

MINUTES

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2023
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 February 23, 2023, at 6:03 p.m. by Chair Sandy Rains.

INVOCATION by OCFA Kent Kraning.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Director Lumbard.

ROLL CALL by Clerk of the Authority

Sandy Rains, Laguna Niguel, Chair
Phil Bacerra, Santa Ana
Chris Duncan, San Clemente
John Gabbard, Dana Point
Shelley Hasselbrink, Los Alamitos
Gene Hernandez, Yorba Linda
Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach
Austin Lumbard, Tustin
John O'Neill, Garden Grove
Bob Ruesch, Mission Viejo
Joshua Sweeney, Laguna Hills
Connor Traut, Buena Park

Vince Rossini, Villa Park, Vice Chair
Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo
Katrina Foley, County of Orange
Carol Gamble, Rancho Santa Margarita
Noel Hatch, Laguna Woods
Anne Hertz-Mallari, Cypress
Tammy Kim, Irvine
Chi Charlie Nguyen, Westminster
Nitesh Patel, La Palma
Dave Shawver, Stanton
Mark Tettermer, Lake Forest
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange*

Absent Troy Bourne, San Juan Capistrano

Also present were:

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy
Deputy Chief TJ McGovern
Assistant Chief Lori Smith
Assistant Chief Jim Ruane
Assistant Chief Shane Sherwood
Assistant Chief Stephanie Holloman
General Counsel David Kendig

Deputy Chief Lori Zeller
Assistant Chief Robert Cortez
Assistant Chief Rob Capobianco
Assistant Chief Tim Perkins
Director of Communications Matt Olson
Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar

**Those Members attending via Teleconferencing*

REPORTS

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

Budget and Finance Committee Chair John O'Neill reported at its February 8, 2023, meeting, the Committee reviewed and recommended by a unanimous vote to forward the Second Quarter Purchasing Report, the FY 2021 Grant for All Hazard-All Risks Command Trailer and Regional Training, and the 2022 Long Term Liability Study and Accelerated Pension Payment Plan to the full Board for consideration and approval of the recommended actions. The Committee also held its annual election of both the Chair and Vice Chair, electing Director Bourne as Vice Chair, and myself John O'Neill as Chair of the Committee for the ensuing year.

B. Report from the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee Chair (FILE 11.12) (12.02E5)

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Chair Kalmick reported at its January 18, 2023, meeting, the Committee received reports from both the state and federal lobbyists John Moffatt of Nielsen Merksamer, and Lisa Barkovic of Holland and Knight. The Committee reviewed and voted unanimously to forward to the Board of Directors the 2023-2024 Legislative Platform. The Committee received and filed the Laguna Woods Fire Station 12 Legislation item, where staff reported on legislation that OCFA and the City of Laguna Woods are pursuing to secure land for new Fire Station 12. Lastly, the Committee received and filed the Quarterly Public Affairs Update, where the Committee was provided an update on Corporate Communication's most recent activity.

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

Human Resources Committee Chair Kalmick reported at its February 7, 2023, regular meeting, the Committee received and filed a report on the Workers' Compensation Staffing Vacancies Report. Additionally, the Committee reviewed the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Climate Survey Report and voted unanimously to forward the item to the Board of Directors to receive and file the report. Lastly, the Committee held its annual election of both the Chair and Vice Chair, electing Director Chun as Vice Chair, and myself Joe Kalmick as Chair of the Committee for the ensuing year.

D. Report from the Fire Chief (FILE 11.14)

Fire Chief Fennessy commended the firefighters and professional staff noting the 2022 Statistical Annual Report data demonstrated an increase in the volume of work performed; fire responses up five percent; EMS incidents up ten percent; and community outreach events up one hundred percent. He noted the ongoing celebration and recognition of Black History Month, of the upcoming Women's History Month, and the return of the annual OCFA Open House on March 4. He concluded with praising the hard work and sacrifice all OCFA employees make on a daily basis.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (FILE 11.11)

Duke Steppe, President of the Orange County Fire Authority Managers Association (OCFAMA), introduced the OCFAMA labor organization to the Board, and highlighted its membership's role within the OCFA.

Sami Soto, Orange County Employees Association Board of Director, welcomed the new OCFA Board members and made remarks that emphasized working together to finalize a fair and reasonable labor contract.

1. PRESENTATIONS (FILE 11.09)

Chair Rains, Fire Chief Fennessy, and Deputy Chief McGovern introduced and presented badges to the following OCFA firefighters promoted to Battalion Chief: Reid Gibson, Ray McQueen, and Mike Yeun. They also recognized and presented badges to recently promoted Tim Perkins to Assistant Chief/South Operations, and Shane Sherwood to Assistant Chief/North Operations.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Director Hatch and second by Director Tetteimer, and following a roll call vote, approved 23-0 Agenda Items No. 2A-2B and 2D-2E (Directors Bourne and Duncan absent).

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

Actions:

1. Approve the Minutes for the January 12, 2023, Concurrent Joint Special Meeting as submitted.
2. Approve the Minutes for the January 26, 2023, Regular and Concurrent Joint Special Meeting as submitted.

B. Second Quarter Purchasing Report (FILE 11.10H1)

On February 8, 2023, the Budget and Finance Committee reviewed the proposed agenda item and directed staff to place the item on the Board of Directors agenda by a vote of 7-0.

Action: Receive and file the report.

C. 2023-2024 Legislative Platform (FILE 12.02E5) (11.10F1)

Director Foley pulled this item for separate consideration.

Discussion ensued.

On January 18, 2023, the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee reviewed the proposed agenda item and directed staff to place the item on the Board of Directors agenda by a vote of 4-0 (Director Rains absent).

On motion of Director Foley and second by Director Kim, and following a roll call vote, approved 13-10 (Directors Hernandez, Lombard, Shawver, Hasselbrink, Patel, O'Neill, Gabbard, Hertz-Mallari, Rossini, Wagner, opposed, and Directors Bourne and Duncan absent) to approve and adopt the 2023-2024 Legislative Platform with an additional point to support undergrounding of powerlines for the purpose of wildfire mitigation.

D. FY 2021 Grant for All Hazard-All Risks Command Trailer and Regional Training (FILE 19.07B)

On February 8, 2023, the Budget and Finance Committee reviewed the proposed agenda item and directed staff to place the item on the Board of Directors agenda by a vote of 7-0.

Action: Approve a Budget Adjustment in Fund 121 to increase revenue and expenditures by \$206,114 for the grant program award.

E. Ratify Appointments to Executive Committee and Committee Member Roster for 2023 (FILE 12.02A1)

Actions:

1. Confirm the appointments of the Executive Committee and Alternate members, as required in Rule 9(b) of the Board of Directors Rules of Procedure.
2. Receive and file the Committee Member Roster for 2023.

3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. 2022 Long Term Liability Study and Accelerated Pension Payment Plan (FILE 17.06A)

Treasurer Tricia Jakubiak presented the 2022 Long Term Liability Study and Accelerated Pension Payment Plan.

On February 8, 2023, the Budget and Finance Committee reviewed the proposed agenda item and directed staff to place the item on the Board of Directors agenda by a vote of 7-0.

On motion of Director O'Neill and second by Director Bacerra, and following a roll call vote, approved 23-0 (Directors Bourne and Duncan absent) to receive and file the report.

B. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Climate Survey Report & Progress (FILE 12.02D6)

Assistant Chief Holloman introduced CEO Martha Brooke of InteractionMetrics, who provided the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Climate Survey Report and Progress results.

On February 7, 2023, the Human Resources Committee reviewed the proposed agenda item and directed staff to place the item on the Board of Directors agenda by a vote of 6-0.

On motion of Director Hasselbrink and second by Director Rossini, and following a roll call vote, approved 23-0 (Directors Bourne and Duncan absent), to receive and file the report.

Director Duncan arrived at this point (8:11p.m.).

C. Board of Director Requested Item - Establish a Policy to Prefund Capital Improvement Program Projects (FILE 11.13A) (15.04)

Director Tetterer introduced the item to Establish a Policy to Prefund Capital Improvement Program Projects.

Discussion ensued.

On motion by Director Tetterer and second by Director Shawver, and following a roll call vote, approved 24-0 (Director Bourne absent) to direct staff to work with the Budget and Finance Committee to consider prefunding of capital improvement projects, with a recommendation to direct staff to return the item to the Board of Directors for future discussion.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (FILE 11.13)

Director O'Neill offered support and condolences to the family of Division Chief Ron Roberts. He noted he had the opportunity to work with Chief Roberts who was the Division Chief for the City of Garden Grove.

Director Shawver on behalf of the community of Stanton thanked Fire Station 46, shift A, which attended a three-alarm fire, of which 46 residents were displaced. The firefighters did an outstanding job taking down the fire where it could have been much worse.

Director Traut recently participated in a sit-along; getting to see the lifesaving work the Emergency Command Center does; and recommended it highly for the newer colleagues on the Board as it was time well spent.

Chair Rains thanked Fire Station 75 in Santa Ana, having spent time with them recently. She noted a resident of Laguna Niguel who lost her home in the recent fires, shared her gratefulness as they were not home, arriving two days after the fire. Chair Rains noted the firefighters exhibited great compassion having gone into the home and saved many valuables for the homeowner.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (FILE 11.15)

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

Negotiators:

Peter Brown, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore and
Stephanie Holloman, Assistant Chief/Human
Resources Director

Employee Organizations:

- Orange County Professional Firefighters Association, IAFF - Local 3631, and
- Orange County Employees Association (OCEA)
- 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

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

CLOSED SESSION REPORT (FILE 11.15)

General Counsel David Kendig stated there was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Rains adjourned the meeting at 10:49 p.m. in memory of retired Division Chief Ron Roberts who served the communities of Orange County for 42 years. The next meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors will be on Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.



Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority