
MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
June 3, 2009
(Approved July 15, 2009)

Opening Ceremonies

The Board of Directors convened in Open Session at 7:00 p.m. June 3, 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 Lee
Acting President Sperling	Bill Avery, Chief Negotiator
Director Weil - Absent	Sue Casey, Financial Services Manager
Director Wyro	Christine Pokorny, Secretary

Public Comment

Vince Maiorana (23 Lost Valley Dr., Orinda) inquired about Fire Wise. Chief Nowicki replied that the last presentation was in 2006 and that a recent flyover will be incorporated into the online program.

2009/2010 Preliminary Draft Budget

Chief Nowicki reported that he and Financial Services Manager Casey met with the Finance Committee on June 2nd where several changes to the Draft 2009/10 Preliminary Budget were requested for the June 3rd Board Meeting. The recommended changes were made to the document and the revised Draft Budget was presented to the Board. John Wyro stated that the most significant change was to eliminate the Contingency Reserve as an expenditure line item from the General Fund. As this amount was a 3% reserve of expected revenues for unanticipated or emergency expenses it was eliminated to provide a more accurate picture of total budgeted expenses. Should an emergency, unbudgeted expense arise during the year it will be brought back to the Board for discussion and approval and then posted to the appropriate general ledger expense line. As two members of the Board were absent Acting President Sperling suggested that the discussion be continued to the Board meeting on June 17th so that the full Board would be present. After further comments by member of the Board, it was M/S/ C to continue discussion of the 2009/2010 Draft Budget to the June 17th regular Board meeting.

The Long Range Financial Forecast

Chief Nowicki reported that the Finance Committee had met to discuss the LRFF and several changes were requested. Those changes were made. After comments by members of the Board, it was M/S/C to continue discussion of the LRFF to the June 17th regular Board meeting.

Securing the Administration Building during Closed Session

Chief Nowicki stated that the Administration Building was not meant to be a waiting room. There are a number of valuable items in the offices, as well as privacy and confidentiality issues and the public does not need to be waiting in those areas. Acting President Sperling stated that it is a change but the Chief's explanation was good and makes sense. The Board room is not sound proof. He realizes that the Administration building is not an ideal location for meetings. After continued discussion with the Board and input from members of the public, it was suggested that the Board and Staff look for ways to improve the situation.

Draft Strategic Plan

Chief Nowicki stated that Mr. Larry Bienati was out of town and not able to be at the meeting. He explained that the suggested changes from the last meeting had been made and was being presented at tonight's Board meeting. Acting President Sperling felt good about the changes except for the Initiatives. He doesn't feel that they should be a part of the Strategic Plan. Directors Mancinelli and Wyro feel that the Initiatives need to be included in order to evaluate the District and the Fire Chief in their goals and objectives.

After continued discussion by members of the Board, it was M/S/C by a 2-1 vote (Acting President Sperling opposed) to approve the Strategic Plan.

Retirement component (3% @ 50)

Chief Nowicki stated that at the May 17th Board meeting, Board members requested discussing components of the Contra Costa County Employee Retirement Association (CCCERA). The suggested topic for June was 3% @ 50.

Currently, MOFD safety personnel (who are vested) retire utilizing the calculation of 3% of their constant and reoccurring earnings for each year employed. The retirement age until 2002 was 55 years old, which was then, negotiated to fall in line with other like and neighboring systems. Through collective bargaining, safety employees at MOFD (as well as the majority of other professional firefighters in California) enhanced their retirement systems to provide for a reduced retirement age at 50 years old. Any number of variations to the retirement calculation could be used, however in all cases; such changes would be subject to cooperative collective bargaining and successful petitioning of the State Legislature.

Acting President Sperling appreciated the information gathered by the Chief and feels it is a primer on how pensions work for the District. He would like a bulleted list with a breakdown of components in a document that could be used for the Board and members of the public.

Director Mancinelli feels that the Board was asking Staff to duplicate information that was already readily available through CCCERA.

Discussion continued with Board members and members of the public, Staff was directed to prepare a question and answer sheet with questions derived by Board members regarding the District's Retirement System.

Adjournment

At 8:33 p.m., Acting President Sperling adjourned the meeting to the Regular Board meeting to be held on June 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Christine Pokorny
Secretary to the Board