

MINUTES

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Regular and Concurrent Joint Special Meetings
Thursday, March 24, 2022
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 March 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Steggell.

INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Senior Chaplain Dave Keehn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Hertz-Mallari led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Michele Steggell, La Palma, Chair
Lisa Bartlett, County of Orange
Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo*
Shelley Hasselbrink, Los Alamitos*
Anne Hertz-Mallari, Cypress
Jessie Lopez, Santa Ana*
John R. O'Neill, Garden Grove
Vince Rossini, Villa Park
Don Sedgwick, Laguna Hills
Tri Ta, Westminster*
Richard Viczorek, Dana Point*
Kathy Ward, San Clemente

Anthony Kuo, Irvine, Vice Chair
Troy Bourne, San Juan Capistrano*
Carol Gamble, Rancho Santa Margarita*
Noel Hatch, Laguna Woods*
Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach
Austin Lombard, Tustin*
Sunny Park, Buena Park*
Ed Sachs, Mission Viejo*
Dave Shawver, Stanton
Mark Tettermer, Lake Forest
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange*

Absent Gene Hernandez, Yorba Linda

Sandy Rains, Laguna Niguel

Also present were:

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy
Deputy Chief Kenny Dossey
Assistant Chief Robert Cortez
Assistant Chief Stephanie Holloman
Assistant Chief TJ McGovern
Director of Communications Matt Olson

Deputy Chief Lori Zeller
Assistant Chief Randy Black
Assistant Chief Jim Ruane
Assistant Chief Lori Smith
General Counsel David Kendig
Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar

**Those members attending via Teleconferencing.*

REPORTS

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

Budget and Finance Chair Tri Ta reported at its March 9, 2022, Budget and Finance Committee meeting, the Committee reviewed the Monthly Investment Reports, and forwarded it to the Executive Committee to receive and file the reports as presented. Additionally, the Committee reviewed the FY 2021/22 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment and the OCFA Aircraft Replacement Review Process; forwarding both items to the Board of Directors with the recommendation to approve the recommended actions.

B. Report from the Fire Chief (FILE 11.14)

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy noted it has been two years since the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic. He acknowledged the support of the Board as OCFA carried forward during the challenges COVID presented. He reviewed the promotions and academies recently celebrated by OCFA firefighters, noting how a retired fire captain continued a legacy presenting his graduating son with his Captain bugles. Fire Chief Fennessy also acknowledged the recent retirement of Assistant Chief Phil Johnson, and introduced newly appointed Assistant Chief of Operations TJ McGovern who addressed the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (FILE 11.11)

Patricia Hanzo emailed public comments regarding inequality within the hiring of firefighters to the Board directly to their respective cities.

Lindsey Lefebvre emailed for distribution to the Board public comments regarding Women's History Month.

Todd Baldrige, President of Firefighters Local 3631, thanked Supervisor Wagner who supported a County Board of Supervisors Resolution to dedicate 10 acres of public cemetery land to public safety officers; both law enforcement and firefighters for their service in Orange County.

Dawn Huber, call in public comment, addressed concerns of harassment and lack of diversity of women within the OCFA.

Kris Larsen, call in public comment, a member of the Equity on Fire Group, addressed the lack of women within OCFA firefighters.

Ann resident of Anaheim, with phone number ending in 6036, addressed the number of women serving as firefighters in the OCFA.

Resident with phone number ending 7575, addressed women's rights in the fire profession.

Dena Chavez, retired fire captain, addressed Desiree Horton's dismissal.

Corey Johnson, Huntington Beach resident, expressed concern with diversity and inclusion of women within the OCFA.

Robert Hawkins, Los Angeles city fire captain, addressed findings of internal surveys and accountability within OCFA.

Resident with phone number ending in 0064, addressed black diversity within the OCFA.

Shannon Muller, retired fire captain, addressed fair treatment for women within the fire departments.

Resident with the phone number ending in 4415, addressed the need to reinstate Desiree Horton.

1. PRESENTATIONS

A. Recognition of former Chair Shawver (FILE 11.9)

Chair Steggell with Fire Chief Fennessy recognized former Chair Shawver and presented him with an inscribed plaque honoring his service as Chair in 2021. Chair Shawver thanked the OCFA Board, Fire Chief Fennessy, and staff for their support during his tenure.

B. Cancer Awareness (FILE 18.10L)

Assistant Chief Randy Black introduced Public Relations Manager Sophia Champieux who presented a video presentation regarding cancer awareness.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Director Shawver and second by Director Tettermer, and following a roll call vote, approved 23-0 Agenda Items No. 2A- 2D (Directors Hernandez and Rains absent).

A. Minutes for the Board of Directors (FILE 11.06)

Action: Approve the Minutes for the February 24, 2022, Regular and Concurrent Joint Special Meeting as submitted.

B. FY 2021/22 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment (FILE 15.04)

Action: Authorize the proposed mid-year budget adjustments and transfers as detailed in this report and attachments.

C. Drowning Prevention Awareness Proclamation (FILE 11.09A)

Action: Approve proclamation designating May and continued through August as Drowning Prevention Awareness.

D. OCFA Aircraft Replacement Review Process (FILE 18.9)

Action: Approve the proposed “*OCFA Aircraft Replacement Review Process*”.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Revised Rules of Procedure to Add Standing Committees (FILE 11.03)

Deputy Chief Lori Zeller presented the Revised Rules of Procedure to Add Standing Committees.

On motion of Director Shawver and second by Vice Chair Kuo, and following a roll call vote, approved 18-5 (Directors Bartlett, Hasselbrink, Sachs, Sedgwick, and Ward opposed, Directors Hernandez and Rains absent) to:

1. Authorize the establishment of an Operations Committee and a Legislative & Public Affairs Committee as additional standing committees to serve in an advisory capacity to staff and the Board of Directors.
2. Approve the submitted proposed Committee Protocols.
3. Approve the proposed Resolution to amend the Board Rules of Procedure to reflect the additional standing committees.

RECESSED THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CALLED TO ORDER THE CONCURRENT JOINT SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE, AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE AT 7:19 P.M.

A. Findings Required by AB 361 for the Continued Use of Teleconferencing for Meetings (FILE 11.03)

General Counsel David Kendig presented the Findings Required by AB 361 for the Continued Use of Teleconferencing for Meetings.

On motion of Director Ward and second by Director Kalmick, and following a roll call vote, approved 18-5 (Directors Bourne, Hertz-Mallari, Kuo, Tettermer, and Steggell opposed, Directors Hernandez and Rains absent) to make the following findings:

- a. A state of emergency has been proclaimed by California’s Governor due to the COVID-19 pandemic and continues in effect; and
- b. The Board of Directors and each Committees has reconsidered the circumstances of the emergency; and
- c. State and local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19.

ADJOURNED THE CONCURRENT JOINT MEETINGS AND RECONVENED TO THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT 7:26 P.M.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (FILE 11.13)

Director O’Neill spoke in favor of the two additional standing committees approved by the Board. He congratulated newly appointed TJ McGovern as the Assistant Chief of Operations.

Vice Chair Kuo stated he appreciated the Cancer Awareness presentation, he thanked Chief Fennessy and staff for the Board Orientation, and thanked the Board Members who also attended.

Director Shawver announced a rally in the city of Stanton, to support the country of Ukraine.

Director Chun thanked staff for the Board Member Orientation, and additionally thanked Captain Bergman and the firefighters of Fire Station 22 for a recent ride-along.

Director Lumbar thanked Captain Hawkins and the firefighters at Fire Station 21 for his recent ride-along.

Chair Steggell thanked Fire Division Chief Mike Petro for his exceptional service to the cities of Buena Park, La Palma, Cypress, and Stanton as he retires from OCFA. She also thanked Division Chief Petro and the firefighters of Fire Station 61 for a recent ride-along.

RECESSED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 7:34 P.M. (FILE 11.15)

CS1. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

Chief Negotiator:	Peter Brown, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore
Employee Organizations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orange County Professional Firefighters Association, IAFF - Local 3631, • Orange County Employees Association (OCEA), and • Orange County Fire Authority Management Association (OCFAMA)

CS2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION pursuant to paragraph (2) and (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code: One (1) Case

RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION AT 9:10 P.M. WITH SAME MEMBERS PRESENT

CLOSED SESSION REPORT (FILE 11.15)

General Counsel David Kendig stated the Board gave its labor negotiator direction, other than that there was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Steggell adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m. The next meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors will be a Special Joint Concurrent Meeting of the Board and all Committees scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.



Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority