

MINUTES

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 26, 2020
6:00 P.M.

Regional Fire Operations and Training Center Board Room
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors was called to order on March 26, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Hasselbrink.

INVOCATION

Chaplain Emily McColl offered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Hasselbrink led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Lisa Bartlett, County of Orange*
Sergio Farias, San Juan Capistrano
Dave Harrington, Aliso Viejo*
Noel Hatch, Laguna Woods*
Robert Johnson, Cypress*
Thomas Moore, Seal Beach*
John R. O'Neill, Garden Grove*
Vince Rossini, Villa Park*
Don Sedgwick, Laguna Hills
Michele Steggell, La Palma
Tri Ta, Westminster
Juan Villegas, Santa Ana
Kathy Ward, San Clemente*

Letitia Clark, Tustin*
Carol Gamble, Rancho Santa Margarita*
Shelley Hasselbrink, Los Alamitos
Gene Hernandez, Yorba Linda*
Anthony Kuo, Irvine
Joseph Muller, Dana Point
Sandy Rains, Laguna Niguel*
Ed Sachs, Mission Viejo*
Dave Shawver, Stanton*
Elizabeth Swift, Buena Park*
Mark Tettermer, Lake Forest
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange*

Absent: None

Also present were:

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy
Deputy Chief Lori Zeller
Deputy Chief Pokey Sanchez
General Counsel David Kendig
Assistant Chief Nina Collins
Assistant Chief Jim Ruane

Assistant Chief Randy Black
Assistant Chief Robert Cortez
Assistant Chief Kenney Dossey
Assistant Chief Lori Smith
Director of Communications Colleen Windsor
Acting Clerk of the Authority Martha Halvorson

**Board of Director Members participating via Teleconferencing*

1. PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (F: 11.11)

Chair Hasselbrink opened the Public Comments portion of the meeting. Chair Hasselbrink closed the Public Comments portion of the meeting without any comments from the general public.

REPORTS

REPORT FROM THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR (F: 11.12)

Budget and Finance Chair Gene Hernandez reported at the March 11, 2020, regular meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee, the Committee voted unanimously to send the Monthly Investment Reports to the Executive Committee for its approval. The Committee voted unanimously to send the FY 2019/20 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment and the Fiscal Year 2018/19 Backfill/Overtime and Calendar Year 2019 Total Earnings/Compensation Analysis to the Board of Directors for approval of the recommended actions. After lengthy discussion, the Committee continued the Options to Mitigate Escalating Charges to Contract Cities Beginning FY 2020/21 item to a special meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee on the 25th of March. The special meeting was cancelled, and the item is now scheduled for the April 8, 2020, Budget and Finance Committee regular meeting.

REPORT FROM THE FIRE CHIEF (F: 11.14)

Fire Chief Fennessy reported on the success of the Girls Empowerment Camp, introduced newly appointed Division Chief Vince Carpino, and provided an update on COVID-19.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR (Agenda Item Nos. 2D and 2E were pulled for separate consideration)

A. Minutes from the February 27, 2020, Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors (F: 11.06)

On motion of Director Johnson and second by Director Hernandez, the Board of Directors voted unanimously by those present by roll call vote to approve the Minutes as submitted. Directors Bartlett, Rains, Ta, Hernandez, and Sedgwick were recorded as abstentions due to their absence from the February 27, 2020, meeting.

B. Wildfire Awareness and Prevention Proclamation (F: 11.09A)

On motion of Director Johnson and second by Director Hernandez, the Board of Directors voted unanimously by those present by roll call vote to approve the Proclamation as submitted.

C. FY 2019/20 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment (F: 15.04 19/20)

On motion of Director Johnson and second by Director Hernandez, the Board of Directors voted unanimously by those present by roll call vote to authorize the proposed mid-year budget adjustments and transfers.

D. Fiscal Year 2018/19 Backfill/Overtime and Calendar Year 2019 Total Earnings/Compensation Analysis (F: 15.11)

Director Wagner pulled the item to discuss the compensation analysis.

