

MINUTES ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 19, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

**Regional Fire Operations and Training Center Board Room
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602-0125**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors was called to order on November 19, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Hasselbrink.

INVOCATION

Senior Chaplain Dave Keehn offered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

Chair, Shelley Hasselbrink, Los Alamitos	Vice Chair, Vince Rossini, Villa Park*
Lisa Bartlett, County of Orange*	Letitia Clark, Tustin*
Carol Gamble, Rancho Santa Margarita*	Noel Hatch, Laguna Woods*
Dave Harrington, Aliso Viejo*	Gene Hernandez, Yorba Linda*
Robert Johnson, Cypress	Anthony Kuo, Irvine
Joe Muller, Dana Point*	John R. O'Neill, Garden Grove*
Sandy Rains, Laguna Niguel*	Ed Sachs, Mission Viejo*
Dave Shawver, Stanton*	Don Sedgwick, Laguna Hills*
Michele Steggell, La Palma*	Elizabeth Swift, Buena Park*
Tri Ta, Westminster*	Mark Tettermer, Lake Forest
Juan Villegas, Santa Ana	Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange*
Kathleen Ward, San Clemente*	

Absent: Sergio Farias, San Juan Capistrano

Thomas Moore, Seal Beach

Also present were:

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy
Assistant Chief Randy Black
Assistant Chief Kenny Dossey
Assistant Chief Lori Smith
General Counsel David Kendig
Clerk of the Authority Maria Huizar

Deputy Chief Lori Zeller
Assistant Chief Robert Cortez
Assistant Chief Jim Ruane
Assistant Chief Stephanie Holloman
Dir. of Communications Colleen Windsor

**Board of Director Members participating via Teleconferencing.*

REPORTS

A. Report from the Budget and Finance Committee Chair (File 11.12)

Budget and Finance Chair Hernandez reported at the November 4, 2020, special meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to approve and forward the Monthly Investment Reports, and the First Quarter Financial Newsletter to the Executive Committee to receive and file the reports. The Committee also voted unanimously to approve and forward the 2019 Homeland Security Grant Program, 2019 Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant Program Agreement to Transfer Property or Funds, Audited Financial Reports for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020, and the FY 2020/21 Fiscal Update & Snowball Pension Paydown Payment to the Board of Directors for approval of the recommended actions.

B. Report from the Human Resources Committee Vice Chair (FILE 11.12)

Human Resources Chair Vince Rossini reported at the November 10, 2020, special meeting, the Committee received the Annual Workers' Compensation Program Report. The Committee also voted to approve and forward the New Classification Specification for Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, and the New Classification Specification for Environmental, Health and Safety Analyst to the Executive Committee for approval. Lastly, Assistant Chief/Director of Human Resources Stephanie Holloman provided legislative updates on AB 2655, otherwise known as the Kobe Bryant Law, and SB 1343 requiring non-supervisory personnel to complete sexual harassment and discrimination prevention training.

C. Report from the Fire Chief (FILE 11.14)

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy provided a briefing of both the Silverado and Blue Ridge fires, and a video summarizing the fire events. He presented a newscast video demonstrating the VLHT's, (Very Large Helitanker) capabilities, which assisted in the recent Orange County fires. Lastly, he reported the OCFA Toy Drive, due to COVID restrictions, there are designated drop off locations established where the toys are being collected within Orange County.

1. PRESENTATIONS (FILE 11.09B)

Chair Shelley Hasselbrink on behalf of the Board of Directors recognized the Finance Department's Budget team for their receipt of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Budget Award for the 12th year. Chair Hasselbrink also acknowledged and recognized the entire Purchasing Department for the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement (AEP) Award for the 12th year, and, the Finance Department staff having received the Recognition of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) Award for the 22nd consecutive year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (FILE 11.11)

Greg Tooley, OCFA Fire Captain, introduced forming a committee to address military buy back or service credit purchase for OCFA veterans.

Tony Olson, OCFA Firefighter/Paramedic, addressed the option for OCFA former military personnel to purchase service credit.

Scott Dierdorff, OCFA Fire Captain, addressed the option for OCFA former military personnel to purchase service credit.

Ryan Bishop, OCFA Firefighter and Local 3631 Vice President, requested consideration of OCFA employees as former military personnel the option to participate in a buyback service credit program.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Director Johnson and second by Director Hernandez, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 23-0 (Directors Farias and Thomas absent) Agenda Items 2A-2C, and 2E-2F with a Board Member pulling Agenda Item 2D.

A. Minutes from the October 22, 2020, Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors (FILE 11.06)

Action: Approve as submitted.

B. 2021 Board Meetings Schedule (FILE 11.05)

Action: Adopt Resolution No. 2020-08 entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS ESTABLISHING THE REGULAR MEETING DATES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021.

C. Audited Financial Reports for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020 (FILE 15.06)

Actions:

1. Receive and approve the reports.
2. Review the calculations used to determine the fund balance amounts assigned to the capital improvement program and workers' compensation and confirm the calculations' consistency with the OCFA's Assigned Fund Balance Policy.

