

MINUTES ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 25, 2024
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 January 25, 2024, at 6:03 p.m. by Chair Rossini.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Chaplain Ken Krikac.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Gamble 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
Carol Gamble, Rancho Santa Margarita
Noel Hatch, Laguna Woods
Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach
Austin Lombard, Tustin
Chi Charlie Nguyen, Westminster
Joshua Sweeney, Laguna Hills
Connor Traut, Buena Park

John O'Neill, Garden Grove, Vice Chair
Troy Bourne, San Juan Capistrano
Chris Duncan, San Clemente
Mike Frost, Dana Point
Shelley Hasselbrink, Los Alamitos
Kelly Jennings, Laguna Niguel
Tammy Kim, Irvine
Anne Mallari, Cypress
Dave Shawver, Stanton
Mark Tettermer, Lake Forest
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange

Absent: Bob Ruesch, Mission Viejo

Nitesh Patel, La Palma

Also present were:

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

Deputy Chief TJ McGovern
Assistant Chief Lori Smith
Assistant Chief Jim Ruane
Assistant Chief Shane Sherwood
Director of Communications Matt Olson
General Counsel David Kendig

REPORTS

A. Report from Budget and Finance Committee Chair

Budget and Finance Committee Chair O'Neill reported at its January 10, 2024, meeting, the Committee recommended by a unanimous vote to forward the FY 22 State Homeland Security Grant Funding and the FY 2023/2024 Mid-Year Financial Report to the Board of Directors for consideration and approval of the recommended actions.

B. Report from the Fire Chief

Deputy Chief McGovern on behalf of Fire Chief Fennessy, presented the Chief's Report to the Board, wishing the Board of Director's a Happy New Year, he welcomed newly appointed Board Member Mike Frost of Dana Point, and presented the following monthly update; Firefighters Local 3631 partnered with OCFA to produce the annual Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month digital newsletter with an agency-wide call to action that aims to establish OCFA as a national model for best practices in cancer prevention. He reported a twenty percent increase in call volume in just 3 years for fires; all-hazard responses, and EMS responses. He presented a video highlighting the diverse 911 calls responded to by both air and ground attacks of OCFA firefighters.

Director of Communications Olson presented a video of the 2023 Year in Review with highlights of the Spark of Love Holiday Toy Drive in partnership with KABC 7, KWAVE, and OCFA Foundation, led by OCFA Community Educators. It was the most successful in the 31-years history with nearly 40,000 toys collected for under privileged youth throughout our region. He announced the annual OCFA Open House at RFOTC will occur this year on March 16.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris Hamm, President of Firefighter Local 3631, thanked the Board of Directors for their support commenting on Cancer Awareness Month which sheds light on the numerous firefighters affected.

Chris Hamm, President of Firefighter Local 3631, noted Local 3631 is working in collaboration with OCFA to host Fire Ops 101; adding an invitation has been extended to all OCFA Board of Directors.

1. PRESENTATION

A. Administer the Oath of Office to Mike Frost, representing the City of Dana Point

Clerk of the Authority Huizar administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Director Mike Frost of Dana Point.

B. Presentation of Badges to US&R Canines

Battalion Chief Sean Lowry provided background information of the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Canine CA-TF5 Team. Fire Captain Doug Van Iwaarden introduced the canine handlers and canines and noted the training requirements. Clerk of the Authority Huizar administered the Oath of Office followed by the badge pinning by Vice Chair O’Neill, Deputy Chief McGovern, and Assistant Chief Perkins to the following: Handler Jill Haynes – K9 Rubble, Handler Sean Monville – K9 Nanci, Handler Chris Mackenzie – K9 Mia, Handler Eric Darling – K9 Mazie, and Handler Julie Kirk Purcell – K9 Keres.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Director Shawver and second by Director Hasselbrink, approved 22-0 Agenda Item Nos. 2A-2C (Directors Patel and Ruesch absent). Agenda Item No. 2D was pulled for separate consideration.

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

Action: Approve the Minutes for the November 16, 2023, Regular Meeting as submitted.

B. FY 22 State Homeland Security Grant Funding (FILE 16.02B)

On January 10, 2024, 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 8-0 (Director Gabbard absent).

Action: Approve a budget adjustment in Fund 121 to increase revenue and expenditures by \$280,000 for the grant program award.

C. Proclamation for National Burn Awareness Week (FILE 11.09A)

Action: Approve proclamation designating February 4-10 2024, as Burn Awareness Week.

D. FY 2023/2024 Mid-Year Financial Report (FILE 15.04)

Chris Hamm, President of Firefighter Local 3631, addressed the collaborative efforts by Labor, OCFA, and Board of Directors for the fiscal management of the Health Care Trust. He noted Local 3631 Members had a significant role in substantial savings.

On motion of Director O’Neill and second by Director Kim, approved 22-0 (Directors Patel and Ruesch absent) to receive and file report and direct staff to return to the Board of Directors on March 28, 2024, for approval of the budget adjustments discussed herein for the FY 2023/24 budget.

3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair for 2024 (File 11.02B)

Chair Rossini introduced the election process for Chair and Vice Chair.

Clerk of the Authority Huizar performed a roll call vote of approval to move forward with the Election of the Board Chair and Vice Chair as presented. It was approved by 22-0 (Directors Patel and Ruesch absent).

Chair Rossini opened the nominations for Chair of the Board.

Director Shawver nominated Vice Chair O'Neill for the position of Chair of the Board. Chair Rossini seconded the nomination.

There were no other nominations. With no opposition stated, Chair Rossini declared Director O'Neill the newly elected Chair of the Board.

Chair O'Neill thanked all of the Board Members for the opportunity to serve as the Board Chair in the ensuing year.

Chair Rossini opened the nominations for Vice Chair of the Board.

Director Hasselbrink nominated Director Bourne. Chair Rossini seconded the nomination.

Director Kim nominated Director Kalmick. Director Mallari seconded the nomination.

Director Bourne and Director Kalmick accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

Clerk of the Authority Huizar performed a roll call vote for the two candidates for Vice Chair.

On a vote of 16-5 Director Bourne was declared Vice Chair of the Board for the ensuing year (Directors Mallari, Kalmick, Bacerra, Kim, and Traut voted in favor of Director Kalmick, with one abstention from Director O'Neill, and Directors Patel and Ruesch absent).

Chris Hamm, President of Firefighter Local 3631, thanked Chair Rossini for his service as Chair for the last year. He congratulated both newly elected Chair O'Neill and Vice Chair Bourne.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (FILE 11.15)

Director Wagner left at 7:00 p.m.

General Counsel Kendig reported the Board would adjourn to Closed Session to consider items CS2 and CS3.

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

CS3. 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:

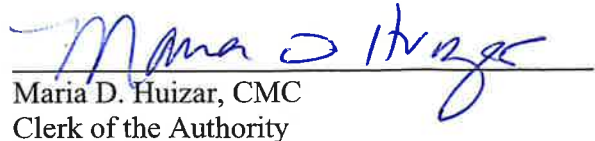
Orange County Professional Firefighters Association, IAFF - Local 3631

RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION

CLOSED SESSION REPORT (FILE 11.15)

General Counsel Kendig reported that the Board continued its prior direction to initiate litigation. The action, the defendants, and other particulars will, once litigation is formally commenced, be disclosed to any person upon inquiry. General Counsel Kendig stated there was no other reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair O’Neill adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m. The next meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors will be on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.



Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority