

# MINUTES

## ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 28, 2021**  
**6:00 P.M.**

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

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### CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors was called to order on January 28, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Hasselbrink.

### INVOCATION

Senior Chaplain Brett Peterson offered the invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

### ROLL CALL

Chair, Shelley Hasselbrink, Los Alamitos	Lisa Bartlett, County of Orange*
Troy Bourne, San Juan Capistrano	Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo*
Letitia Clark, Tustin*	Carol Gamble, Rancho Santa Margarita*
Noel Hatch, Laguna Woods*	Gene Hernandez, Yorba Linda*
Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach	Anthony Kuo, Irvine
Jessie Lopez, Santa Ana	Frances Marquez, Cypress*
Joe Muller, Dana Point*	John R. O'Neill, Garden Grove*
Sunny Park, Buena Park	Sandy Rains, Laguna Niguel*
Ed Sachs, Mission Viejo*	Dave Shawver, Stanton
Don Sedgwick, Laguna Hills	Michele Steggell, La Palma
Tri Ta, Westminster*	Mark Tettmer, Lake Forest
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange	Kathleen Ward, San Clemente*

**Absent:** Vince Rossini, Villa Park

### Also present were:

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy	Deputy Chief Lori Zeller
Assistant Chief Robert Cortez	Deputy Chief Kenney Dossey
Assistant Chief Stephanie Holloman	Assistant Chief Phil Johnson
Assistant Chief Lori Smith	Assistant Chief Randy Black
Assistant Chief Jim Ruane	General Counsel David Kendig
Clerk of the Authority Maria Huizar	

*\*Board Members participating via Teleconferencing*

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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**

### **A. Report from the Budget and Finance Committee Chair (FILE 11.12)**

Budget and Finance Chair Gene Hernandez reported at the January 13, 2021, regular meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to approve and forward the Monthly Investment Reports to the Executive Committee to receive and file the reports. The Committee also voted unanimously to approve and forward the Annual Grant Priorities for 2021, the FY 2020/2021 Mid-Year Financial Report, and the 2020 Long Term Liability Study and Accelerated Pension Payment Plan, to the Board of Directors for approval of the recommended actions. Additionally, and after extensive Committee discussion, the Budget & Finance Committee voted to forward to the Board the Military Service Buy-Back proposal, recommending to defer consideration of the item until the next time in which the OCFA and OCPFA are engaged in labor negotiations for a successor MOU (current MOU expires August 31, 2022).

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

Human Resources Vice Chair Steggell reported at the January 5, 2021, special meeting, the Committee directed staff to place the Amendments to the Board Rules of Procedure and Human Resources Committee Protocol on the Board of Directors agenda for the meeting of January 28, 2021.

### **C. Report from the Fire Chief (FILE 11.14)**

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy provided a Covid-19 video presentation demonstrating over 6,975 vaccines were administered at the OCFA POD site; reviewed the OCFA Strategic Goals for FY 2020/21 Second Quarter Update; and introduced Assistant Chief of Emergency Medical Services Randy Black, who shared OCFA in conjunction with Local 3631, promoted the month of January as Cancer Awareness Month taking measures to reduce the threat of the disease among firefighters. Lastly, Chief Fennessy introduced newly appointed Assistant Chief of Field Operations Phil Johnson.

## **1. PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. Recognition of former OCFA Board of Directors (FILE 11.09)**

Chair Hasselbrink and Fire Chief Fennessy recognized the exceptional service of OCFA's outgoing Board Members; present members included Elizabeth Swift, Buena Park, Sergio

Farias, San Juan Capistrano, and Juan Villegas, Santa Ana. Former member Thomas Moore, Seal Beach teleconferenced into the meeting. Former members Dave Harrington, Aliso Viejo and Robert Johnson, Cypress were not present.

Director Hernandez praised those members leaving for their service to OCFA.

Fire Chief Fennessy expressed his gratitude to the members leaving for their service to the Board.

Director Hatch spoke of the relationships developed with a common purpose, sense of vision, and sense of accomplishment among the Board Members. He welcomed the new Members, noting those leaving have contributed greatly to the Board and those they serve in their communities.

Director Shawver spoke to his longtime relationship working with those leaving the Board; spoke to former Board Chair Swift's contributions; and the common goals the Board Members had serving OCFA.

**B. Welcome to New Directors and Administer Oath of Office (FILE 11.02C)**

Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed members Sunny Park, Buena Park, Jessie Lopez, Santa Ana, Troy Bourne, San Juan Capistrano, and Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach. Directors Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo, and Frances Marquez, Cypress, were sworn in prior to the meeting.

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

On motion of Director Hernandez and second by Director Ta, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 24-0 (Director Rossini absent) Agenda Items No. 2A and 2C, with item 2B pulled for separate consideration.

**A. Minutes from the November 19, 2020, Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors (FILE 11.06)**

Action: Approve as submitted.

**B. FY 2020/2021 Mid-Year Financial Report (FILE 15.04)**

Director Tettermer inquired about the fund balance and capital budget needs.

Assistant Chief Robert Cortez provided specifics to surplus revenue availability, funding for CIP, and fiscal policy.



On motion of Director Tetterer and second by Director O'Neill, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 24-0 (Director Rossini absent) to direct staff to return to the Board of Directors on March 25, 2021, for approval of the budget adjustments discussed herein for the FY 2020/2021 budget.

**C. Annual Grant Priorities for 2021 (FILE 11.10G)**

Action: Approve OCFA's Annual Grant Priorities for 2021.

**Discussion Item**

**D. Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair (FILE 11.02B)**

Using the Chair's discretion, Chair Hasselbrink moved this item forward on the agenda to accommodate those Board Members unable to be present for the balance of the meeting.

On motion of Director Hernandez and second by Director O'Neill, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 23-0 (Director Muller and Rossini absent) to approve the process as proposed for the election of officers for the Board of Directors.

Chair Hasselbrink opened the Nominations for Chair of the Board of Directors.

Director Hernandez nominated Director Shelley Hasselbrink with a second by Director Sachs.

Director Sedgwick nominated Director David John Shawver with a second by Director Ta.

There were no additional nominations.

On motion of Director Kuo and second by Director Hernandez, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 23-0 (Director Muller and Rossini absent) to close the nominations.

Nominees Hasselbrink and Shawver both addressed the Board.

On the nomination of Chair Hasselbrink, and following a roll call vote, motion failed 10-13 (Director Gamble and Rossini absent; and Directors Chun, Park, Muller, O'Neil, Kuo, Sedgwick, Rains, Hatch, Tetterer, Bourne, Lopez, Shawver and Ta dissenting) as Chair of the Board.

On the nomination of Director Shawver, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 18-4 (Directors Gamble, Muller, and Rossini absent; and Directors Sachs, Ward,

Kalmick, and Hernandez dissenting) as Chair of the Board.

Chair Hasselbrink conceded the vote and asked to continue the process for continuity, to preside over the meeting to its completion with the consent of Chair Shawver.

Director Hasselbrink opened the Nominations for Vice Chair of the Board of Directors.

Director Shawver nominated Director Michele Steggell with a second by Director Kuo, and with no additional nominations, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 22-0 (with Directors Hatch, Muller, and Rossini absent).

### **3. DISCUSSION**

#### **A. 2021-22 Legislative Platform (FILE 11.10F)**

Legislative Analyst Jay Barkman presented the 2021-22 Legislative Platform.

On motion of Director Ta and second by Director Hernandez, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 21-0 (Directors Muller, Hatch, Sachs, and Rossini absent) to adopt the 2021-22 Legislative Platform and direct staff to initiate procedures to implement the platform.

#### **B. 2020 Long Term Liability Study and Accelerated Pension Payment Plan (FILE 17.06A)**

Treasurer Tricia Jakubiak presented a PowerPoint Presentation of the 2020 Long Term Liability Study and Accelerated Pension Payment Plan.

On motion of Director Ta and second by Director Kuo, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 22-0 (Directors Hatch, Sachs, and Rossini absent) to:

1. Direct staff to continue the Accelerated Pension Payment Plan as indicated in the Updated Snowball Strategy.
2. Direct staff to adjust the FY 2020/21 General Fund budget to increase expenditures and operating transfers out by a combined value of \$13,534,587 the amount identified as the unencumbered fund balance identified in the FY 2019/20 financial audit, and to allocate the funding among three of OCFA's high-priority funding areas including \$3,000,000 to the Accelerated Pension Payment Plan, \$3,949,257 to the Workers' Compensation Program, and \$6,585,330 to the General Fund to replenish the required 10% contingency reserve. The specific technical budget adjustment to carry-out this action will be included in the March mid-year budget adjustment agenda item for final approval by the Board.

**C. Military Service Buy-Back (FILE 17.06)**

Deputy Chief Lori Zeller presented the Military Service Buy-Back.

Todd Baldrige, President of Local 3631, addressed the need to coordinate the language/costs between OCERS and OCFA as a member agency to consider the Military Service Buy-Back.

Greg Tooley, OCFA Fire Captain, spoke in favor of the Military Service Buy-Back.

A brief discussion ensued.

On motion of Director Gamble and second by Director Ward, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 13-9 (Directors Hatch, Sachs, and Rossini absent; and Directors Park, Marquez, O'Neill, Kuo, Kalmick, Shawver, Clark, Ta and Wagner dissented), to defer consideration of the Military Service Buy-Back proposal until the next time in which the OCFA and OCPFA are engaged in labor negotiations for a successor MOU (current MOU expires August 31, 2022).

**E. Amendments to the Board Rules of Procedure and Human Resources Committee Protocol (FILE 11.03)**

Deputy General Counsel Keith Dobyns presented the Amendments to the Board Rules of Procedure and Human Resources Committee Protocol.

On motion of Hernandez and second by Director Wagner, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 21-0 (Directors Hatch, Muller, Rossini, and Sachs absent) to approve amendments to the Board Rules of Procedure and Human Resources Committee Protocols in the form of Attachments 1 and 2 to the agenda.

**4. PUBLIC HEARING**

No Items.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (FILE 11.13)**

Director Rains thanked Division Chief Mike Contreras for his assistance with a public service announcement for her community to bring the public up to date and give information with regards to wildfire safety and other measures within their community.

Director Wagner praised the OCFA for their response to canyon fire issues within his district and complimented Assistant Chief Phil Johnson for his assistance and knowledge at a recent town hall meeting.



Director Chun thanked all involved with the vaccine distribution and assistance with the Soka University vaccine site.

Director Hasselbrink thanked Division Chief Ron Roberts who coordinated the building of temporary hospital structures at the Los Alamitos Hospital.

Director Gamble thanked the departing Board members for their service, and welcomed the new members recently appointed. She complimented Director Hasselbrink for her leadership and service as the Board Chair.

**CLOSED SESSION (FILE 11.15)**

CS1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code: Two (2) Cases

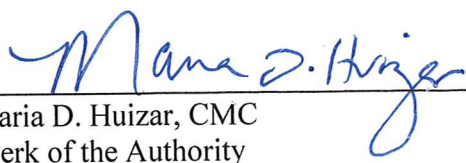
CS2. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6:

Agency Designated Representative: Peter Brown (Liebert Cassidy and Whitmore)  
Employee Organizations: Orange County Employees Association

**CLOSED SESSION REPORT (FILE 11.15)**

General Counsel David Kendig stated there were no reportable actions.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Director Hasselbrink adjourned the meeting at 9:49 p.m. in memory of Garden Grove Police Lieutenant John Reynolds who passed recently from COVID-19. The next regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

  
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Maria D. Huizar, CMC  
Clerk of the Authority