D. Award of Public Works Contracts for Regional Fire Operations and Training Center (RFOTC) Training Grounds Improvements (FILE 19.07B25)

Director Clark pulled this item with questions about the award process.

A brief discussion ensued.

Director Gamble proposed a substitute motion.

On motion of Director Gamble and second by Director Harrington, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 23-0 (Directors Farias and Moore absent) to reject all bids and go out for a qualification process with a two-week response time, and two-week bid time to follow.

E. 2019 Homeland Security Grant Program (FILE 16.02A1)

Action:

1. Approve and authorize the Fire Chief to execute any necessary agreement(s) to accept and administer the FY 2019 Homeland Security Grant Program.
2. Approve a budget adjustment to the FY 2020/21 General Fund (121) budget to increase revenues and expenditures by \$180,000 for the grant program award.

F. 2019 Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant Program Agreement to Transfer Property or Funds (FILE 16.02H2)

Action:

1. Approve and authorize the Fire Chief to execute the agreement and any necessary attachments to accept and administer the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program award.
2. Approve a Budget Adjustment to the FY 2020/21 General Fund (121) budget to increase revenue and expenditures by \$48,600 for the grant program award.

3. DISCUSSION

A. FY 2020/21 Fiscal Update & Snowball Pension Paydown Payment (FILE 10.02)

Assistant Chief Robert Cortez presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the FY 2020/21 Fiscal Update & Snowball Pension Paydown Payment.

On motion of Director Ta and second by Director Johnson, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 22-0 (Directors Farias, Moore, and Shawver were absent), to:

1. Receive and file the FY 2020/21 Fiscal Update.
2. Direct staff to remit the FY 2020/21 budgeted Snowball pension paydown payment of \$12.4 million to OCERS prior to December 31, 2020.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

No Items.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (FILE 11.13)

Director Johnson noted this was his last OCFA Board of Directors meeting, having served eight years, thanking all directors; noted it was a pleasure to serve.

Director Villegas noted this was his last OCFA Board of Directors meeting, proud to serve, firefighters did a wonderful job for the City of Santa Ana; so professional, incredible work. He appreciated the leadership, the Division Chiefs, the Fire Chief, a pleasure and honor to serve by their side. He additionally thanked Chair Hasselbrink for her leadership.

Director Harrington asked staff if they would prepare an agenda item for the military buyback item for a future Board of Directors meeting. He noted that there was a conversation in the past about equipment improvements for the firefighters; and would like to have a report on it in the future. He enjoyed serving with Director Johnson and Villegas, and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Chair Hasselbrink asked that staff prepare for the military buyback item for a future meeting.

Director Ward recognized Division Chief Capobianco who provided an excellent appraisal and evaluation on the Silverado fire. Gave thanks to OCFA for keeping the cities apprised on what was occurring, and residents informed. San Clemente supports all of the firefighters.

Director Muller thanked both Directors Johnson and Villegas for their service on the Board, wished a speedy recovery to the two injured firefighters, encouraged those interested to participate in the virtual Turkey Trot, and Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Director Clark wants to advocate for the firefighters in reviewing the military buyback for the OCFA firefighters, offered kudos to the communication team for communicating during the Silverado and Blue Ridge fires.

Director Tettermer thanked both Director Johnson and Director Villegas for their service on the Board of Directors. He also wants the two firefighters to know they are in our hearts and prayers. He noted that Lake Forest was severely affected by the recent fire, and wants to recognize all those in the front line support, those behind the scenes, CAL FIRE's support, and all the other agencies that provided support, as well as Division Chief Contreras, the coordination of the evaluations, and thank you to Fire Chief Fennessy who enabled him to review the Helitanker and its air crew.

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Director Sedgwick thanked Fire Chief Fennessy for providing the videos on the helitanker and the recent fires, wanting to share it with his fellow council members.

Director Shawver offered thanks to the firefighters, and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Chair Hasselbrink noted the hundreds of thank you cards provided by the many residents, and for the two injured firefighters, last night's the vigil held for the two injured firefighters was appreciated and well attended.

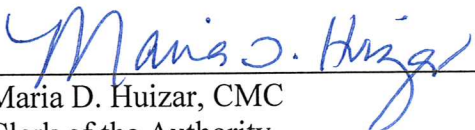
Director Hatch thanked Chair Hasselbrink for her magnificent job serving as Chair this year, hoping to be able to attend in person next year. He noted there is a sense of accomplishment with our Chief, the Deputy Chiefs, a year of accomplishment, comradery, hope to meet again in person in 2021.

Chair Hasselbrink addressed the Board, thanking all for getting through the rough year, stated focus on the good, family, wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, holidays, and New Year.

CLOSED SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Hasselbrink adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m. The December 2020 regular meeting is canceled. The next regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, January 28, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.



Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority