

Stanislaus County Fire Authority
SPECIAL Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2010– 4:00 p.m.
Regional Fire Training Center – Modesto, CA

1. Pledge of Allegiance:

Chief Skiles called the meeting to order at 1615 hrs. The flag was saluted.

2. Roll Call:

The follow agency representatives were present:

Cal Fire SCU	Chief Barrett
City of Modesto	Chief Miguel
City of Oakdale	Chief Botto
Oakdale Fire District	Chief Winton
City of Patterson	Chief Kinnear
Salida Fire	Chief Skiles
Stanislaus Consolidated Fire	Chief Mayotte
Stanislaus County	Chief Hinshaw
Westport Fire	Chief Barindelli
Woodland Ave Fire	Chief Passalaqua
West Stanislaus Fire	Director Kimball

Also attending the meeting: Ray Jackson, and Mimi DeSimoni, Stanislaus County Fire Warden's Office, Kirk Ford and Steve Treat, Stanislaus County Community Development and Building Departments

3. Public Comment:

4. Agenda Items

Building Department Administrative Fees Kirk Ford, the head of the Stanislaus County Community Development Department and Steve Treat, the Head Building Official for the County asked for an opportunity to address the group regarding the upcoming hearing on their ordinance to charge an administrative fee to the fire districts for the collection of their Developer Fees. The proposed fee would be 1% on all fees collected, and an additional 2-1/2 % on all fees paid by credit card. Kirk apologized to the district representatives for not communicating with them first, and stated that he wanted to work with the agencies to make them whole with these charges. He hoped that this could be solved without all of the chiefs going before the Board of Supervisors and derailing the rest of the ordinance. The Building Department received no funding from the General Fund, they are totally self supporting with building permit fees. The costs incurred on behalf of other agencies come out of their funding. He offered a three step process to implement fees on behalf of the District to cover the cost of their fees: 1) County approves charging fee, 2) Fire Districts to adopt same administrative fee by resolution, 3) Districts send resolutions (all together) back to the BOS for them to approve. Kirk believed that since the BOS had already identified findings for fees, a study would not be needed in this case. There was a general discussion on whether once the fee is approved on

behalf of the County, if the BOS would support the fire districts, many were doubtful. Some points of discussion:

- If the County can't afford the 2-1/2% fee for credit cards, why are they accepting them?
- Many districts will opt out of the County collecting their fees and have the applicant come to the district to pay, which will negatively impact the one-stop-shop concept.
- The fire agencies are providing a service to support economic growth, therefore it behooves the County to support the fire service.
- The fire service needs support coming back their way, some examples of projects where the fire service has not been considered are Cilion and West Park.

Kirk stated that he understood the points that were made, he is trying to look toward the future and what can be done better.

Chief Miguel made a motion to request that the Board of Supervisors remove the 1% administrative fee from the proposed ordinance, cease to collect fire fees with credit cards, continue on collecting fees without charge as in the past, and revisit this issue at a later date. Chief Barindelli seconded the motion. A roll call vote reflected 8 agencies voting in favor with CalFire, City of Patterson and Stanislaus County Fire Warden's Office abstaining.

Kirk said that if the fire service appears en-mass at the meeting and asks the BOS not to enforce the County ordinance, it would not have a good outcome.

Chief Hinshaw thanked Kirk and Steve for coming to the meeting and discussing this issue.

Meeting was adjourned at 1750 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mimi DeSimoni
Stanislaus County Fire Wardens Office