

## **Pajaro board hears proposals on fire service**

The Watsonville Fire Department told directors of the Pajaro Township Fire District Monday night that it will cost \$59,000 for the city to continue the contract to provide fire service for the area.

The cost is up from the present \$45,000 contract which expires on June 30, Dorothy Steele, the fire district chairman, said. The fire department gave Pajaro directors a proposed contract and estimated budget to continue fire protection service.

The Pajaro fire district directors also heard presentations from the Aromas Tri-county Fire District and the North Monterey County Fire District. The two districts have until April 19 to make their proposals to the Monterey County Counsel's office, which is acting as a liaison between the fire departments and the Pajaro fire district.

The fire district is expected to announce on May 16 which fire department will get the contract.

Ms. Steele said the highlight of the fire directors meeting came when representatives from the Sunny Mesa Water District, which was also meeting at Pajaro School, came in and announced that they were interested in providing water service for Pajaro. Sunny Mesa provides water for about 90 residents along Fruitland Avenue by the Pajaro Valley Golf Course.

Pajaro residents feeling they have inadequate water service are forming a community services district to work toward operating their own water service system. The city of Watsonville now provides water for Pajaro.

Ms. Steele said the fire district directors will meet with Don Melton, chairman of Sunny Mesa Water District, for further discussions about water service next Monday at Pajaro School.