
MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2009
(Approved December 16, 2009)

Special Business Meeting

The Board of Directors convened in Open Session at 7:00 p.m. on December 2, 2009 at the Moraga-Orinda Fire Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, California. President Wilson called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were the following Directors and Staff:

President Wilson	Fire Chief Bradley	Battalion Chief Maxwell
Director Mancinelli	Secretary Pokorny	Battalion Chief Lee
Director Sperling - Absent		
Director Weil		
Director Wyro		

Public Comment

Members of the public were present to voice their opinion regarding agenda Item 3.2 the Board of Directors Vacancy. Most of those present think that the Board should hold a special election instead of making an appointment. Although most of those speaking hold the District and the Board in high regard, they feel holding a special election would lend a form of cohesion between the residents and the Board. A few of the members of the public do not think the Board needs to hold a special election. They feel that the present Board was elected by the residents and have the upmost respect that they would be able to make an appointment.

Possible Ratification of Local 1230 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Fire Chief Bradley thanked Local 1230 for cooperating and authoring the current MOU. They have agreed to take a zero increase in pay and have agreed to talk about pension and health benefit issues. Director Wyro added that it was commendable that Local 1230 agree to the current MOU, especially in these economic times. Director Weil stated that seeing where retirement issues are going, changes in post retirement, health benefits etc., it was good to have dialogue with employees.

Director Mancinelli thanked Local 1230 for their cooperation and the steps they have taken to be pro-active in looking at possible changes to pensions.

After continued discussion by the Board and members of the public, it was M/S/C by a 4-0 vote (Director Sperling was absent) to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding of Local 1230.

Board of Directors Vacancy

President Wilson read a letter to the Board of Directors rescinding his resignation letter dated December 16, 2009.

Because of a recent situation with Director Sperling, he felt it was in the best interest of the District that he stays on as a Board member. Director Wyro feels this is a wonderful gesture and thinks that it is a good move for the District. Director Weil stated that Director Sperling's son is in critical condition and until the Board has further information, it would make sense that President Wilson stays on as a Board member.

President Wilson tabled Item 3.2.

Public Comment

Members of the public commented on the absence of Director Sperling and wanted to know how long he would be gone. They also asked if there was a policy in place for absent Directors. Director Wyro responded that there wasn't one but it is something that could be researched and one put in place if needed.

Board of Directors Discussion on Tri-Agency Meeting

Director Weil stated that he would like to get started in January on the process of meeting with the City of Orinda and the Town of Moraga for regular meetings. He feels it is important for all three agencies to get together and discuss common issues and concerns. He does not feel that the Fire District is being involved enough in planning issues and is concerned that the impact could strain District facilities and equipment needs etc. Director Weil directed Staff to talk to the other 2 agencies and determine topics for discussion.

Announcements

Director Wyro discussed the Ad Hoc Committee regarding public information issues. At the December 16 Board meeting, he will talk about preliminary recommendations and findings regarding those issues. He is glad to see so many residents at the meeting tonight and hope that it is still full when the Board discusses other issues like the Strategic Plan, the Budget and the Long Range Financial Forecast.

Director Weil reported on the Contra Costa County Commissioners' dinner. He as well as, Directors Wyro and Sperling were present and introduced Chief Bradley to the Commissioners'. There was a good speaker who spoke on the issues facing Fire District's. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Director Mancinelli reported that this was the largest crowd in attendance that he had ever seen at an MOFD Board meeting. He feels that the recent newspaper articles have at least raised public awareness and that is a good thing. He hopes there continues to be increased participation in the Fire Service.

Chief Bradley reminded the Board of the recruit graduation that will be held on Friday, December 4th at 2 p.m. in the Board Room at Station 4.

Adjournment

At 8:27 p.m., President Wilson called for adjournment of the Special Meeting. It was M/S/C to adjourn to a regular meeting to be held on December 16, 2009.

Christine Pokorny
Secretary to the Board