
Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2010
(Approved June 16, 2010)

Opening Ceremonies

The Board of Directors convened in Open Session at 7:00 p.m. on May 19, 2010, at the Moraga Orinda Fire Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way in Moraga, California. President Sperling called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were the following Directors and Staff:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| President Sperling | Sue Casey, Financial Services Manager | Battalion Chief Lee |
| Director Mancinelli – excused absence | Steve Meyers, District Counsel | Fire Marshal Mentink |
| Director Olsen | Secretary Pokorny | |
| Director Weil | | |
| Director Wyro | | |

Consent Agenda

It was M/S/C to approve all items of the Consent Agenda except Item 3.1 - Board Meeting minutes of April 21, 2010, and Item 3.4 - Ambulance Billing Report. The April 21, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes were amended under Announcements by changing line 4 ~~LAFCO~~ to read Special District's Association and on the last line ~~The Advisory Board did however announce that~~ to read It was subsequently announced that a new Fire Chief for ConFire had been ~~hired~~ selected. President Sperling inquired about Item 3.4 the Ambulance Billing Report. He requested clarification of bad debts. Financial Services Manager Casey explained that after Wittman has exhausted all means of collecting a debt, it is sent to a collection agency. The collection agency (American Capital) usually collects approximately 10% of all bad debts.

With the requested changes, it was M/S/C to approve Item 3.1- Board Meeting minutes of April 21, 2010, and Item 3.4 - Ambulance Billing Report.

Public Hearing on Exterior Hazard Control Notices (Weed Abatement)

Fire Marshal Mentink explained the procedure for giving notice to property owners within the District regarding the weed abatement process. Ordinance 07-01 requires the Board to conduct a public hearing after the notices are sent, and prior to the compliance date. The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments from the public and answer questions regarding enforcement. Over 4,100 letters were sent out this year, 1,300 more letters than last year. Additional information included with this year's notice gave homeowners an option to contact the Fire Prevention Office for an explanation or have someone come to their property if they had concerns regarding the notice.

After continued discussion by the Board and members of the public, it was M/S/C by a 4-0 vote (Director Mancinelli was absent) to accept the order to enforce the Exterior Hazard Abatement Notices.

IRS Section 415 Limit and Adoption of Resolution 10-06 Establishing the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Replacement Benefit Plan

FSM Casey explained that both public and corporate retirement plans must comply with IRS Section 415 to maintain their tax qualified status. Benefits paid by defined benefits plans cannot exceed a certain amount per year. The IRS allows employers to make up the benefit in excess of the Section 415 through a Qualified Government Excess Benefit Arrangement (QGEBA). There is no additional fiscal impact on MOFD to establish a QGEBA plan. Any excess 415-limit QGEBA contributions made to MOFD retirees will reduce MOFD's annual CCCERA employer retirement contributions requirements.

After discussion by Board members and members of the public, it was M/S/C by a vote of 4-0 (Director Mancinelli was absent) to adopt Resolution 10-06 Establishing the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Replacement Benefit Plan.

District Surplus Property

Battalion Chief Lee explained the procedure to surplus District property (the list of surplus property was attached to the Staff Report). He reviewed the value of the property versus the repair costs for all the items. Any revenue realized from the disposal of the equipment will be recorded as "other revenue" and will offset future expenditures. The Board discussed having received requests from members of the public for the surplus items. The Board agreed that it would be better to keep the items in the District when possible.

After continued discussion by the Board and members of the public, it was M/S/C by a vote of 4-0 (Director Mancinelli was absent) to surplus the District property as listed.

Budget Amendment to Replace Chief Officer Staff Vehicle

FSM Casey explained that the Chief Officer's staff vehicle was purchased in 2001 and was one of the items on the surplus list. The vehicle was not considered safe to drive or to keep as a secondary fleet car. The 2001 Ford Expedition has 140,000 miles on it. It requires considerable front end steering and suspension work, it accelerates while stopped, and needs body work. Staff identified the 2010 Chevy Tahoe to be the most economical and appropriate vehicle to replace the expiring 2001 Ford Expedition. Staff recommended that the 2009/10 Special Revenue Budget be amended by \$54,000 (includes all extra equipment to convert vehicle to command vehicle) to allow for the purchase of the replacement vehicle before July 1, 2010.

After discussion by the Board and members of the public, it was M/S/C by a vote of 4-0 (Directors Mancinelli was absent) to amend the 2009/10 Special Revenue Budget by \$54,000 to allow for the purchase of the replacement of the Chief's Officers vehicle before July 1, 2010.

Committee Reports

The Finance Committee met on May 6, 2010 to discuss the 2010/2011 Preliminary Budget, Long Range Financial Forecast, and the Fire Flow Tax for 2010-2011. Recommendations and changes were discussed by the Finance Committee, and will be incorporated into the 2010/2011 Preliminary Budget and Long Range Financial Forecast. Regularly scheduled Finance Committee meetings will be discussed at a future Board meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

President Sperling stated that he received a proposal from a citizen regarding a plan to fund Orinda infrastructure needs. He suggested forming an Ad Hoc Committee to discuss the proposal. Directors Weil and Olsen were appointed as members of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Correspondence

President Sperling acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the correspondence received.

Announcements

- BC Lee stated that the District is currently in the process of hiring seven new firefighters/paramedics.
- The Fire District will be assisting St. Mary's College with medical-standby during its graduation.

Adjournment

At 8:26 p.m., President Sperling called for adjournment of the regular meeting. It was M/S/C to adjourn to the Work Session to be held on June 2, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Christine Pokorny
Secretary to the Board