analysis, and some options for the future. He suggested that this is a draft and that everyone should take time to read through it and bring any questions they may have back to the next meeting.
- C. Contracts – Chief Skiles gave an update on the contracts for services other than fire prevention and fire investigations. Since these two services are the most critical, attention has been focused on getting them done. The other contracts will be addressed within the next 30-60 days.
- D. Contract for fire prevention- A draft outlining the service expectations for Fire Prevention services and a draft contract was distributed for discussion. Chief Miguel questioned the expectations of the Fire Authority with regard to staffing levels and scheduling. Chief Skiles said it was not the intent of the Fire Authority to manage the program, the Fire Marshal would be responsible for setting those schedules making sure that the One Stop Permitting Plan is met. They expect that there should be someone there from fire at the Planning Department with the authority to make decisions. Chief Mayotte made a motion to accept the expectations outlined in the proposal; Chief Miguel seconded the motion. A roll call vote reflected a unanimous yes vote.
- E. Options for fire prevention services- Chief Skiles said that after speaking with the County Supervisors, it was determined that they are interested in providing the services through the Fire Warden's Office. The question

was raised as to whether the County has the ability to take over by July 1st. The question has been raised as to whether the Fire Warden's Office has the ability to provide these services since it does not have suppression responsibilities. According to Jack Doering, County Counsel, the California Government Code and the Health and Safety Code have provisions that enable the Fire Warden's Office to provide fire prevention services. Chief Miguel was concerned that the action taken on the last item precluded the Fire Authority from awarding the contract without going through an RFP process. Jack Doering said that the Fire Authority has wide discretion to decide how the RFP process will work; there are no statutes to prevent the group from changing the process. Chief Miguel felt that there was clearly a misunderstanding as to the intent and the motion on Item D. Chief Miguel made a motion to set aside the action taken on Item D; Director Kimball seconded the motion. A roll call vote reflected that all members voted yes, with the exception of Chief Mayotte, who voted no. Chief Miguel made a motion to establish the document titled "Proposal for Fire Prevention Services" presented in item D as the minimum level of service under any award for contract for future fire prevention services; Director Kimball seconded the motion. A roll call vote reflected a unanimous yes vote. There was further discussion regarding how fire prevention benefits the County, therefore it is logical that it is provided through a County office. Chief Miguel said that his office would not bid on it with the funding being unclear in the future. Chief Mayotte was concerned for the welfare of his employees. He wants a guarantee of salary and benefits to be provided. He agrees that the County should provide these services but won't vote for anything until he knows the disposition of his employees. Director Kimball made a motion to put the fire prevention services back with the County through the County Fire Warden's Office; Chief Passalacqua seconded the motion. Chief Mayotte stated that he wants to see a plan from the Fire Warden's Office before continuing; Chief Curnow wants a RFP for 60 days. A roll call vote reflected all yes votes with the exception of Chief Mayotte and Chief Curnow who voted no.

The next special meeting was set for Thursday, June 15th at the RFTC to discuss the Investigation Report and contract services for the month of July.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

Mimi DeSimoni
Clerk of the Fire Authority