

# MINUTES

## ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 25, 2023**  
**6:00 P.M.**

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

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### CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors was called to order on May 25, 2023, at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Vince Rossini.

### INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Chaplain Devin Chase.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Nguyen led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ROLL CALL

Vince Rossini, Villa Park, Chair  
Troy Bourne, San Juan Capistrano  
Chris Duncan, San Clemente  
John Gabbard, Dana Point  
Shelley Hasselbrink, Los Alamitos  
Gene Hernandez, Yorba Linda  
Kelly Jennings, Laguna Niguel  
Tammy Kim, Irvine  
Dave Shawver, Stanton  
Mark Tetterer, Lake Forest  
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange

John O'Neill, Garden Grove, Vice Chair  
Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo  
Katrina Foley, County of Orange  
Carol Gamble, Rancho Santa Margarita  
Noel Hatch, Laguna Woods  
Anne Hertz-Mallari, Cypress  
Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach  
Chi Charlie Nguyen, Westminster  
Joshua Sweeney, Laguna Hills  
Connor Traut, Buena Park

**Absent:** Phil Bacerra, Santa Ana  
Nitesh Patel, La Palma

Austin Lumbard, Tustin  
Bob Ruesch, Mission Viejo

### Also present were:

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy  
Deputy Chief TJ McGovern  
Assistant Chief Rob Capobianco  
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 Lori Smith  
Assistant Chief Tim Perkins  
Director of Communications Matt Olson  
Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar

## REPORTS

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

Budget and Finance Committee Chair John O'Neill reported at its May 10, 2023, meeting, the Committee reviewed and recommended by unanimous vote to forward the Organizational Service Level Assessment Update, the Canyon Communities CERT Program Budget Adjustment, and the Review of the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Proposed Budget to the full Board for consideration and approval of the recommended actions.

### B. Report from the Fire Chief (FILE 11.14)

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy reported May is Mental Health Awareness Month, Military Appreciation Month, and Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Additionally, it is considered the beginning of both Wildfire Awareness and Drowning Prevention Seasons. The Fire Chief highlighted with a video, recruiting effort are underway to include former members of our military services whose leadership and professionalism parallel our OCFA firefighters. He reported on a new Public Service Announcement he worked in conjunction with Director Wagner to get out messages to prevent drownings, and lastly highlighted the Best and Bravest award night; many deserving members of the OCFA team were honored.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

### 1. PRESENTATION

None.

### 2. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Director O'Neill and second by Director Kim, and by acclamation, approved 21-0 Agenda Item Nos. 2A-2C (Directors Bacerra, Lombard, Patel, and Ruesch absent).

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

Action: Approve the Minutes for the April 27, 2023, Regular Meeting as submitted.

#### B. Canyon Communities CERT Program Budget Adjustment (FILE 11.10J1)

On May 10, 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 (Directors Hasselbrink and Bourne absent).

Action: Approve a Budget Adjustment to the FY 2022/23 General Fund (121) budget to increase revenue and expenditures by \$20,000 for the grant program award to fund the CERT program.

**C. Organizational Service Level Assessment Update (FILE 17.16)**

On May 10, 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 (Directors Hasselbrink and Bourne absent).

Action: Receive and file the Organizational Service Level Assessment (SLA) update.

**3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR**

**A. Ratify the Fire Chief's Base Salary Increase (FILE 17.10A2)**

Assistant Chief Stephanie Holloman presented the item.

On motion of Director Shawver and second by Director Kim, and by acclamation, approved 21-0 (Directors Bacerra, Lumbard, Patel, and Ruesch absent), to ratify the 2.67% increase to the base salary of the Fire Chief pursuant to Section 5.B of the Fire Chief Employment Agreement, which became effective November 18, 2022.

**4. PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. Review of the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Proposed Budget (FILE 15.4)**

Assistant Chief Robert Cortez provided a PowerPoint presentation and the Review of the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Proposed Budget.

On May 10, 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 (Directors Hasselbrink and Bourne absent).

On motion of Director Hernandez and second by Director Foley, and by acclamation, approved 21-0 (Directors Bacerra, Lumbard, Patel, and Ruesch absent), to:

1. Conduct a Public Hearing.
2. Adopt the FY 2023/24 Proposed Budget as submitted.
3. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-03 entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE APPROPRIATIONS BUDGET FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/24.



4. Approve and authorize the temporary transfer of up to \$90 million from the Fund 190 Workers' Compensation Reserve Fund to the General Fund 121 to cover a projected temporary cash flow shortfall for FY 2023/24.
5. Approve and authorize the repayment of \$90 million borrowed funds from Fund 121 to Fund 190 along with interest when General Fund revenues become available in FY 2023/24.
6. Approve changes to the Master Position Control list to unfreeze, reclassify and/or add 8 positions as detailed in Attachment 3.
7. Approve transfers from the General Fund 121 to CIP Funds and Settlement Agreement Fund totaling \$33,886,201.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (FILE 11.13)**

Director Hertz-Mallari reported participating in a site visit with Fire Station 18 hand crew, commending them for their work, and thanking them for the demonstrations they presented.

Director Hernandez thanked Fire Chief Fennessy for recognizing the veterans. He noted the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda recently had a celebration of the return of the POWs from the Vietnam war. He recommended the city of Yorba Linda would benefit from a drowning prevention demonstration in the future, and shared of the passing of former Mayor and Councilmember of the city of Tustin, Dr. Allan Bernstein.

Director Kim in agreement with Director Hertz-Mallari's comments, also participated in a site visit noting the hand crew demonstrations were highly informative and appreciated.

**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; Stephanie Holloman, Assistant Chief/Human Resources Director and Lori Zeller, Deputy Chief/Administration & Support Bureau

Employee Organizations:

- Chief Officers Association (COA); and
- Orange County Fire Authority Managers 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

**CS3. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION** pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.5

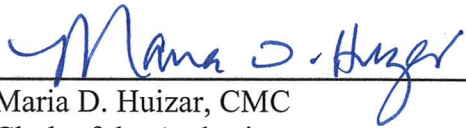
Position: Fire Chief

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

**CLOSED SESSION REPORT (FILE 11.15)**

General Counsel David Kendig stated there was no reportable action.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Chair Rossini adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m. in memory of former Tustin Mayor Dr. Allan Bernstein. The next meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors will be on Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

  
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Maria D. Huizar, CMC  
Clerk of the Authority