



# Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 2020

(Approved September 16, 2020)

### 1. OPENING CEREMONIES

The Board of Directors convened a Teleconference Open Session at **6:35 p.m.** on **August 19, 2020**, via the Zoom application, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88646569867>, webinar id: 886 4656 9867 and by phone 669-900-6833. Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, Teleconferencing restrictions of the Brown Act have been suspended. MOFD is closely following the latest Public Health Order from the Contra Costa Health Services issued on March 17, 2020. At this time, all formal public meetings will continue remotely.

President Danziger called the meeting to order and requested an attendance roll call. Present were the following Directors and Staff:

President Danziger	Director Jorgens	Marcia Holbrook, District Clerk
Director Baitx	Dave Winnacker, Fire Chief	Christine Russell, HR Benefits Manager
Director Donner	Gloriann Sasser, Admin Services Director	
Director Jex	Jonathan Holtzman, District Counsel	

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT (audio 0:50)

President Danziger opened Public Comment on the closed session items. Public comment remained open for a minimum of 1 minute to allow for potential digital processing delays to ensure that the public had sufficient time and opportunity to send in questions or comments. There were no requests to address the Board. President Danziger closed Public Comment.

At **6:38 p.m.**, the Board adjourned to Closed Session.

### 3. CLOSED SESSION

#### 3.1. Conference with Labor Negotiator

(Government Code Section 54957.6)

Agency Designated Representative: Jonathan Holtzman

Employee Organization: Local 1230, International Association of Firefighters IAFF

#### 3.2. Conference with Labor Negotiator

(Government Code Section 54957.6)

Agency Designated Representative: Jonathan Holtzman

Employee Organization: Unrepresented Employees

#### 3.3. Conference with Labor Negotiator

(Government Code Section 54957.6)

Agency Designated Representative: Jonathan Holtzman

Employee Organization: Moraga-Orinda Fire Chief Officers' Association

### 4. RECONVENE THE MEETING (audio 3:02)

#### 4.1 Call the Meeting to Order

#### 4.2 Roll Call

President Danziger reconvened the regular business meeting of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors at **7:08 p.m.** and requested an attendance roll call. Present were the following Directors and Staff:

President Danziger	Director Jorgens	Christine Russell, HR Benefits Manager
Director Baitx	Dave Winnacker, Fire Chief	Jonathan Holtzman, District Counsel
Director Donner	Gloriann Sasser, Admin Services Director	Marcia Holbrook, District Clerk
Director Jex	Jeff Isaacs, Fire Marshal	

### 5. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTION (audio 3:34)

President Danziger stated that no reportable action was taken by the Board on agenda items 3.1-3.3.

### 6. PUBLIC COMMENT - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (audio 4:56)

President Danziger opened Public Comment. There were no requests to address the Board. President Danziger closed Public Comment.

**7. PUBLIC HEARING (audio 6:56)**

**7.1. Public Hearing on Failure to Comply with the Notice to Abate Order for the Following Properties; Declare Properties a Seasonal and Recurrent Nuisance and Order Fire Chief to Abate the Properties.**

Fire Chief Winnacker provided an overview of the series of attempts to bring the properties into voluntary compliance. The properties presented are unwilling to comply with the Notice to Abate Order.

Fire Marshal Isaacs provided the report. In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code, California Fire Code, the Board of Directors must hold a public hearing to allow property owners to show cause as to why the official Notice to Abate order should not be enforced. On April 24, 2020, all parcel owners within the Fire District were mailed postcards identifying the compliance deadline and detailing specific fire code requirements and deadlines for exterior hazard abatement.

The properties located at 103 Barbara Rd., 8 Los Dedos, and 30 Ramona Dr., have structures located on the property. These properties were mailed a 30-day Exterior Hazard Information letter identifying the violations found. An inspection was performed after the 30 days violations were still found on the parcels. A Notice to Abate letter was issued, giving the owner an additional 15 days to abate the identified violations. The Notice to Abate letter identified each violation and provided a picture with a description of each violation and ways to correct the violation. A re-inspection was performed after the 15 days, and violations were still found on the properties. The properties with APN 268063010 and APN 268120017 are unimproved parcels greater than one acre in size and represent a significant hazard and risk to neighboring homes and properties. These properties received the postcard and inspection that generated a Notice to Abate, giving 15 days to comply. A re-inspections was preformed after the 15 days, and violations were still found.