On motion of Director Johnson and second by Director Hernandez, the Board of Directors voted unanimously by those present by roll call vote to:

1. Direct staff to continue pursuing reductions in overtime by filling permanent vacancies as quickly as possible after the positions become vacant.
2. Authorize staff to temporarily exceed the number of authorized firefighter positions on the Master Position Control to maximize the number of firefighters hired into each academy, pending attrition/promotions that occur during and following academy graduations.
3. Authorize staff to temporarily exceed the number of authorized Handcrew firefighter positions on the Master Position Control to maximize the number of Handcrew firefighters hired from each Handcrew firefighter recruitment process, pending attrition/promotions that occur as Handcrew firefighters promote to the firefighter rank.
4. Direct staff to continue using overtime to fill temporary vacancies rather than hiring additional personnel recognizing this as a cost-effective practice for temporary needs.

E. Quarterly Status Report Placentia Fire and Emergency Medical Services (F: 10.03)

Craig Green, City Council Member of Placentia, addressed the status report regarding the Placentia Fire Department and its emergency services.

On motion of Director Farias and second by Director Johnson, the Board of Directors voted unanimously by those present by roll call vote to receive and file the report.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

3. PUBLIC HEARING(S)

No items.

4. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

No items.

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BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (F: 11.13)

Director Kuo complemented Fire Chief Fennessy on his presentation at the Irvine City Council meeting in conjunction with Irvine Police Chief Hamel on the future training facility in Irvine.

Director Hernandez thanked Chief Fennessy for the selection of Division Chief Baryic Hunter and commended his informative Coronavirus updates and its impacts on their city, the county, and OCFA.

Vice Chair Rossini commended Division Chief Baryic Hunter for his updates on the Coronavirus provided to the City of Villa Park.

Director Shawver suggested the Budget and Finance Committee and staff review expenditures and losses from the effects of the recent COVID-19 Pandemic.

Director Wagner commended Division Chief Baryic Hunter for keeping everyone informed. He commented that as the representative for the County Board, he has been at the County Emergency Operations Center, and he wants to make sure the OCFA is aware that the OCFA has a seat at the table, and has been very actively involved, and commended Chief Fennessy and his staff.

Chair Hasselbrink thanked staff for putting together the Board meeting set-up with the teleconferencing capability, thanked the entire Board for its perfect attendance, and wanted to thank everyone for participating and helping to move things forward in this unusual time.

CLOSED SESSION (F: 11.15)

CS1. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Position: Fire Chief

Authority: Government Code Section 54954.5

CS2. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR

Chief Negotiators: Board Chair Hasselbrink, Vice Chair Rossini, and
Immediate Past Board Chair Muller

Position: Fire Chief

Authority: Government Code Section 54957.6

CS3. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR

Chief Negotiator: Peter Brown, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore
Employee Organizations: Orange County Professional Firefighters' Association,
Local 3631 and Chief Officers Association
Authority: Government Code Section 54957.6

CS4. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 54956.9
(1 Case)

CS5. THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES

Authority: Government Code Section 54957(a)
Consultation with Fire Chief Brian Fennessy, General Counsel David Kendig, and
Assistant Chief Randy Black

General Counsel David Kendig reported the Board of Directors would convene to Closed Session to consider the matters on the agenda identified as CS1, Public Employee Performance Evaluation, CS2, Conference with Labor Negotiator, CS3, Conference with Labor Negotiator, CS4, Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation, and CS5, Threat to Public Services or Facilities.

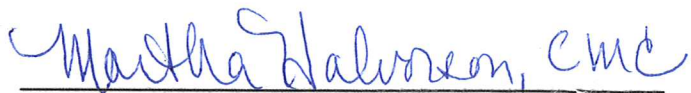
Chair Hasselbrink recessed the meeting to Closed Session at 6:54 p.m.

Chair Hasselbrink reconvened the meeting from Closed Session at 7:48 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT (F: 11.15)

General Counsel David Kendig stated there were no reportable actions.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Hasselbrink adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.



Martha Halvorson, CMC
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Acting Clerk of the Authority