

Stanislaus County Fire Authority
Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
October 5, 2006

Chief Skiles called the meeting to order at 0908 hrs. The flag was saluted.

The following agency representatives were present:

Chief Steve Barrett	CDF –SCU
Commander Brian Weber	City of Ceres
Asst. Chief Henry Benevides	Keyes Fire
Chief Jim Miguel	City of Modesto
Chief Mike Wilkinson	City of Oakdale
Deputy Chief Rob Hoyer	Oakdale Rural Fire
Chief Bill Kinnear	City of Patterson
Chief Dale Skiles	Salida Fire District
Chief Steve Mayotte	Stanislaus Consolidated Fire
Fire Warden Gary Hinshaw	Stanislaus County
Director Bob Kimball	West Stanislaus Fire District
Chief Mike Passalaqua	Woodland Ave. Fire District

Also present were: Detective Rivera, Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department; John Borges, Burton's Fire Apparatus; Buck Condit, SCFPD; Mike Botto, Oakdale Fire; John Ellis, CDF; Mike Kraus and Mike Payton Modesto Fire; Ron Cripe, RFTC; Ray Jackson and Mimi DeSimoni, Fire Warden's Office.

Public Comment: Chief Miguel noted that at the Cal Chief's conference they discussed the significant changes to the statewide fire training standards, which will affect everyone. The document is available on line and is called 20/20. Chief Ellis noted that there has been a court ruling regarding FLSA and supervisory positions, which could also have a significant impact.

Approval of Minutes: Chief Mayotte made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 7th meeting; Chief Miguel seconded the motion.

Agenda Items:

- A. Fire Communications - The Fire Communications proposal was presented at the last meeting for questions and comments. Chief Skiles asked for discussion. Chief Wilkinson stated that he believes that in addition to the non-sworn, technical position proposed, that we should also have an operational manager that is a sworn chief-officer who could manage the communications issues with authority. He believes that the breakdowns we are having are compromising firefighter safety and need to be fixed as soon as possible; the Fire Resource Officer program is a result of the weaknesses in the fire-side of SR911. Chief Miguel suggested that fire could possibly get some help, with some partial funding assistance, by having a fire officer assigned to SR911. Chief Hinshaw agreed that we do have problems with SR911. We need to identify the problems; with the number of committees there are, fire isn't capable of having adequate representation. The goal of fire is a command and control center similar to what CDF has. Chief Ellis said that CDF has been working through their problems with a new CAD for 5 years. It is imperative that a full time fire representative is involved during the implementation. He offered to bring our dispatchers to their

dispatch center to see a true command and control environment. Chief Skiles questioned whether our budget could support an additional \$150,000 a year position. Mimi reported that if all positions were filled in the 07-08 we would have to fund the position out of carryover money. There are still some unknowns with respect to future revenues. Chief Miguel made a motion to move forward with Salida's proposed position for technical management of fire communications; Chief Barrett seconded the motion. More discussion followed the motion: Chief Miguel suggested that they would have discussions regarding the fire leadership with SR911. Chief Hinshaw stated that we should explore options for funding solutions for operational problems within SR911, possibly a position paper should be written outlining the deficiencies in the system and what our objectives are. A roll call vote reflected a unanimous approval of the motion.

- B. Fire Training performance expectations: Performance expectations for the Training Coordinator position were identified and brought forward by a committee led by Chief Passalaqua. There was some discussion regarding the office at the RFTC. There was also discussion regarding the \$125,000 limit. Some felt that it was too limiting and the wording should be changed to "Funding level identified in business plan." Chief Miguel made a motion to approve the performance expectations for Training Coordinator with the noted change in the cost; Commander Weber seconded the motion. It was discussed that the capital costs for starting up the program, such as vehicles and computers, are an appropriate use of carryover revenues. We should consider all proposals. A roll call vote reflected a unanimous yes vote by all agencies. The approval then opened the proposal period. Proposals will be presented at the November meeting.
- C. Special Operations Coordinator performance expectations- Chief Miguel felt that the mission statement was too broad; he did not think haz-mat (third bullet point from the bottom) should be included because too many other agencies are involved. Chief Wilkinson wanted to see the bullet point that references "...coordination of regional support..." removed. Chief Miguel made a motion to take these performance expectations back to the committee for clarification; Chief Barrett seconded the motion. The timing for approving the expectations, opening the proposal period and awarding the contract is very important. We are striving to complete the process by January. A special meeting may be called, or approval will be needed at the November meeting if we are to stay on track. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote.
- D. Sprinkler Ordinance – Chief Jackson reported that a countywide sprinkler ordinance was identified as a priority going all the way back to the visioning process. There were a couple of draft ordinances that were never brought forward. The most current version of the fire code was adopted recently; therefore this would be a good time to move forward with the sprinkler ordinance. Chief Hannink addressed the group regarding the adoption. He said that it would be best to adopt it on a countywide basis rather than individually, this will require commitment by all because the process may become political. We need to determine what elements should be included if we want to move forward. He distributed the previously proposed language. He proposed setting a workshop within the next 30 days that would include the building department. Chief Ellis suggested bringing in the building community before it goes up for adoption, so that we can get their "buy-in" on the proposed ordinance since they could become adversarial. Chief Hannink will set a meeting time for the workshop.
- E. Management, Fiscal, Legislative:
 - a. Management, Fiscal, Legislative- Mimi reported that the fee study is underway, the billing for MDC's, which was taken over by the Fire Authority, has been done, and we have approached the County's Public Facilities Fees Committee regarding the purchase of equipment for the fire service.

- b. Fire Investigations- Chief Miguel handed out a report detailing the activities of the Fire Investigators during the month of September. He has questions on the Arson Task Force and will be looking into that.
- c. Chief Jackson reported that the Fire Prevention Bureau has been busy, a ½ time clerical position has been put in place, a preliminary tracking system has been put into place for all fire prevention activities and long term solutions for integrating with Public Works system are being considered, and standard operating procedures are being developed for the Fire Prevention Bureau. The county expects to have job classifications completed and to the employees within the next week for them to evaluate.

Chief Wilkinson announced that Oakdale City Fire has been reorganized. All of their lieutenants were reclassified to captains and the firefighter/engineers are now engineers. Mike Botto has been promoted to Division Chief.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday November 2, 2006 at the RFTC.

The meeting was adjourned at 1030hrs.

Mimi DeSimoni
Clerk of the Board