On August 13, 2020, an additional letter was mailed to all five properties providing details about the lien hearing and instructions on accessing and participating in the hearing.

**Properties with Violations**

<u>Assessor Parcel Number (APN)</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Assessor Parcel Number (APN)</u>	<u>Address</u>
1. 273-083-039	103 Barbara Rd	4. 268-063-010	7 Austin Ct
2. 262-212-007	8 Los Dedos	5. 268-120-017	No Address assigned
3. 271-221-012	30 Ramona Dr		

Fire Marshal Isaacs concluded that after the lien hearing and the Board's declaration that the property violations are a seasonal and recurrent nuisance, Staff would begin the process to hire contractors to abate the violations and place liens on the properties. Staff recommended opening the Public Hearing and hear public comment; Review documentation for each property and hear from the property owner and or agent; Close the public hearing and Declare properties a seasonal and recurrent nuisance, and order the Fire Chief to abate the properties. Fire Marshal Isaacs reviewed the violations cited in each property:

**Property #1, APN 273-083-039, 103 Barbara Rd.** The board packet provides detailed documentation on the Notice to Abate that lists the violations and pictures of the violations. MOFD has not received any correspondence from this property owner.

**President Danziger opened the Public Hearing for comment on parcel APN 273-083-039. There were no requests to address the Board.**

Director Jorgens asked if any work was performed by any of the homeowners between the multiple inspections. Fire Marshal Isaacs answered the same violations were found after multiple inspections. Several attempts were made to make in-person contact to educate the homeowners. Fire Chief Winnacker added that as the pictures demonstrate (for some of the properties), there are signs of habitation and people present in the building, but the occupant would not open the door. Director Jorgens asked if the contractors were prepared to go onto private property. Fire Chief Winnacker answered that the MOFD would work in partnership with and under the advisement of our law enforcement partners.

No further discussion by the Board.

**Motion by Director Jorgens and seconded by Director Donner to Close the Public Hearing on Property #1, APN 273-083-039. President Danziger closed Public Hearing.**

**Motion by Director Jex and seconded by Director Jorgens to Declare the Property a Seasonal and Recurrent Nuisance and Order Fire Chief to Abate the Property. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Donner, Jex, Jorgens, and Danziger; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None).**

**Property #2, APN 262-212-007, 8 Los Dedos.** The board packet provides detailed documentation on the Notice to Abate that lists the violations and pictures of the violations. MOFD received a phone call from the Owner last week after the Owner received the lien hearing notice. MOFD will proceed with the lien process due to the prior failure to respond to the Notice to Abate order.

**President Danziger opened the Public Hearing for comment on parcel APN 262-212-007. There were no requests to address the Board.**

President Danziger asked if a Property Owner or agent is not available to speak on a property, can any member of the public speak during the public hearing. District Council Holtzman answered that any member of the public could speak during the opened public hearing.

No further discussion by the Board.

**Motion by Director Jorgens and seconded by Director Jex to Close the Public Hearing on Property #2, APN 262-212-007. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Donner, Jex, Jorgens, and Danziger; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None). President Danziger closed Public Hearing.**

**Motion by Director Jorgens and seconded by Director Donner to Declare the Property a Seasonal and Recurrent Nuisance and Order Fire Chief to Abate the Properties. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Donner, Jex, Jorgens, and Danziger; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None).**

**Property #3, APN 271-221-012, 30 Ramona Dr.** The board packet provides detailed documentation on the Notice to Abate that lists the violations and pictures of the violations. The City of Orinda is also working with the property owner to abate some municipal code hazards. MOFD has received several complaints from neighbors and had received no response from the property owner until August 18, 2020. The property owner met with our Fuels Mitigation Manager Graham to review all the hazards, violations, and the scope of work needed to mitigate the hazards. MOFD will continue with the lien process because the Owner was non-responsive. MOFD will continue to work with the property owner to gain voluntary compliance before sending a contractor to abate the hazards. President Danziger commented that he received correspondence from the neighbors. The issues expressed were regarding the structure and not regarding the vegetation that needed to be mitigated. The neighbors were directed to talk to the City of Orinda.

**President Danziger opened the Public Hearing for comment on parcel APN 271-221-012. There were no requests to address the Board.**

Director Jorgens asked if the violations included other fire code violations besides the abatement of weeds. Fire Marshal Isaacs responded that the Notice to Abate pertains to the exterior hazard abatement of fuel mitigation work that needs to be completed.

No further discussion by the Board.

**Motion by Director Jex and seconded by Director Jorgens to Close the Public Hearing on Property #3, APN 271-221-012. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Donner, Jex, Jorgens, and Danziger; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None). President Danziger closed Public Hearing.**

**Motion by Director Jorgens and seconded by Director Donner to Declare the Property a Seasonal and Recurrent Nuisance and Order Fire Chief to Abate the Properties. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Donner, Jex, Jorgens, and Danziger; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None).**

**Property #4, APN 268-063-010, 7 Austin Ct.** The board packet provides detailed documentation on the Notice to Abate that lists the violations and pictures of the violations. This parcel is an unimproved lot greater than one acre in size and represents a significant hazard and risk to neighboring homes and properties. The parcel has a lot of brush, grass, and very hazardous combustible vegetation that needs

to be removed. The Owner received the postcard and inspection that generated a Notice to Abate, giving 15 days to comply. A re-inspection was performed after the 15 days, and violations were found with no response from the property owner.

President Danziger asked if this property was a scheduled inspection or originated from a complaint. Fire Marshal Isaacs answered that it originated from a complaint.

**President Danziger opened the Public Hearing for comment on parcel APN 268-063-010. There were no requests to address the Board.**

No further discussion by the Board.

**Motion by Director Jex and seconded by Director Jorgens to Close the Public Hearing on Property #4, APN 268-063-010. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Donner, Jex, Jorgens, and Danziger; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None). President Danziger closed Public Hearing.**

**Motion by Director Jex and seconded by Director Jorgens to Declare the Property a Seasonal and Recurrent Nuisance and Order Fire Chief to Abate the Properties. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Donner, Jex, Jorgens, and Danziger; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None).**

**Property #5, APN 268-120-017, Bates Blvd with no Address Assigned.** The board packet provides detailed documentation on the Notice to Abate that lists the violations and pictures of the violations. The property was identified through the complaint process. MOFD received a phone call from the Owner last week after the Owner received the lien hearing notice. MOFD will proceed with the lien process due to failure to respond to the Notice to Abate order.

**President Danziger opened the Public Hearing for comment on parcel APN 268-120-017. There were no requests to address the Board.**

No further discussion by the Board.

**Motion by Director Jorgens and seconded by Director Jex to Close the Public Hearing on Property #5, APN 268-120-017. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Donner, Jex, Jorgens, and Danziger; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None). President Danziger closed Public Hearing.**

**Motion by Director Jorgens and seconded by Director Jex to Declare the Property a Seasonal and Recurrent Nuisance and Order Fire Chief to Abate the Properties. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Donner, Jex, Jorgens, and Danziger; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None).**

## **8. CONSENT AGENDA (audio 36:17)**

### **8.1. Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2020, (Regular), July 30, 2020, Special (Joint Fire Prevention Committee Meeting)**

Staff Recommendation: Approve and File

### **8.2. Monthly Incident Report - July 2020**

Staff Recommendation: Approve and File

### **8.3. Monthly Check/Voucher Register - July 2020**

Staff Recommendation: Approve and File

### **8.4. Quarterly Investment Report – June 2020**

Staff Recommendation: Approve and File

Directors Jorgens and Jex requested that item 8.3 be pulled from the Consent Calendar.

**Motion by Director Jorgens and seconded by Director Jex to approve Consent Agenda items 8.1, 8.2, and 8.4. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Danziger, Donner, Jex, and Jorgens; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None).**

### **8.3 Monthly Check/Voucher Register - July 2020**

Director Jex questioned the \$5.6M payment to CCCERA and asked if the amount was the total for the year. Administrative Services Director Sasser confirmed and added that the District prepays CCCERA to receive a discount. Director Jorgens questioned the \$14,773 payment to LAFCO 20-21. ASD Sasser

answered LAFCO is a Local Agency Formation Commission that oversees local government agencies. District Council Holtzman will do additional research about the annual fee requirements.

