

# Aptos fire chief takes \$25,000; agrees to quit without fight

By KEITH MURAKA  
Sentinel staff writer

APTOS — Embattled Aptos/La Selva Fire District Chief Chuck Streeter will be paid \$25,000 to resign.

Streeter, chief of the 33-firefighter district for the past 17 months, was ordered to resign in January after he bought more than \$84,000 worth of firefighting equipment without formal board approval and without first obtaining competitive bids. However, when Streeter refused, attorneys for both sides became involved. Streeter has since been on administrative leave with full pay and benefits.

The settlement was approved Wednesday by both Streeter and the Fire Board, following a closed-door personnel session. Terms of the settlement included an agreement to withhold any public comment on the matter.

Fire Board President Raymond Garcia acknowledged Thursday that the matter

had been resolved. "Life goes on," he said.

Streeter's wife, Vicki, said Thursday that her husband — who was not home — was already "exploring opportunities" for a new firefighting job. He has been in that type of work for 27 years, having come to Aptos from Southern California.

"We're trying to pick and choose," she said. "Some look very good to us. We're just breathing a sigh of relief that this is over."

Streeter's resignation is retroactive to March 1.

In accepting the lump-sum payment of \$25,000, the former chief agreed that he has no right of reinstatement to his job. In turn, the Fire Board will seal his personnel file and, unless Streeter agrees, not to disclose to any future employer the reasons why he left the fire district.

Both parties also agreed not to sue the other.

Garcia said that the Fire Board will likely discuss the prospect of a new chief at Tuesday's regularly scheduled meeting. Battalion Chief Chuck Monard has been acting chief since the Fire Board placed Streeter on administrative leave on Jan. 23.

Streeter got into trouble over the unauthorized fire district purchase of two Ford Broncos and 18 units of breathing apparatus. The equipment had been budgeted, but Streeter did not get formal board approval or follow normal open-bidding procedures.

Since the brouhaha, Streeter has received an outpouring of support from both the public and other chiefs in the county. Supporters feel the mistakes don't equal the harsh punishment.

Karen Hibble, co-manager of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce — and one of Streeter's supporters — said, "It's sad because you always have to wonder if there was more to it."

major Lissette Rodriguez.  
Tanner verbally agreed to the forum during an earlier meeting with students this week. He said he also agreed to complete a workshop for "learning and undermining homophobia."

At their first meeting, students presented Tanner with a list of 10 demands, including increased funding for ethnic studies, and a demand that money allocated from year to year to the various boards that offer ethnic studies courses — be made permanent.

While Tanner has promised that there will be no cuts in the program next year, students are saying the money is still not permanent.

"As long as there is not an earmark on the money, no board can plan to hire lecturers," Holmes said. "It's constantly up in the air."

The students are also demanding that the university form a committee to explore the possible development a gay, lesbian and bisexual studies program and that a black dean of students be hired. They are also asking Tanner and Chancellor Robert Stevens to hold weekly open-office hours.

"The connection here is that stu-

AP

7  
APTO

REF

*A.C. Sent. 3-9-90*