

Roll Call: Ayes – Kathy Claytor, Ellen Stallings, Jerald Oliver, Scott Hagen, Kathie Muse

Resolution 2026-04 amends Resolution 2026-03 to update the offices appearing on the November 3, 2026 ballot to reflect Kathie Muse filling the previously vacant full-term seat and adding a short-term seat for Scott Hagen, who was appointed, alongside the existing full-term seats held by Kathy Claytor and Ellen Stallings.

Board Discussion: None

Public Comment: None

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SPALDING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL STATUS PENDING REGULATORY CLARIFICATION

Motion: To place the volunteer fire department on restricted response status, responding only to catastrophic events as defined by the fire chief in consultation with OES, while pursuing legal and regulatory clarification and the State Fire Marshal training avenue.

First: Director Stallings

Second: Chairwoman Claytor

Roll Call: Ayes – Kathy Claytor, Ellen Stallings, Jerald Oliver, Kathie Muse
No – Scott Hagen

Fank Muse, volunteer Fire Chief reported that Cal/OSHA, following an April inspection prompted by multiple complaints, stated that volunteer firefighters must hold current Firefighter I certification to respond to emergencies, including fires. No members of the department currently hold active Firefighter I certification.

Muse contacted the Office of Emergency Services (OES), legal counsel, and the California State Firefighters' Association. OES indicated that OSHA's interpretation may be incorrect but has not yet provided written confirmation. The issue appears to affect volunteer fire departments statewide, and firefighter organizations are pursuing legal clarification.

Concerns discussed:

- Full Firefighter I certification requires approximately 260 hours of training, which is difficult for volunteers to complete.
- The department believes much of the certification curriculum exceeds what is needed under its existing policy, particularly because members do not enter burning structures.
- Responding while knowingly uncertified could create liability concerns, particularly for injuries to volunteers and workers' compensation coverage.
- Mutual aid is currently limited. Stones-Bengard will not respond to Spalding except during catastrophic events. CalFire may respond when available.
- Medical calls, helicopter support, and the definition of a "catastrophic event" were discussed.

- Examples of catastrophic events included:

- Multiple-vehicle accidents
- Fires capable of spreading through the community or affecting multiple buildings
- Situations involving an immediate threat to life

The department will remain on dispatch so it can monitor calls and provide assistance when appropriate. Muse is seeking authorization from the State Fire Marshal to continue training members as firefighters without current Firefighter I certification.

The board and community discussed escalating the matter to county supervisors, state officials, legislators, and legal representatives.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

First: Director Oliver

Second: Director Stallings

Roll Call: Ayes – Kathy Claytor, Ellen Stallings, Jerald Oliver, Scott Hagen