Director Jorgens questioned the monthly Dell payments. ASD Sasser answered the Dell payments are for the lease of computer hardware in all the fire stations and administration. Director Jorgens questioned the NEOGOV and Granicus. ASD Sasser answered the NEOGOV is application software our Human Resources uses for applicants to apply and track information, and Granicus is the District's website maintenance and hosting. Director Jorgens requested more information on the services Granicus provides for the yearly expense.

Director Jorgens questioned R.S. Hughes-Scott epic voice amps. Fire Chief Winnacker answered it is the voice amplification system bounded on the masks that allow firefighters to communicate both for the radio and to other firefighters.

**President Danziger opened Public Comment. There were no requests to address the Board. President Danziger closed Public Comment.**

No further discussion by the Board.

**Motion by Director Jorgens and seconded by Director Jex to approve Consent Agenda items 8.3. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Danziger, Donner, Jex, and Jorgens; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None).**

## **9. REGULAR AGENDA**

### **9.1. Fund Balance Policy Review; Adopt Resolution 20-10 Classifying the Various Components of Fund Balance as Defined in Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54 and Adopting a Revised Fund Balance Policy (audio 44:00)**

Administrative Services Director Sasser provided the report. This item was presented to the Board at the July 15, 2020 board meeting. The item was continued to the August 19, 2020 board meeting. The District's fund balance policy requires an annual review by the Board. The policy has been reviewed by Staff and various risk areas identified. The District is facing short-term risk due to COVID-19 effecting ambulance revenue and fire prevention revenue. Long-term risk exists in the areas of property tax revenue and expenditures, unfunded liabilities, and capital replacement. The current policy requires the District to maintain a minimum fund balance in the general fund of 17% of budgeted revenues with a goal of achieving a 50% year-end general fund balance in the long term. Staff recommended the Board adopt resolution 20-10, which includes no changes to the current fund balance policy.

**President Danziger opened Public Comment. There were no requests to address the Board. President Danziger closed Public Comment.**

Director Jorgens commented that the staff report stated that lost revenues in 2008, 2012, and 2013 were a relatively nominal amount, which seemed to mischaracterize the impact of that lost revenue at that time. Fire Chief Winnacker agreed that any decline is significant when forecasting increases. The decline was a relatively small amount when the baseline is zero, but the baseline should have been from a million. Director Jorgens added that back in 2008, the decline was pretty catastrophic and supports the need to have high reserves.

Director Jex expressed concern about the minimum reserve balance and disagreed with the staff recommendation. Director Jorgens proposed modifying the minimum fund balance to 30% with a goal of 50% to bring MOFD in line with other Fire Districts, like San Ramon. President Danziger had reservations raising the minimum fund balance due to the economic environment and supported leaving the policy as written. Director Jex commented that he completed an evaluation three years ago on ten agencies in Northern California, where most of those agencies had an excess of 50% in reserves. The reserves allowed the agencies to fund Capital expenditures and have reserves for uncertainties. Director Donner opposed mandating a minimum fund balance of 30% at this time.

**Motion by Director Jorgens and seconded by Director Jex to Adopt Resolution 20-10 Classifying the Various Components of Fund Balance as Defined in Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54 and adopting a Revised Fund Balance Policy modifying the minimum**

**fund balance to 30% with a goal of 50%. Said motion failed 2-3-0-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Jex and Jorgens; Noes: Baitx, Donner and Danziger; Absent: None; Abstain: None)**

**Motion by Director Donner and seconded by Director Baitx to Adopt Resolution 20-10 Classifying the Various Components of Fund Balance as Defined in Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54 and adopting a Revised Fund Balance Policy as written with at least 17% of budgeted General Fund revenue at fiscal year-end with a goal of achieving a 50% year-end General Fund. Said motion carried 3-2-0-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Donner and Danziger; Noes: Jex and Jorgens; Absent: None; Abstain: None)**

Director Jorgens suggested the Board reconsider since the risks we are facing are the reasons we should increase the minimum fund balance. Director Jex added that the minimum fund balance should not be considered savings, but funds needed to operate successfully during a crisis to cover labor costs. MOFD will need to borrow money during the second half of the year to fund the abatement activity.

No further discussion by the Board.

**9.2. Approve Establishment of a Joint Fire Prevention Ad Hoc Committee with the City of Orinda and Town of Moraga (audio 58:12)**

Fire Chief Winnacker provided the report. On May 5, 2020, the City of Orinda established a city council subcommittee to meet quarterly with District board representatives and allow for an expansion to include the Moraga Town Council members. The purpose of the joint committee is to ensure the success of community fire prevention efforts. Working together, the City of Orinda, Town of Moraga, and the District can ensure the separate agencies are up-to-date with fire prevention efforts underway, can identify where the City and Town need to assist and can examine any opportunities to leverage resources. The City of Orinda committee will consist of two city council members. At the May 2020 regular board meeting, the MOFD board appointed all five members to serve as a "Committee of the Whole." Subsequently, the subcommittee agreed to two members from each participating agency. As such, board action is required to appoint two members to this committee.

**President Danziger opened Public Comment.**

Vince Wells, President of Local 1230, asked for a summary of the committee's purpose.

President Danziger explained that the City of Orinda established the subcommittee to have a public forum with representatives from the City of Orinda, Town of Moraga, and MOFD to discuss fire prevention and public safety throughout the District. This subcommittee makes no binding decisions. Director Jorgens added that the committee's authority is outlined in the Charter included in the agenda packet. Director Donner explained that the subcommittee allows for improving the dialog and communication between the agencies.

**There were no further requests to address the Board. President Danziger closed Public Comment.**

President Danziger commented that three members (Directors Donner, Jorgens, and Danziger) initially volunteered to participate. When the subcommittee revised the Charter to make it two members from each jurisdiction, Director Donner voluntarily agreed not to be an official member.

**Motion by Director Donner and seconded by Director Jex to Appoint Directors Danziger and Jorgens to be the MOFD representatives on the Joint Fire Prevention Ad Hoc committee.**

Director Jorgens suggested combining the two actions needed for this agenda item: Approving the establishment and appointing two members into one motion. President Danziger asked if it was okay to amend the motion on the floor to add the establishment of the Joint Fire Prevention Subcommittee. District Council Holtzman agreed.

No further discussion by the Board.

**Motion by Director Donner and Seconded by Director Jorgens to amend the main motion and add the words Approve the Establishment of a Joint Fire Prevention Ad Hoc Committee with the City of Orinda and Town of Moraga and to Appoint Directors Danziger and Jorgens to be the MOFD**

**representatives on the Ad Hoc subcommittee. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Danziger, Donner, Jex, and Jorgens; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None).**

No further discussion by the Board.

**9.3. Authorize the Fire Chief to Enter Into Agreements for Contract Services with Six Contractors in the Amount Not To Exceed \$90,000 Each for Weed and Hazard Abatement Services (audio 69:44)**

Fire Marshal Isaacs provided the report. A Fire Code Official is authorized to Notice property owners that a violation of the fire code exists on their property. If an owner fails to comply with the Notice to Abate, the District's Board of Directors has the authority to order the Fire Chief to abate the hazard and lien the property. The Fire Code gives the District's Board of Directors the power to award a contract for fire hazard abatement work. Fire Marshal Isaacs explained that MOFD used one contractor in the past, and it was a very minimal scope of work. As Staff inspects and issues violation on properties, Staff felt it was appropriate to issue contracts to all six of the contractors that submitted proposals. Staff recommended that the Board authorize the Fire Chief to enter into agreements with the six contractors in an amount not to exceed \$90,000 per contract for a two-season period (abatement year 2020 and the abatement year ending on December 31, 2021). Fire Chief Winnacker added that it is not anticipated to spend \$90,000 with any single contract. MOFD does not have a long working experience with these contractors and wanted to have the flexibility if one contractor stands out as being particularly good or if there is a spike in the number of parcels needing abatement. Staff will continue to provide monthly updates to the Board.

**President Danziger opened Public Comment.**

Vince Wells, President of Local 1230, requested to have a conversation with the Fire Chief before approval of these contracts. Some of the crews may get into activities that are responsibilities of the bargaining unit.

**There were no further requests to address the Board. President Danziger closed Public Comment.**

President Danziger commented that the Board approved the lien process on eight properties at the July 15, 2020 Board Meeting, and the abatement work on those properties and the properties presented needs to start immediately. There will still be an opportunity to converse with the Fire Chief, and the Fire Chief is sensitive to the work the contractors can and cannot do that any member of Local 1230 could perform.

President Danziger asked about the insurance and other requirements required from the contractors. Fire Marshal Isaacs answered that the equipment requirements are defined by the public resource code and standard language. The insurance requirements are part of the RFP package. Director Jorgens asked if the homeowner is required to have insurance as well. District Council Holtzman answered that he would look into other District contracts and homeowners' requirement to have insurance.

Director Baitx expressed concern over the dollar amount of the contracts and suggested further discussion. Director Jorgens commented that the District would get reimbursed for the expense by the landowner.

Director Jex asked for clarification on the lien process and deadlines for the District to get reimbursed. Administrative Services Director Sasser answered the tax roll deadline is September 14, 2020. Work performed by September 14, 2020, will be reimbursed in October 2020. Work completed after September 14, 2020, will be reimbursed within 12 to 14 months.

No further discussion by the Board.

**Motion by Director Jorgens and seconded by Director Jex to Authorize the Fire Chief to enter into agreements with Contra Costa Tree, Expert Tree Service, East Bay Tree Service, Inc., Fire Ready, ArborWorks, and Contra Costa Tree & Stump Removal in the amount not to exceed \$90,000 each in order to create a list of six contractors that can be used to abate fire hazards. Said motion carried 4-1-0-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Danziger, Donner, Jex, and Jorgens; Noes: Baitx; Absent: None; Abstain: None).**

**9.4. Exterior Hazard Abatement Inspections and Community Chipping Update (audio 91:21)**

Fire Chief Winnacker provided the report. MOFD has aggressively worked with the community to decrease the risk of wildfire. In addition to outreach, education, and enforcement, the District has offered free community chipping. From May 1 to June 12, the District conducted 160.5 tons of material chipped, 362 homes serviced, \$80,000 spent, and 170 staff days. The program was suspended on June 12, 2020, until at least September 1, 2020, as the fuel mitigation staff transitioned to conduct exterior hazard abatement compliance inspections. From June 16-July 16, fire prevention staff conducted the following assessments and inspections: Initial Assessments 16 June to 16 July: 2491 parcels inspected, 1720 passed, 771 failed. Inspections 16 July to end of July: 771 Inspected, 621 passed, 150 failed. Complaints received: 92 and Self-reports of compliance received: 179.

The chipping program is scheduled to resume service. The FY2021 budget includes \$100,000 for fuel mitigation spending in addition to (4) dedicated full-time positions with support from Administrative Staff, the Fire Marshal, and Fire Chief. To increase efficiency, MOFD intends to lease a truck and chipper at \$10,000/month to provide community chipping through the fall, winter, and spring 2021. Leased equipment compares favorably to renting at \$1200-\$1600/ day. The budget will limit the chipping program to a single truck per day. However, over the extended period and with the cost savings realized through the truck's lease and the availability of the fuel mitigation staff that had previously been approved, Staff believes we will meet the community demand. If demand exceeds capacity to service, Staff will bring back to the Board alternate ideas such as a cost-share that would decrease the demand or increase our capacity by providing additional funds. There's no action required for the Board.

**President Danziger opened Public Comment. There were no requests to address the Board. President Danziger closed Public Comment.**

Director Jorgens asked about the plan for communicating the resumption of service to the community. Fire Marshal Isaacs responded the plan is to notify the City of Orinda, Town of Moraga, Firewise Groups, social media outlets, and website. President Danziger reiterated Director Jorgens' comments and added that Staff should develop a system for prioritizing the chipper in the schedule so everyone in the community is aware and has an opportunity to utilize the service.

President Danziger asked about the possibility of purchasing the chipper equipment. Fire Chief Winnacker answered truck/chipper combo costs approximately \$150,000 and could be considered for future year budgets. President Danziger requested Staff to provide more information on the possibility of purchasing a truck/chipper for future chipper programs.

Director Baitx disagreed with the idea of purchasing chipper equipment.

No further discussion by the Board.

## **10. COMMITTEE REPORTS (audio 105:58)**

- 10.1 **Finance Committee (Directors Danziger and Jorgens)**  
No report.
- 10.2 **Facilities Station 41 Ad Hoc Committee (Directors Baitx and Donner)**  
No report.
- 10.3 **Joint Fire Prevention Committee (Directors Danziger, Donner, and Jorgens)**  
Report provided under Regular agenda item 9.2.

**President Danziger opened Public Comment. There were no requests to address the Board. President Danziger closed Public Comment. No further discussion by the Board.**

## **11. ANNOUNCEMENTS (audio 107:56)**

- 11.1. **Brief information only reports related to meetings attended by a Director at District expense (Government Code Section 53232.3(d))**  
No report.
- 11.2. **Questions and informational comments from Board members and Staff**  
No report.
- 11.3. **Fire Chief Updates**  
Fire Chief Winnacker provided the report. MOFD deployed two engines. Engine 345 was deployed on a strike-team with Alameda County and Engine 342 on a strike-team in Napa County. Engineer Rogness was assigned to Salmon Complex as a GISS (geographic information systems) trainee, preceded by

Kevin Brashem. The GISS system allows for graphical information to be used more effectively for routine events and in cases of fire. Captain Marquardt has been assigned to the SCU complex as a Safety Officer. Two members have been evacuated from their homes. Another member engaged in some last-second bulldozing to stop fire approaching his house. We continue to see fire activity in the area.

On August 18, 2020, the Orinda City Council adopted the fire code. The Town of Moraga has scheduled the Fire Code adoption on their August 26, 2020 agenda. The next step will be to move the Fire Code to the Board of Supervisors, at which point that the fire code update process will be complete. The Contra Costa County warning system has changed the caller ID used to issue alerts. Previously that number was all zeros. The new number is 926-655-0195. MOFD encourages all residents to sign up for the CWS system and enter that phone number into their favorites to reduce the likelihood of the call being identified as spam and setting it as a favorite to override the do not disturb feature on your phone.

#### 11.3.1 COVID-19

Cases continue to increase throughout the County. Moraga and Orinda rates remain relatively low. MOFD uses protective measures (both equipment and procedures) to protect both our firefighters from the community and the community from our firefighters.

President Danziger asked for an update on the enrollment statistics from the Community Warning System. Fire Chief Winnacker responded that there was an increase of 1,400 registrations. The virtual evacuation exercises conducted in Orinda and Moraga and the associated messaging appears to have been effective. Total enrollment for Moraga is 8,794, and the total enrollment for Orinda is 9,142.

#### 11.3.2. Human Resources

Human Resource Benefits Manager Russell provided the report and announced flu shots would be available to staff at the beginning of September. The vendor will be on-site for two days to capture all shifts and administrative Staff. The employee ID card system has been reestablished to assist with the identification of MOFD employees needed for COVID-19 testing. All employees should have ID cards by the end of September. President Danziger asked if the Board of Directors would be included in the new MOFD identification cards. HR Benefits Manager Russell confirmed.

#### 11.3.3. Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Isaacs provided the report and summarized the status of the inspection process. Staff is starting to encounter less cooperative property owners refusing to abate the exterior hazards. Staff is focusing on educating those owners on compliance with the fire code and how it protects their property and their neighbor's property. If the Staff does not achieve compliance, the lien hearing process would be implemented. The Chipper Program is scheduled to start up again towards the end of September with one to two days a week, depending on the inspections schedule.

#### 11.4. Communications Received

No Report

#### 11.5. Future Agenda Items

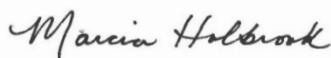
No Report

**President Danziger opened Public Comment. There were no requests to address the Board. President Danziger closed Public Comment.**

No further discussion by the Board.

#### 12. ADJOURNMENT (audio 126:55)

**At 9:17 p.m., Director Jorgens motion and seconded by Director Donner to adjourn the meeting. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Jex, Jorgens, Donner, and Danziger; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None).**



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Marcia Holbrook,  
District Secretary/District Clerk