

MINUTES

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 24, 2010
6:30 p.m.

Regional Fire Operations and Training Center
Board Room
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors was called to order on June 24, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Doug Davert.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by OCFA Chaplain Bob George.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Director Scott.

ROLL CALL

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Present: | Pat Bates, County of Orange | Neil Blais, Rancho Santa Margarita |
| | Joe Brown, Alternate, Laguna Niguel | Henry Charoen, La Palma |
| | James Dahl, San Clemente | Doug Davert, Tustin |
| | Donald Garcia, Aliso Viejo | Sukhee Kang, Irvine |
| | Trish Kelley, Mission Viejo | Don McCay, Buena Park |
| | Mark Nielsen, San Juan Capistrano | Brad Reese, Villa Park |
| | Nancy Rikel, Yorba Linda | Martin Rhodes, Laguna Woods |
| | R. Craig Scott, Laguna Hills | Todd Seymore, Cypress |
| | Gordon Shanks, Seal Beach | David Shawver, Stanton |
| | Ken Stephens, Los Alamitos | Tri Ta, Westminster |
| | Mark Tettermer, Lake Forest | Steven Weinberg, Dana Point |
| | Jeremy Yamaguchi, Placentia | |
| Absent: | Bill Campbell, County of Orange | Gary Capata, Laguna Niguel |

Also present were:

Fire Chief Keith Richter
Deputy Chief Ron Blaul
Assistant Chief Jorge Camargo
Assistant Chief Lori Zeller

General Counsel Terry Andrus
Assistant Chief Laura Blaul
Assistant Chief Dave Pierce
Clerk of the Authority Sherry Wentz

Chairman Davert announced as Chairman, his request to have agenda items heard in a different order from the sequence listed on the agenda, and requested Closed Session Item CS1 would be considered immediately following Public Comments.

PRESENTATIONS (1)

- 1. Presentation of Certificate of Achievement to the Business Services Department – Finance Division, Orange County Fire Authority for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)**

This agenda item was deferred to a future meeting to allow key members of the Finance Division to be in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Davert opened the Public Comments portion of the meeting.

Public comments were received from Christine Compton, Rancho Santa Margarita, in opposition to locally adopted fire code for outdoor barbecues in multi-family units.

Assistant Chief Blaul indicated member cities adopt the State Fire Code and would need to address any revisions within their city. She also provided statistics on multi-family unit barbecue fires, along with criteria for allowable barbecues.

Chairman Davert closed the Public Comments portion of the meeting.

Director Nielsen arrived at this point (6:37 p.m.)

CLOSED SESSION

General Counsel Terry Andrus reported the Board would be convening in Closed Session to consider the matter on the Agenda identified as CS1.

Chairman Davert recessed the meeting to Closed Session at 6:40 p.m.

CS1 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR

Negotiators: Keith Richter, Fire Chief; Ron Blaul, Deputy Fire Chief, Laura Blaul, Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal/Fire Prevention Department; Jorge Camargo, Assistant Chief/Operations Department; Dave Pierce, Assistant Chief/Support Services Department; Lori Zeller, Assistant Chief/Business Services Department; and Zenovy Jakymiw, Director of Human Resources

Employee Organizations: Orange County Professional Firefighters' Association, Local 3631, Orange County Fire Authority Chief Officers' Association, and Orange County Employees' Association, and all unrepresented employees.

Authority: Government Code Section 54957.6

Director Charoen arrived at this point (7:10 p.m.)

Chairman Davert reconvened the meeting at 7:26 p.m., with all Members present.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

General Counsel Terry Andrus announced there were no reportable actions from Closed Session.

REPORT FROM THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Chair Davert indicated there is no report, due to the cancellation of the June 9, 2010, Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

MINUTES (2)

2. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting held on May 27, 2010

On motion of Director McCay and second by Director Seymore, the Board voted to approve the minutes for the May 27, 2010, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Chairman Davert and Director Garcia abstained.

CONSENT CALENDAR (3 – 4)

All matters on the consent calendar are considered routine and are to be approved with one motion unless a Board Member or a member of the public requests separate action on a specific item.

3. Acceptance of FY 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grant

On motion of Director Seymore and second by Director Tetteimer, the Board voted unanimously to:

1. Accept the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency's (DHS/FEMA) FY 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grant for a federal share amount of \$337,400.
2. Direct staff to pursue amendments and necessary agreements with partner agencies to administer grant.

4. Monthly Reserve Firefighter Program Status Update

On motion of Director Seymore and second by Director Tetteimer, the Board voted unanimously to receive and file the report.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS (5 - 6)

5. Adoption of the 2010/11 Proposed Budget

Chairman Davert provided an overview of the Budget Reduction Ad Hoc Committee recommendations including that while all parties displayed a willingness to help come to a solution for the financial challenges facing the OCFA; 30 days was simply not enough time to complete this process.

Chairman Davert opened the Continued Public Hearing.

Public comments were received by Rick Cornell, Vice President, Orange County Professional Firefighters Association, Local 3631, in support of approving the Budget Reduction Ad Hoc Committee recommendations, and noted Local 3631's commitment to collaborating with the Committee.

Chairman Davert closed the Continued Public Hearing.

On motion of Director Scott and second by Director Seymore, the Board voted to:

1. Adopt the 2010/11 Proposed Budget with the following amendments:
 - Cut \$5 million from the Proposed 2010/11 General Fund expenditures
 - Begin the formal meet and confer processes with all three labor groups
 - Return to the Board in 90-120 days with a modified budget reflecting \$5 million in detailed expenditure cuts
 - Defer the proposed Fire Prevention fee increases associated with the 2010/11 budget for the same 90-120 day period, pending any potential changes that may occur from the meet and confer process
2. Authorize the temporary transfer from the following funds totaling \$48 million to Fund 121 (General Fund) to cover a projected cash flow timing deficit for 2010/11:
 - a. \$3 million from Fund 122 (Facilities Maintenance and Improvement Fund)
 - b. \$6 million from Fund 123 (Capital Projects)
 - c. \$16 million from Fund 124 (Communications/Information Systems Replacement Fund)
 - d. \$23 million from Fund 133 (Vehicle Replacement Fund)
3. Authorize the repayment of \$48 million borrowed funds from Fund 121 to Funds 122, 123, 124, and 133 along with interest, when General Fund revenues become available.

Director Bates abstained.

6. Adoption of the 2010/11 Proposed Rate and Fee Increases for Advanced Life Support & Medical Supply Reimbursement Rates, Fire Prevention Fees, Cost Reimbursement Rates, and Public Record Request Fees and Charges

Assistant Chief Lori Zeller introduced Finance Manager Jim Ruane who provided a PowerPoint presentation on Advanced Life Support (ALS)/Basic Life Support (BLS) & Medical Supply Reimbursement Rates and Cost Reimbursement Rates.

Chairman Davert reported on the Budget Reduction Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation that tonight's original recommended action regarding the Fire Prevention Fees be deferred for 90-120 days, but that the Board consider taking action on the two remaining recommendations to approve the ALS/BLS Reimbursement Rates and the Cost Reimbursement Rates as to not delay their implementation should the County approve the reimbursement rates.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

On motion of Director Weinberg and second by Director McCay, the Board voted to:

1. Move and approve ALS/BLS Reimbursement Rates
2. Approve Cost Reimbursement Rates effective July 1, 2010.

Directors Kang, Reese, Seymore, and Ta registered No votes.

Director Bates abstained on Recommended Action #1 and voted in support of Recommended Action #2.

DISCUSSION CALENDAR (7)

7. Orange County Fire Authority Strategic Plan Adoption

Fire Chief Richter introduced Battalion Chief Bryan Brice who provided a PowerPoint presentation on the OCFA Strategic Plan.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

On motion of Vice Chair Blais and second by Director Seymore, the Board voted unanimously to:

1. Approve the final draft of the OCFA Strategic Plan.
2. Adopt the approved OCFA Strategic Plan.
3. Direct staff to initiate work on integration of the OCFA Strategic Plan into the budgeting process.
4. Direct staff to look into revisions according the Strategic Plan Advocacy Program.

REPORTS (8)

8. Chief's Report

Chief Richter provided an update on the City of Brea request for proposal. He indicated staff attended a community workshop to clarify and answer questions, and the City Council would address the item at their July meeting.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Chairman Davert commended Senior Executive Assistant Kathy Danskin for her work in the fire service and wished her well on her retirement. He also introduced Executive Assistant Cathee Harris who would now assist the Board and Fire Chief Richter. Chairman Davert indicated the July meeting of the Executive Committee would be cancelled, and its agenda items combined with the Board of Directors meeting. He invited Board members dress casual, however due to cost containment, there would be no Board barbecue this year.

Director Seymore indicated progress has been made on the building to Fire Station 17.

Director Kelley thanked the OCFA, and specifically Division Chief Rick Robinson and Captain Jack Perisho from Truck 9 for participating in the "Relay for Life" Marathon on June 5-6. She indicated she was very touched by the accounts provided by staff in which OCFA Advanced Life Support monitor equipment saved lives.

Director Kang indicated the Great Park Board approved the Fire Museum 5-year project. He also indicated there would be a 5 year anniversary commemoration of the Orange County Great Park Corporation on July 10 at 3:00 p.m.

Director Rikel thanked the OCFA and firefighters for their response to a vegetation fire on June 20, and indicated she was comforting to see helicopters responding.

Director Rhodes thanked Fire Station 22 and the entire OCFA for providing services to the senior citizens of Laguna Woods.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Davert adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors is scheduled for July 22, 2010, at 6:30 p.m.

Sherry A.F. Wentz, CMC
Clerk of the Authority, CMC