



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 12/20/2016

Agenda Placement: 6FF

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Alice Hughey for Leanne Link - County Executive Officer
County Executive Office

REPORT BY: Helene Franchi, Deputy County Executive Officer - 253-4820

SUBJECT: Approval of Volunteer Companies MOA

RECOMMENDATION

County Executive Officer and County Fire Chief request approval of and authorization for the Chairman to sign the following agreements for the term July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021, with a provision for automatic annual renewal unless either party notifies the other party by January 31 of intent to seek revisions or not renew, with the following Volunteer Fire Companies:

1. Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 8061 with Angwin Volunteer Fire Company;
2. Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 8062 with Capell Valley Volunteer Fire Company;
3. Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 8063 with Carneros Volunteer Fire Company;
4. Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 8064 with Deer Park Volunteer Fire Company;
5. Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 8065 with Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Company;
6. Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 8066 with Gordon Valley Volunteer Fire Company;
7. Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 8067 with Pope Valley Volunteer Fire Company;
8. Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 8068 with Rutherford Volunteer Fire Company; and
9. Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 8069 with Soda Canyon Volunteer Fire Company.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Board and Volunteer Fire Chiefs entered into Memoranda of Agreement on January 28, 2014. Together with the County Fire Chief, the Volunteer Chiefs identified areas in the Agreement that require modification. Those areas are:

1. Administration: the volunteers and the County Fire Chief continue to support one fire department. However, some changes have been made to include the Volunteer Fire Chief and individual company bylaws for clarification. The Volunteer Fire Chief has been included in sections dealing with the separation of a

- Volunteer Firefighter, and a notification section has been added when a Volunteer Fire Chief resigns;
2. Training: language has been added to clarify current procedures; and
 3. Equipment: language has been added that requires the County Fire Chief to solicit input from the Volunteer Fire Chiefs regarding the location and types of fire apparatus at volunteer stations.

The Volunteer Fire Chiefs and the County Fire Chief support the proposed document.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There is no Environmental Impact for this item.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

In 2012 a group of the Volunteer Fire Chiefs approached the Board of Supervisors with concerns about the oversight of the Napa County Fire Department. That same year, a Grand Jury report included a series of recommendations related to the Fire Department. The County contracts with Cal-Fire for the administration of the Napa County Fire Department. The concerns expressed by the Volunteer Fire Chiefs and recommendations made by the Grand Jury resulted in the Board of Supervisors directing County staff to seek a more active role in the day to day management of the Napa County Fire Department. On September 17, 2012, the Board of Supervisors held a special study session to discuss fire services in Napa County. One of the key issues identified during the workshop was a lack of formalized structure. The Board of Supervisors directed staff to create an ad hoc committee tasked with reviewing and making recommendations regarding the structure of the Napa County Fire Department. The ad hoc committee included County staff, Cal-Fire staff working under the agreement with Napa County Fire, volunteer firefighters and Volunteer Fire Chiefs, a public member appointed by the County Executive Officer and two members of the Board of Supervisors.

The ad hoc committee began meeting in October 2012 and concluded its work with a progress report and a series of recommendations that were presented and approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 11, 2013 including the creation of the Fire Services Advisory Committee (FSAC).

Per the action taken by the Board of Supervisors on June 11, 2013, the existing Memorandum of Understanding with the Volunteer Fire Companies was terminated effective December 31, 2013. One of the initial priorities of the FSAC was to create a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) effective January 1, 2014. FSAC created a subcommittee to begin working on this document. The subcommittee included representation from Volunteer Fire Chiefs and the Volunteer Firefighters as well as the County Fire Chief, the Volunteer Liaison Officer and County staff representing Risk Management, Human Resources and the County Executive Office. After agreement by the Volunteer Fire Chiefs, the Board ultimately approved the MOA on January 28, 2014.

During the past year and pursuant to the MOA, the Volunteer Chiefs requested some modifications in the MOA and have been in negotiations with the County Fire Chief. All of the Volunteer Fire Chiefs and the County Fire Chief have agreed to the following modifications:

1. Administration: the volunteers and the County Fire Chief continue to support one fire department. However, some changes have been made to include the Volunteer Fire Chief and individual company bylaws for clarification. The Volunteer Fire Chief has been included in sections dealing with the separation of a Volunteer Firefighter, and a notification section has been added when a Volunteer Fire Chief resigns;
2. Training: language has been added to clarify the current procedures; and
3. Equipment: language has been added that requires the County Fire Chief to solicit input from the Volunteer Fire Chiefs regarding the location and types of fire apparatus at volunteer stations.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan