



# Moraga-Orinda Fire District

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 2014

(Approved May 20, 2014)

### 1. Opening Ceremonies

The Board of Directors convened in Open Session at 6:00 P.M. on May 7, 2014, at the Moraga Library, 1500 Moraga Way, Moraga, California. Director Evans called the meeting to order. President Wyro was absent. Present were the following Directors and Staff:

Director Anderson	Stephen Healy, Fire Chief
Director Evans	Edward Kreisberg, District Counsel
Director Famulener	Gloriann Sasser, Admin. Services Director
Director Weil	Grace Santos, Admin Secretary

### 2. Public Comment

There was no comment.

### 3. Closed Session

At 6:31 P.M., the Board adjourned into Closed Session.

### 4. Reconvene The Meeting

Director Evans reconvened the business meeting of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors at 7:05 P.M. Present were the following Directors and Staff:

Director Anderson	Stephen Healy, Fire Chief	Sean Perkins, Battalion Chief
Director Evans	Edward Kreisberg, District Counsel	Grace Santos, Admin Secretary
Director Famulener	Gloriann Sasser, Admin. Services Director	
Director Weil	Kathy Leonard, Fire Marshal	

### 5. Report of Closed Session Action

Director Evans reported that there was no reportable action taken during Closed Session.

### 6. Public Comment

There was no comment.

### 7. Consent Agenda

Motion by Director Weil and seconded by Director Famulener to approve all Consent Agenda items. Said motion carried a unanimous 4-0 roll-call vote (Ayes: Anderson, Evans, Famulener, Weil; Absent: Wyro).

#### 7.1 Board Minutes of April 16, 2014

Action: Receive and File.

#### 7.2 Quarterly Treasurer's Report

Action: Receive and File.

#### 7.3 Quarterly Ambulance Billing Report

Action: Receive and File.

### 8. Regular Calendar

#### 8.1 Public Hearing on Exterior Hazard Control Notices (Weed Abatement)

On April 10, 2014, the District mailed approximately 4,211 notices to the owners of properties located within the District. Ordinance 13-01 requires the Board to conduct a public hearing after the notices are sent and prior to the compliance date for the purpose of receiving comments as to why the order should not be enforced.

Director Evans opened up the public hearing to accept comments from the public. There were no comments from the public. Director Evans closed the public hearing and directed staff to proceed with the exterior hazard control process.

### **8.2 Master Fee Schedule for Ambulance Transport and possible adoption of Resolution No. 14-05, Adopting a Modified Schedule of Cost Recovery Fees for Emergency Medical Services**

Emergency medical services are partially paid for by ambulance transport cost recovery fees and non-transport emergency medical services cost recovery fees. District Resolution No. 13-02, approved in May 2013, adopted a modified schedule of fees. This Resolution and the District's Ambulance Service Agreement with Contra Costa County include a provision for an annual modification to emergency medical services fees.

Staff recommended the Board increase ambulance transport fees based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the San Francisco – Oakland – San Jose, CA area. The February 2014 CPI increased 2.45%. Staff recommended that ambulance transport cost recovery fees become effective July 1, 2014.

The District also charges cost recovery fees for non-transport emergency medical services when patients are assessed and treated on-scene but decline transport services. Currently non-transport cost recovery fees are charged based on the type of service provided. Staff recommended the Board adopt one cost recovery fee only for non-transport emergency medical services. The cost recovery fee would be called a first responder assessment fee. One fee will be simpler to administer and is the same practice used by other agencies in Contra Costa County. Based on a cost recovery formula used by other fire service agencies throughout California, staff recommended the non-transport emergency medical services cost recovery fee become effective July 1, 2014.

On a motion by Director Anderson and seconded by Director Weil, the Board adopted Resolution 14-05 establishing a modified schedule of cost recovery fees for emergency medical services. Said motion carried a unanimous 4-0 roll-call vote (Ayes: Anderson, Evans, Famulener, Weil; Absent: Wyro).

### **8.3 Seasonal Staffing Increase**

Presently, fuel moistures in the District are significantly below seasonal averages (est. 40% below). On April 24, 2014, the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Service designated the drought in Contra Costa County as "exceptional"; and it is expected to persist or intensify. In addition to the annual grasses, which dry quickly and die in the spring, larger plants, with branches 1 to 8-inches in thickness are highly stressed; and many will die. These larger stressed and dead fuels are expected to become available to burn and reach critical levels earlier in the fire season. These fuels may contribute large ember showers and lead to extreme fire behavior, including crowning and spotting.

Due to the general fund deficit, the District lowered its daily on-duty minimum staffing level from 19 to 17 in November of 2013. Data presently indicates that the effect of this reduction on both medical and fire responses has been de minimis. However, with the drought conditions previously described, areas of the District, particularly in North Orinda, are at greater risk of a large vegetation fire and therefore, additional staffing is recommended during daytime hours when temperatures are higher and relative humidity is lower.

The District should increase its on-duty daily minimum staffing from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. from May 10, 2014 through October 31, 2014. Staff recommended re-staffing Medic-45 at Station-45 during the dates and times described above. This will increase the availability of Engine-44 (located in South Orinda) from 76% to 99%, which will add an additional three firefighters to any vegetation fire response 99% of the time.

The projected cost of the proposed seasonal staffing model is approximately \$65,000 for the remainder of FY 2013/14. A budget adjustment is necessary to increase overtime appropriations for FY 2013/14 in order to fund the seasonal staffing model.

If supported, staff will include additional overtime appropriations of approximately \$142,000 in the proposed FY 2014/15 budget to fund seasonal staffing for the months of July through October 2014.

On a motion by Director Anderson and seconded by Director Weil, the Board approved a FY 2013/14 General Fund budget adjustment of \$65,000 to increase overtime appropriations and directed the Fire Chief to implement the seasonal staffing model. Said motion carried a unanimous 4-0 roll-call vote (Ayes: Anderson, Evans, Famulener, Weil; Absent: Wyro).

**8.4 Resolution 14-06 Establishing the 2014/2015 Fire Flow Tax Rates for the Orinda and Moraga Service Zones**

Every year the District is required to set the rate for the Fire Flow Tax in each of the District's two service zones. In order to place the tax on the County Assessor's rolls for fiscal year 2014/15, the tax rate must be established by Board action and then levied against each parcel. The 2013/14 Fire Flow Tax Rate was established at six cents (\$.06) in both Moraga and Orinda.

Director Famulener asked staff to add the following language to the end of the fifth paragraph of Resolution 14-06, before the semicolon: "and for paying the salaries and benefits of firefighting personnel."

On a motion by Director Weil and seconded by Director Famulener, the Board adopted Resolution No. 14-06 adopting the Fire Flow Tax rate of six cents (\$.06) in both the Moraga and Orinda service zones as amended. Said motion carried a unanimous 4-0 roll-call vote (Ayes: Anderson, Evans, Famulener, Weil; Absent: Wyro).

**9. Announcements**

**9.1 Brief information only reports related to meetings attended by a Director at District expense**

(Government Code Section 53232.3(d))  
There was nothing to report.

**9.2 Questions and informational comments from Board members and Staff**

Director Anderson announced that the Finance Committee would be meeting on May 14, 2014, at the Sarge Littlehale Community Room (22 Orinda Way, Orinda) at 3:00 P.M.

**9.3 District Update for April 2014**

There was no update – it will be provided at the May 21, 2014 Board Meeting.

**10. Adjournment**

At 7:20 P.M., Director Evans called for adjournment of the regular meeting.

  
Grace Santos  
Secretary to the Board