

# MINUTES ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting  
Thursday, June 27, 2019  
6:00 P.M.**

**Regional Fire Operations and Training Center Board Room  
1 Fire Authority Road  
Irvine, CA 92602-0125**

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors was called to order on June 27, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Muller.

## **INVOCATION**

Chaplain Devin Chase offered the Invocation.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Director Bartlett led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

## **ROLL CALL**

Lisa Bartlett, County of Orange  
Sergio Farias, San Juan Capistrano  
Dave Harrington, Aliso Viejo  
Shelley Hasselbrink, Los Alamitos  
Gene Hernandez, Yorba Linda  
Neeki Moatazedi, Lake Forest  
Joseph Muller, Dana Point  
Ed Sachs, Mission Viejo  
Michele Steggell, La Palma  
Tri Ta, Westminster

Letitia Clark, Tustin  
Melissa Fox, Irvine  
Carol Gamble, Rancho Santa Margarita  
Noel Hatch, Laguna Woods  
Robert Johnson, Cypress  
Thomas Moore, Seal Beach  
Vince Rossini, Villa Park  
Dave Shawver, Stanton  
Elizabeth Swift, Buena Park  
Kathleen Ward, San Clemente

**Absent:** Sandy Rains, Laguna Niguel  
Juan Villegas, Santa Ana

Don Sedgwick, Laguna Hills  
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange

## **Also present were:**

Fire Chief Brien Fennessy  
Assistant Chief Randy Black  
Assistant Chief Jim Ruane  
Director Colleen Windsor  
Clerk of the Authority Sherry Wentz

Deputy Chief Lori Zeller  
Assistant Chief Robert Cortez  
Assistant Chief Lori Smith  
General Counsel David Kendig

## **1. PRESENTATIONS**

No items.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW MEMBERS (F: 11.02C)**

Clerk of the Authority Sherry Wentz administrated the Oath of Office to newly appointed Director Kathy Ward representing the City of San Clemente.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS (F: 11.11)**

Director Harrington arrived at this point (6:20 p.m.).

Director Shawver arrived at this point (6:20 p.m.).

The following members of the public provided comments concerning the transition of fire and emergency medical services to the City of Placentia: Placentia City Council Member Craig Green, Placentia Mayor Rhonda Shader, Placentia resident and participant in the Committee to Sustain City Services for the City of Placentia Bob McKinnell, Placentia City Treasurer Kevin Larson, Placentia Director of Administrative Services Rosanna Ramirez, Placentia Finance Director Kim Krouse, President of Placentia Police Management Association Brian Perry, Representative of the Placentia Police Management Association Jim McElhinny, Senior Vice President and General Counsel for FSB/Core Strategies Jerry Amante, Orange County Professional Firefighters Association, Local 3631, Political Director Todd Baldrige, and Placentia Director of Public Works Luis Estevez.

Chair Muller, using the Chairs discretion, reorganized the agenda to bring forward Agenda Item No. 5A – Placentia Fire and Emergency Medical Services for its consideration.

## **5. DISCUSSION CALENDAR**

### **A. Placentia Fire and Emergency Medical Services (F: 10.03 Placentia)**

Fire Chief Fennessy presented an overview on OCFA's fire and emergency medical services transition process.

The following members of the public provided comments on the subject: Placentia Council Member Craig Green (also speaking on behalf of Placentia resident Jeff Buchanan), Placentia City Manager Damien Arrula, Placentia Director of Public Works Luis Estevez, and former Irvine City Manager/former Placentia resident Sean Joyce.

Discussion ensued concerning meeting with the City of Placentia, prior offer of OCFA assistance to Placentia during its transition, concerns of the alleged OCFA employee misconduct, City of Irvine's withdraw and reinstatement; concern with safety during transition, and concurrence to readily assist Placentia during its transition process.

On motion of Director Farias and second by Director Rossini, the Board of Directors voted unanimously by those present to direct staff to report back to the Board of Directors quarterly in Fiscal Year 2019/20 to provide updates and receive Board direction regarding the transition of Placentia's Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

**CLOSED SESSION (F: 11.15)**

**CS1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**  
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 54956.9  
(1 Case)

**CS2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL–ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**  
Authority: Government Code Section 54956.9(c) – Initiation of Litigation (1 case)

General Counsel David Kendig reported the Board would convene to Closed Session to consider the matter on the agenda identified as CS1, Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation, and would not be discussing CS2, Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation.

Director Hernandez left at this point (7:02 p.m.).

Chair Muller recessed the meeting to Closed Session at 7:05 p.m.

Chair Muller reconvened the meeting from Closed Session at 7:41 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION REPORT (F: 11.15)**

General Counsel David Kendig stated there was no reportable action.

**REPORTS**

**REPORT FROM THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR (F: 11.12)**

As there was no meeting in June of the Budget and Finance Committee, there was no report.

**REPORT FROM THE FIRE CHIEF (F: 11.14)**

Fire Chief Fennessy reported attending the Firefighter's Academy 47 Graduation noting the next Academy will begin in August with a November graduation. He mentioned over the upcoming weekend OCFA will host the first Girls Empowerment Camp; an opportunity for young women to experience and consider fire services as a career opportunity, and reported that OCFA will no longer use the radio encryption based on concerns for public safety.

**2. MINUTES**

**A. Minutes from the May 23, 2019, Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors (F: 11.06)**

On motion of Director Johnson and second by Director Hatch, the Board of Directors voted by those present to approve the May 23, 2019, Minutes as submitted.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

No items.

**4. PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

No items.

**5. DISCUSSION CALENDAR**

**B. Next Generation Aerial Operations Based Pilot Program (F: 18.09D)**

Fire Chief Fennessy presented an overview on the Next Generation Aerial Operations Based Pilot Program.

On motion of Director Ta and second by Director Johnson, the Board of Directors voted by those present to:

1. Approve Funding Agreement with Southern California Edison to accept a donation in the amount of \$4,000,000 to fund the fixed lease cost of two helicopters and other related costs in an effort to increase the effectiveness of aerial response to wildfires.
2. Approve and authorize the Purchasing Manager to execute the Public Aircraft Lease and Service Agreement with Coulson Aviation (USA), Inc. utilizing the special procurement provision in the Purchasing Ordinance for the provision of aircraft and other operational related services in an amount not to exceed \$3,750,000.
3. Approve and authorize the Purchasing Manager to execute professional services agreements for qualified Air Tactical Group Supervisors as needed in amounts up to \$120,000 each for an aggregate total not to exceed \$250,000.
4. Approve and authorize a budget adjustment to recognize the donation from SCE and appropriate funds to the 2019-20 General Fund Budget (121) in the amount of \$4,250,000 to fund the Next Generation Aerial Operations Based Pilot Program.
5. Adopt statutory and categorical exemptions from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to: (1) Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, section 15262 for feasibility and planning studies; and (2) CEQA Guidelines section 15301 for existing facilities.
6. Authorize staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the County Clerk, County of Orange.

Director Hernandez was absent for the vote.

**C. Updated Cost Reimbursement Rates (F: 18.09D)**

Assistant Chief Jim Ruane presented the Updated Cost Reimbursement Rates.

On motion of Director Harrington and second by Director Johnson, the Board of Directors voted by those present to review the proposed agenda item and approve the updated Cost Reimbursement Rate schedules to be effective July 1, 2019.

Director Hernandez was absent for the vote.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (F: 11.13)**

Director Ward thanked the Board for the respect given in the memory of Board Member Swartz, and inquired if there are prepared studies that reflects how we staff for the various safety positions, and does that reflect on the need of forced hires.

Director Clark commended the upcoming OCFA Girls Employment Camp noting her intent to attend.

Director Bartlett encouraged the Board Members to take advantage of the invitation by the Orange County Professional Firefighters Association, Local 3631, to observe or participate in firefighter training scenarios to experience for themselves the rigorous work involved in an incident response.

Director Hatch thanked Station 22 on its service to the 18,000 plus residents in Laguna Woods, and commented to the great quality of the people who serve OCFA.

Chair Muller reminded everyone that it is Drowning Prevention season, the increased drowning potential during holiday weekends, and pool/ocean drownings. He noted his participation at Firefighter Academy 47's Graduation.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Chair Muller adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

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Sherry A.F. Wentz, CMC  
Clerk of the Authority