
MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2009

(Approved May 20, 2009)

Opening Ceremonies

The Board of Directors convened in Open Session at 6:00 p.m. April 15, 2009, at the Moraga Orinda Fire Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way in Moraga, California. Acting President Sperling called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were the following Directors and Staff:

President Wilson - Absent	Fire Chief Nowicki
Director Mancinelli	Battalion Chief Healy
Acting President Sperling	Bill Avery, Chief Negotiator
Director Weil	
Director Wyro	

At 6:03 p.m., the Board went into Closed Session

Business Meeting

Acting President Sperling reconvened the regular business meeting of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors at 7:00 p.m. Present were the following Directors and Staff:

Acting President Sperling	Fire Chief Nowicki
Director Mancinelli	Battalion Chief Healy
Director Weil	District Counsel
Director Wyro	Battalion Chief Trumpf
	Sue Casey, Financial Services Manager
	Nancy Daniel, CQI Coordinator
	Secretary Pokorny

Report of Closed Session Action

Acting President Sperling stated that there was no action taken on Item 3.1, Conference with Labor Negotiator, regarding meet and confer negotiations with Local 1230.

In response to a recent (CCC) Times newspaper article critical of Fire Chief Nowicki's retirement compensation, Acting President Sperling read a prepared statement saying that while Chief Nowicki actions were legal and a common practice for public employees, the Board recognizes that this practice has caused concerns in the community and the Board is committed to reviewing the District's pension and retirement practices. He also indicated the item would be agendaized on the May 6, 2009 Board of Directors Work Session for further comments and that the prepared statement would also be available on the District's website.

Public Comment

Mr. Clyde Vaughn (59 Donna Maria Way, Orinda) read the (CCC) Times article regarding the Fire Chief, and also made a personal statement against how the Chief's retirement compensation was calculated.

Consent Agenda

It was M/S/C by unanimous vote to approve the Consent Agenda.

Fire Chief Recruitment Process

Chief Nowicki reported that the New Chief Search Committee members recommended Avery & Associates and Mr. Larry Bienati as a team to search for a new Fire Chief. Avery & Associates presented a proposal for services. Mr. Bienati, who specializes in human resources and organizational development, would also assist in the search. The idea would be to include groups from the community, as well as the Fire District and city governments to ensure that the community is involved with the process. The Board directed Staff to come back at the next meeting with a contract for approval.

Master Fee Schedule for Ambulance Transport

Chief Nowicki stated that the Board had requested the Ambulance Master Fee Schedule be revisited twice a year. In March of 2009, Battalion Chief Trumpf reviewed ambulance-billing rates from all transporting agencies within the County of Contra Costa.

The review showed the District's current rate structure to be in line with other county agencies for both Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) transport. The review also showed that adjustments were not needed regarding currently expected equipment and supply costs. BC Trumpf recommended that the Board take no action on the current cost structure of the Ambulance Master Fee Schedule at this time.

After continued Board discussion, the report was accepted as presented.

Long Range Financial Fore cast (LRFF)

Chief Nowicki reported that he and Financial Services Manager Sue Casey met with the Finance Committee on March 19, 2009. At that time, the committee discussed changes and/or additions to the LRFF. Besides incorporating the District's most current numbers and information, the largest change to the forecast would be the possible inclusion of a Capital Budgeting Replacement Schedule. To calculate the annual cost of capital apparatus and equipment replacement costs. It would establish the amount to budget on a go forward basis so that sufficient funds can be set aside to replace apparatus and equipment when needed.

After discussion by Board members and comments by members of the public, the Board recommended that Staff move forward with the changes to the LRFF.

Finance Committee Report

Director Wyro reported that there was nothing to report as all items had been covered in the Regular Calendar discussion. The next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2009 at 6 p.m.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

New Strategic Plan - The committee has not met. There is a Strategic Plan Community Meeting scheduled for April 25th at the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Negotiations with Local 1230 – Director Wyro stated that there was nothing new to report.

New Chief Search – This item was previously discussed under the Regular Calendar.

LAFCO – Director Wyro did not attend. Chief Nowicki attended the April 8th LAFCO Meeting. The Chief reported that the meeting went well. The LAFCO Board of Supervisors appointed an ad hoc committee to meet with each individual agency to better understand the concerns and issues of those individual agencies.

Correspondence

Acting President Sperling acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the correspondence received, especially noting the letter from the Battalion Chief of Fresno Fire Department thanking MOFD firefighters for a job well done.

Announcements

Director Fred Weil

- Director Weil stated that although there have been questions raised regarding the Fire District retirement issues, County employees have been governed by a State Law that has been in effect since 1937. It has been amended many times and governs all participants. To change the retirement system would be complex.

Chief Nowicki

- Chief Nowicki announced that the Moraga Triathlon is scheduled for the same day as the District's Community Strategic Plan Meeting on Saturday, April 25th.
- The Chief recognized and congratulated four employees who are retiring this month. Payroll Technician, Linda Pearl, Captain Robert Heaston, Firefighter Ken Mannshardt, and Engineer John Pierce. He also mentioned that Battalion Chief Ed Borden will be retiring at the end of April.

Acting President Sperling congratulated all of the retiring employees.

Adjournment

At 8:10 p.m., Acting President Sperling called for adjournment of the regular meeting. It was M/S/C to adjourn to the Strategic Planning Community meeting to be held on April 25, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.