

# MINUTES ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting  
Thursday, July 27, 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 July 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Vince Rossini.

## **INVOCATION**

The Invocation was led by Chaplain Ed Valdez.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Director O'Neill led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ROLL CALL**

Vince Rossini, Villa Park, Chair  
Phil Bacerra, Santa Ana  
Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo  
Noel Hatch, Laguna Woods  
Austin Lombard, Tustin  
Tammy Kim, Irvine  
Nitesh Patel, La Palma  
Dave Shawver, Stanton  
Mark Tettemer, Lake Forest

John O'Neill, Garden Grove, Vice Chair  
Troy Bourne, San Juan Capistrano  
John Gabbard, Dana Point  
Kelly Jennings, Laguna Niguel  
Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach  
Chi Charlie Nguyen, Westminster  
Bob Ruesch, Mission Viejo  
Joshua Sweeney, Laguna Hills  
Connor Traut, Buena Park

**Absent:** Chris Duncan, San Clemente  
Carol Gamble, Rancho Santa Margarita  
Gene Hernandez, Yorba Linda  
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange

Katrina Foley, County of Orange  
Shelley Hasselbrink, Los Alamitos  
Anne Hertz-Mallari, Cypress

## **Also present were:**

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy  
Assistant Chief Robert Cortez  
Assistant Chief Lori Smith  
Assistant Chief Shane Sherwood  
Director of Communications Matt Olson  
General Counsel David Kendig

Deputy Chief TJ McGovern  
Assistant Chief Rob Capobianco  
Assistant Chief Tim Perkins  
Assistant Chief Stephanie Holloman  
Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar

Director Nguyen arrived at this point (6:03 p.m.).

## **REPORTS**

### **A. Report from the Fire Chief**

Fire Chief Fennessy reported in preparation of wildfire season; with increased fuel from the record rains, goals include keeping wildfires 10 acres or less at 95% of the time, established wildland response expectations memo, ongoing wildland fire training, strike team refresher training, and study of historic Orange County fire corridors and behavior. In the interim, OCFA Hand Crews work to reduce hazardous fuel by reduction and restoring fire roads washed out during the rains. The Community Risk Reduction team year-round work to educate our communities on vegetation management, and home hardening and defensible space. Presenting a video, the Chief emphasized how the Quick Reaction Force is a great example of protecting Orange County. Fire Chief Fennessy provided a video on Cal OES accepting the FIRIS program. He thanked the OCFA firefighters who working with the representing agencies took on the following recent fire events; Naval Weapons, Riverside, Laguna Beach, Orange, and Anaheim Fire and Rescue. He concluded by thanking the Board of Directors for their continued support as OCFA protects life and property from wildfires.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

### **1. PRESENTATION**

None.

### **2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

On motion of Director Tetterer and second by Director Bacerra approved by consensus Agenda Item Nos. 2A-2C (Directors Duncan, Foley, Gamble, Hasselbrink, Hernandez, Hertz-Mallari, and Wagner absent).

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

The record will show that any Director not in attendance at the meeting of the Minutes will be registered as an abstention, unless otherwise indicated.

Action: Approve the Minutes for the June 22, 2023, Regular Meeting as submitted.

#### **B. Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week (FILE 11.09A)**

Action: Approve proclamation designating October 8-14, 2023, as Fire Prevention Week.

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

Action: Direct staff to proceed with the next steps in support of the military service buy-back option with OCERS, subject to further approval of enabling actions by the Board of Directors prior to implementation and at no cost to the Fire Authority.

**3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR**

**A. Request for Proposal Consultation for Ambulance Transportation Service Options (FILE 18.05B)**

Assistant Chief Rob Capobianco presented the item.

On motion of Director Kim and second by Director O'Neill, approved by consensus (Directors Duncan, Foley, Gamble, Hasselbrink, Hernandez, Hertz-Mallari, and Wagner absent) to approve and authorize the Purchasing Manager to issue an RFP for consultation on ambulance transportation service options in OCFA jurisdiction, as outlined by the scope of work.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Director Chun asked to agendaize for discussion an item regarding property in Aliso Viejo.

Director Gabbard thanked all of the firefighters who fought the Laguna Niguel fire.

Director Jennings expressed thanks for the firefighters present at the Laguna Niguel fire.

Chair Rossini announced the upcoming nuptials of Director Gamble and her fiancé, which would take place on Friday.

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (FILE 11.15)**

General Counsel David Kendig reported the Board would adjourn to Closed Session to consider Agenda Item CS2.

**CS1. 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

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

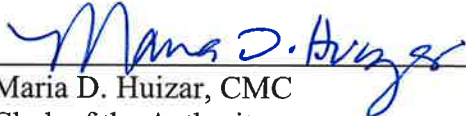
Chief Negotiators: Board Chair Rossini, Board Vice Chair & Budget and Finance Committee Chair O'Neill, and Immediate Past Board Chair Shawver  
Position: Fire Chief

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

**CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

General Counsel David Kendig stated there was no reportable action.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Chair Rossini adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m. The next meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors will be on Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Maria D. Huizar, CMC  
Clerk of the Authority