

## Slight drop in Aptos fire tax rate looms

Residents in the Aptos Fire Protection District may bet a slight decrease in their fire tax rate if directors accept a proposal by Fire Chief Richard Chinn to turn fire dispatching duties over to the county.

The board will consider the new tax rate at its meeting tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. at the main fire station. Chinn is proposing a rate of \$1.04 per \$100 assessed valuation, down three cents from the existing rate.

That rate is based on paring \$8,000 from the budget by having the county handle the dispatching for the department, Chinn said. That amount is the net savings after lopping about \$16,000 in salaries from the budget, then paying for installation of phone lines to the county communications center and paying the county for the service, the chief said.

If the directors do not accept the proposal, the tax rate will still be slightly lower — \$1.055 cents — the chief said, because of the increase in assessed valuation in the district.