

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Board of Supervisors

BOARD AGENDA # *A-2

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE June 16, 2009

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO

(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Acceptance of the Resignations of Travis Hawkins and Kevin Shatswell from the Oakdale Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Accept the resignation of Travis Hawkins and Kevin Shatswell from the Oakdale Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors.
2. Direct staff to post vacancy.
3. Direct staff to send a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Shatswell.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2009-395

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa, Seconded by Supervisor Grover
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Grover, Monteith, and Chairman DeMartini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

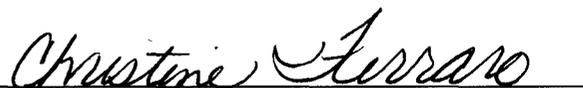
1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

June 1, 2009

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2009 JUN -3 P 2:35

Bill O'Brien
Stanislaus County Supervisor
1010 10th Street, Suite 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

It is with regret that I must tender my resignation as a member of the board of Oakdale Rural Fire Protection District. After being on the board only for a single year I can positively inform you that they are in need of more assistance than I can provide. There are more special (personal) interests being fulfilled than there are necessary goals being met.

To familiarize you with some of the problems that any future board members will be entering into I will list some of my concerns.

1. One of the board members is solely looking out for her son (a firefighter) and her good friend (the fire chief). She has even gone as far to use her position to attack or direct action against specific firefighters without just cause.
2. Firefighters are hostile and threaten law suits with union action at every point that they don't get their way. The Brown Act prevents us from delivering proper information to them and the community, which then results in an incorrect and indefensible reaction by the community and firefighters towards the board.
3. At each meeting firefighters and members of the community are recording and then trying to pick at each action taken by the board and even specific members for fault. While some insulation from personal liability is granted to board members, even a board member with the best intent is accepting some personal liability risk in the atmosphere that has been created.
4. Budget problems are solvable, but will never be agreed upon or accomplished because of firefighters and special interest board members. The department currently runs on almost 90% of the budget allocated to the employees and a mere 10% allocated to maintain the facilities and equipment.

I could list additional items, although I feel it is unnecessary. The bottom line is that it is going to be very difficult to save or even help the department in its current state. I know that the firefighters feel that I am one of the individuals that is looking out for the

department, the community and them, and I hope my resigning will help them to realize what they are doing to themselves.

Please take care to appoint replacement Directors that do not have any special interests in mind when requesting a seat on the board. I can assure you if things don't improve, I will not be the last letter of resignation that you will receive because of the hostility and chaos that exists at Oakdale Rural Fire Protection District.

Thank you for the opportunity to get involved with my community and I can honestly say that I did the best I felt could be done for the department in my short time spent as a Director. I wish you the best of luck in finding a replacement and would like to offer my input if you feel this is an issue of which you would like to become more involved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Travis Hawkins', with a stylized, cursive script.

Travis Hawkins

May 27, 2009

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2009 JUN 11 P 12: 13

Bill O'Brien
Stanislaus County Supervisor
1010 10th Street, Suite 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

With only a very short time spent as a Director of the Oakdale Rural Fire Protection District, I feel that I need to give careful consideration as to what kind of hostile conditions I have been presented with. It is for this reason that I must think of the well being of my family and I tender my resignation to you.

The current status of the board and fire department is in disarray with far too many lawyers involved, special interests pursued, and direct disregard for the fact that as a board we are there to help make the department better and at this point fighting for it to remain operational.

It was my sincere intent to give back to my community by offering all that I could to this department. Unfortunately I cannot do this when I leave each meeting with more people believing worse of me than when I arrived. It is exhausting fighting for what is right when so many others are only fighting for what they want.

I appreciate the opportunity to get involved and wish you the best of luck in finding a replacement.

Sincerely,

Kevin Shatswell

