

MINUTES ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 26, 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 October 26, 2023, at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Vince Rossini.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Chaplain Jim Gwaltney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Patel led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Vince Rossini, Villa Park, Chair
Phil Bacerra, Santa Ana
Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo
Katrina Foley, County of Orange
Shelley Hasselbrink, Los Alamitos
Gene Hernandez, Yorba Linda
Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach
Chi Charlie Nguyen, Westminster
Bob Ruesch, Mission Viejo
Joshua Sweeney, Laguna Hills
Connor Traut, Buena Park

John O'Neill, Garden Grove, Vice Chair
Troy Bourne, San Juan Capistrano
Chris Duncan, San Clemente
Carol Gamble, Rancho Santa Margarita
Noel Hatch, Laguna Woods
Kelly Jennings, Laguna Niguel
Austin Lumbard, Tustin
Nitesh Patel, La Palma
Dave Shawver, Stanton
Mark Tettermer, Lake Forest
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange

Absent: Anne Hertz-Mallari, Cypress
John Gabbard, Dana Point

Tammy Kim, Irvine

Also present were:

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy
Deputy Chief TJ McGovern
Assistant Chief Rob Capobianco
Assistant Chief Jim Ruane
Assistant Chief Shane Sherwood
Director of Communications Matt Olson
General Counsel David Kendig

Deputy Chief Lori Zeller
Assistant Chief Robert Cortez
Assistant Chief Lori Smith
Assistant Chief Tim Perkins
Assistant Chief Stephanie Holloman
Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar

REPORTS

A. Report from Budget and Finance Committee Chair O'Neill

Budget and Finance Committee Chair O'Neill reported at its October 17, 2023, Special meeting, the Committee recommended by a unanimous vote to forward the FY 2022 Grant for All Hazard-All Risks Regional Training and Hazardous Materials Support Vehicle to the Board of Directors for consideration and approval of the recommended action.

B. Report from Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Chair Foley

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Chair Foley reported at its October 18, 2023, Special meeting, the Committee reviewed the 2023 Legislative Summary and recommended the Board of Directors receive and file the report and adopt the bill position changes as described within the report. The Committee also reviewed the Proposed Revisions to the Board Rules of Procedure and Legislative and Public Affairs Protocols, and voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the proposed revisions and place the item on the agenda for the Board of Directors to adopt.

C. Report from the Fire Chief

Fire Chief Fennessy thanked Chaplain Jim Gwaltney for recognizing the 3-year anniversary of the Silverado Fire, where two of our handcrews were critically injured, both continue to be recovering from their numerous surgeries and be supported by their peers of OCFA. He recognized former Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Jay Barkman who after nearly 20 years of service, has taken a new position with the city of Costa Mesa. In his tenure he was instrumental in passage of legislation, securing funding grants, and the coordination of Federal funding. Chief Fennessy noted the 4th Annual Girls Empowerment Camp was hosted by OCFA on October 8-9; OCFA had its annual Station Open Houses with thanks to our professional staff, firefighters, and the Board Members for their participation; the Santa Ana Wind Event Education was held and Night Rescue Hositing Drills; and OCFA held a Graduation of 28 new OCFA Reserve Firefighters. A few weeks ago, a cross-agency group of OCFA leaders visited the historic sites of the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in an immersive leadership experience. Lastly, Chief Fennessy provided the new OCFA Organizational Doctrine which focuses on our Mission-Driven Culture and its core components, intent-based operations and decision making.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (FILE 11.11)

Linda May, Silverado Canyon resident, encouraged uniform communications during mandatory evacuations, and spoke of the displacement of animals when evacuations occur.

1. PRESENTATION

A. Recognition of GFOA Budget Award (FILE 11.09B)

Vice Chair O'Neill, Fire Chief Fennessy, and Assistant Chief Cortez presented the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada award (GFOA), marking the 15th year of the OCFA Budget and Finance team receiving the award for their professionalism, quality of work of the OCFA's budget presentation, and documented proficiency in several categories.

B. Procurement Award (FILE 11.09B)

Vice Chair O'Neill, Fire Chief Fennessy, and Assistant Chief Cortez presented the 2023 National Procurement Institute's Achievement of Excellence in Procurement (AEP) Award to the Purchasing Department; its 13th consecutive year of receiving this award.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Director Hasselbrink and second by Director Hernandez, approved by consensus 22-0 Agenda Item Nos. 2A-2C (Directors Hertz-Mallari, Kim, and Gabbard 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 September 28, 2023, Regular Meeting as submitted.

B. FY 2022 Grant for All Hazard-All Risks Regional Training and Hazardous Materials Support Vehicle (FILE 19.07B)

On October 17, 2023, the Budget and Finance Committee reviewed the proposed agenda item and directed staff to place the item on the Executive Committee agenda by a vote of 6-0 (Directors Bourne, Gabbard, and Hasselbrink absent).

Action: Approve a Budget Adjustment in Fund 121 to increase revenue and expenditures by \$460,563.64 for the grant program award.

C. 2023 Legislative Summary (FILE 12.02E5)

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

Action: Receive and file the report and adopt recommended bill position changes as described in the report.

3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Proposed Revisions to the Board Rules of Procedure and Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Protocols (FILE 11.03)

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

Director Foley presented the proposed Revisions to the Board Rules of Procedure and Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Protocols as recommended by the Legislative Committee.

A brief discussion followed.

On a substitute motion by Director Wagner and second by Chair Rossini, approved unanimously 22-0 (Directors Hertz-Mallari, Kim, and Gabbard absent) to adopt the proposed Committee schedule of dates by resolution and related amendments to the Legislative and Public Affairs protocol.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Foley requested staff meet with General Counsel to address issue as it related to Agenda item No. 3A.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (FILE 11.15)

General Counsel David Kendig reported the Board would convene to Closed Session for Agenda Item Nos. CS2 and CS3 as they appear on the agenda and include Chair Rossini, Vice Chair O'Neill and Immediate Past Board Chair Shawver.

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

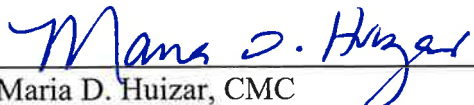
CS3. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – POSSIBLE INITIATION OF LITIGATION pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code: One (1) Case

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

CLOSED SESSION REPORT (FILE 11.15)

General Counsel David Kendig reported with Directors Nguyen, Duncan, Kim, Gabbard, Hertz-Mallari, and Foley absent, the Board of Directors by unanimous vote, has given the authority to initiate litigation and the action, defendants and other particulars will be disclosed to any person upon inquiry once the litigation has been formally commenced. Other than that, there is no other reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Rossini adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m. The next meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors will be on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.



Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority