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**MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 21, 2007**  
*(Approved on April 18, 2007)*

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**Opening Ceremonies**

The Board of Directors convened in Open Session at 6:30 p.m. March 21, 2007 at the Moraga Fire Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way in Moraga, California. President Wyro called the meeting to order and noted that all Directors were present except for Directors Weil and Wilson. President Wyro then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were the following Directors and Staff:

Director Gottfried	Chief Nowicki
Director Wyro	Administrative Manager Soler
Director Sperling	Administrator Manager Casey

At 6:32 p.m., the Board went into Closed Session.

**Business Meeting**

President Wyro 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:

President Wyro	Chief Nowicki	Administrative Manager Casey
Director Gottfried	B/C Collins	Administrative Manager Soler
Director Sperling		Secretary Pokorny

**Report of Closed Session Action**

Upon return from Closed Session at 7:02 p.m., President Wyro reported that there had been no reportable action taken on Item 2.2, Conference with Legal Counsel—Existing Litigation (Government Code Sections 54956.9(a)) Pending litigation regarding Name of Case: Daniel Tucker v. Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

Item 2.1, Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code Section 54957.6) Agency Designated Representatives: Austris Rungis, Chief Negotiator, IEDA; and Fire Chief Pete Nowicki, Employee Organizations: Association of Federated Firefighters IAFF, Local 1230 will be continued in Closed Session at the end of the regular Board meeting.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Clyde Vaughn (59 Donna Maria Way) requested additional information regarding the benefits of Moraga-Orinda Fire District employees. President Wyro asked Mr. Vaughn to submit his request to the Board in written form.

Gary Pearl (Capt/P for MOFD, 33 Orinda Way, Orinda) expressed his concern about the ongoing firefighter negotiations. He feels that the Board should take care of the current employees before exploring the feasibility of adding additional personnel. He also feels that the water pipe issue should not be the District's concern as the District does not own the water pipes. President Wyro responded that he would like to meet with Capt. Pearl to discuss his items of concern.

Jonathan Goodwin (Canyon) added that as a resident of Canyon he doesn't like to hear about problems with negotiations because it creates anxiety among the firefighters. Mr. Goodwin also voiced his concern about wildland fires in Canyon. He wanted to know how his concerns can be discussed further. President Wyro replied that the best time to discuss wildland fires is when the District is planning the Strategic Plan and the Budget.

Mike Whitchurch (Capt. for MOFD, 33 Orinda Way, Orinda) also conveyed his thoughts to the Board regarding negotiations, especially the additional percentage of medical premium usually covered by the District that has been passed on to the employees. He also stated that moral is really low among personnel right now.

Chief Nowicki introduced Susan Casey, the new Administrator Manager. He said that there had been many qualified candidates and he feels that Ms. Casey stood out among the rest. President Wyro welcomed her to the District.

**Consent Agenda**

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

*\*Moved/Seconded/Carried*

**Board discussion and possible action regarding Resolution 07-03, approving the expenditure of funds to the City of Orinda for purposes of defraying the costs associated with the special municipal bond election to submit the “Orinda Roads, Drains, and Water Supply Bond Measure” to the qualified electors of the City of Orinda.**

Chief Nowicki reported that the Board directed staff to prepare a Resolution defining the exact amount of the District’s contribution to help fund the City of Orinda’s election costs. President Wyro gave a brief overview of the District’s history. When the District was formed in 1997, one of Orinda’s biggest concerns was the water flow and pipes. There have been several attempts at different bonds but none has been successful. The City of Orinda passed Resolution 07-03 to fund \$58.6 million to upgrade the City’s water supply, drains and roads and to put a bond measure on the June ballot. Aimed at Capitol Improvements, the bond would stretch over the next 25 years and would provide Orinda adequate water flow to fight fires. He also added that the City of Orinda’s new Council members are committed to ensuring adequate controls on expenditures using the monies resulting from the bond measure.

**Public Comment**

Captain Pearl reported that, while he isn’t against enlarging the water pipes, he is concerned that committing a small amount of funds to the project now will lead to larger funding in the future. If that happens funds might be diverted away from critical areas such as brush control potentially jeopardizing the safety of his men.

Mr. Vaughn voiced his concern with the Board’s commitment to spend \$9.4 M. He feels there is no guarantee the District will spend the money unless the Board agrees to a District Bond Measure. President Wyro informed Mr. Vaughn that his number is incorrect, and that the District would only be looking to contribute just over \$3 million.

Captain Randy Trumpf (Capt. for MOFD, 33 Orinda Way, Orinda) asked if the residents of Orinda know of the increase of taxes being imposed on them. President Wyro replied that the District has the option to raise taxes to 6 cents without voter approval as outlined in the original wording during the formation of the District.

After continued discussion by the Board and members of the public, it was M/S/C by Roll Call vote to approve Resolution 07-03 approving the expenditure of funds to the City of Orinda for purposes of defraying the costs associated with the special municipal bond election to submit the “Orinda Roads, Drains, and Water Supply Bond Measure” to the qualified electors of the City of Orinda, with the following amendments: 1) The document entitled “Orinda Infrastructure Finance Plan,” which is currently attached as Exhibit B to the Ordinance should be relocated and added to Exhibit A to the Ordinance; 2) The document entitled “Comprehensive Roads/Storm Drains/Water \$58.6 M Bond-Bond Scenario,” which was inadvertently excluded from the Agenda Packet, but is available for review, should be attached as Exhibit B to the Ordinance.

AYES: Directors Gottfried, Sperling and President Wyro

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Wilson and Weil

ABSTAIN: None

**Board discussion and possible action regarding discontinuation of the Quarterly Apparatus Report.**

Chief Nowicki opened the discussion regarding the discontinuation of the Quarterly Apparatus Report. He concurs with staff that it is a time consuming report. He deferred further discussion to Battalion Chief Collins. Battalion Chief Collins reported the Apparatus Program process is cumbersome and the steps involved make it difficult to report on and reflect timely information, and the information contained in the report is not always up to date. B/C Collins recommends that the Board discontinue it and suggested that apparatus information could be provided on as-needed basis. After questions and continued discussion, the Board recommended that staff discontinue the Quarterly Apparatus Report.

**Correspondence**

President Wyro acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the correspondence received.

**Informational Comments from Board Members and Staff**

Fire Chief Nowicki’s Comments:

- The Chief congratulated Engineer Pat Brown and Captain Randy Kosanke on their retirement from the Fire District. They will be missed.

**Return to Closed Session**

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 7:57 p.m.

**Report of Closed Session Action**

Upon return from Closed Session at 8:55 p.m., President Wyro reported that there had been no reportable action taken on Item 2.1, Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code Section 54957.6) Agency Designated Representatives: Austris Rungis, Chief Negotiator, IEDA; and Fire Chief Pete Nowicki, Employee Organizations: Association of Federated Firefighters IAFF, Local 1230

**Adjournment**

At 8:56 p.m., President Wyro called for adjournment of the regular meeting. It was M/S/C, to adjourn to the regular Board meeting to be held on April 18, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.

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Christine Pokorny  
Secretary to the Board