

Stanislaus County Fire Authority
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2009 – 9:30 a.m.
Following Fire Chief’s Association Meeting
Regional Fire Training Center – Modesto, CA

1. Pledge of Allegiance:

Chief Skiles called the meeting to order at 1000 hrs. The flag was saluted.

2. Roll Call:

The follow agency representatives were present:

Cal Fire SCU	Chief Barrett
City of Modesto	Chief Kraus
City of Oakdale	Chief Botto
Oakdale Fire District	Captain Hoyer
City of Patterson	Chief Kinnear
Salida Fire	Chief Skiles
Stanislaus Consolidated Fire	Chief Mayotte
Stanislaus County Fire Warden	Chief G. Hinshaw
City of Turlock	Chief Lohman
West Stanislaus Fire	Director Kimball
Woodland Ave. Fire	Chief Passalaqua

Also attending the meeting were: Shana Jones, Cal Fire; Michael Lillie, City of Ceres; Lee Winton, Oakdale Fire District; Mike Payton and Alicia Hinshaw, Modesto Fire; Ray Jackson, Bill Houk, Ken Slamon, Mimi DeSimoni, Stanislaus County Fire Warden’s Office; Chad Homme, Salida Fire, RaeLene Brown, SCFPD; Marilyn Smith MVEMSA, Steve Treat, Stanislaus County Building Department.

3. Public Comment:

- Chief Slamon introduced Steve Treat, the Interim Building Official for Stanislaus County. He is taking Dennis Wister’s place, since Dennis retired last month.
- Chief Mayotte thanked all the agencies that responded to the Gallo Glass fire. He appreciated their help.

4. Minutes:

Chief Mayotte made a motion to accept the minutes, Director Kimball seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

5 Staff Committee Reports:

5.1 Management, Fiscal and Legislative Report –Report was made under agenda items.

5.2 Fire Investigations Report – Chief Payton reported that July was a pretty typical month for fire investigations. The 4th of July was very quiet, possibly because of the economy. He distributed the monthly report.

5.3 Fire Prevention Report – Chief Slamon distributed a sample water-requirement letter. He requested that those districts that had not yet submitted one, to please consider doing so soon. The monthly activity report was distributed

5.4 Fire Communications Report – Chad Homme reported that he is working on the second

order for the AFG grant, and working with the Fire Warden's Office on a Homeland Security Grant for additional radios. SR911 is still working on map books, they should be out prior to the new CAD go-live date. He distributed a monthly report on other on-going communications projects.

- 5.5 Fire Training Report** – Chief Skiles distributed the Fire Training Report. Several up-coming opportunities for training were discussed.
- 5.6 Special Operations Report** – Bill Houk reported that the technical rescue group has met and discussed the possibility of developing a regional USAR task force. This is a huge project, it will require 90 people participating. Any agency with interest in this, please make sure to attend the monthly meetings.

6. Agenda Items

6.1 Operational Area Coordinator Report- Chief Jackson reported on the following:

- Strike team update – MST Cal EMA engine 321 returned, Cal EMA engines 347 and 318 are in Oak Glen, and XST 4202 is in demob. and will return today.

6.2 GASB45 Presentation – Insight Benefits Group gave a presentation on the requirements of public agencies with respect to disclosure of unfunded liabilities. They provided several options for how an agency might self fund their contribution. The option their company provides is asset backed insurance lending, in which an agency purchases life insurance policies on their employees. They provided brochures and handouts detailing the plan.

6.3 Permit Required Confined Space Rescue Plan- The plan has been out for 60 days for all agencies to review and comment. Chief Houk provided one additional page. With no further comment or discussion Chief Mayotte made a motion to accept the plan, Chief Botto seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion received a unanimous yes vote.

6.4 Annual Report - A draft of the 2008-2009 Annual Fire Authority Report was distributed for review. Chief Skiles asked for written comments on whether service level expectations were met; please submit those to Mimi so they may be included in the final draft. The report will come back for approval at the October meeting.

6.5 Budget Committee Report – The Budget Committee met and reviewed the final financial report for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Property taxes were lower than expected. Projections for the next three years show that we will not be able to sustain the current contracts or planned increases. The budget committee provided three recommendations for adjustments:

Suspend the 4% Cost of living increases to the contracts

Suspend allocations to the vehicle replacement fund

Eliminate the last service contract filled, Special Operations

Chief Hinshaw addressed the membership and noted that, as an advisory to the Board of Supervisors, it is the Fire Authority's obligation to ensure that we stay within our budget. He spoke about Chief Houk's contribution to the fire service in this county, and how this is a very difficult decision to make. He requested that if the membership votes to approve the recommendations of the committee, that Chief Houk be retained until his 5 year anniversary with the County in January. The Budget Committee will meet on a periodic basis to reevaluate the budget. Chief Botto made a motion to accept the recommendations of the budget committee, retaining Special Operations until January; Director Kimball seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, which resulted in 10 yes votes and one abstention by Chief Hinshaw.

Other Items: Director Brown noted that the next Fire Directors Association meeting is Monday September 28th. Only 3 directors attended the last meeting. Please get the information out to your directors about this organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 1045hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

M. DeSimoni
Stanislaus County Fire Warden's Office