

# MINUTES

## ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 28, 2024**  
**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 March 28, 2024, at 6:01 p.m. by Chair O'Neill.

### INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Chaplain Devin Chase.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Kalmick led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ROLL CALL

John O'Neill, Garden Grove, Chair  
Phil Bacerra, Santa Ana  
Chris Duncan, San Clemente (6:32 p.m.)  
Carol Gamble, Rancho Santa Margarita  
Shelley Hasselbrink, Los Alamitos  
Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach  
Austin Lumbar, Tustin  
Vince Rossini, Villa Park  
Bob Ruesch, Mission Viejo  
Joshua Sweeney, Laguna Hills  
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange

Troy Bourne, San Juan Capistrano, Vice Chair  
Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo  
Katrina Foley, County of Orange  
Beth Haney, Yorba Linda  
Noel Hatch, Laguna Woods  
Tammy Kim, Irvine  
Anne Mallari, Cypress (6:16 p.m.)  
Chi Charlie Nguyen, Westminster (6:07 p.m.)  
Dave Shawver, Stanton  
Connor Traut, Buena Park

**Absent:** Mike Frost, Dana Point  
Nitesh Patel, La Palma

Kelly Jennings, Laguna Niguel  
Mark Tetterer, Lake Forest

### Also present were:

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy  
Assistant Chief Robert Cortez  
Assistant Chief Rob Capobianco  
Assistant Chief Stephanie Holloman  
Director of Communications Matt Olson  
Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar

Deputy Chief Lori Zeller  
Assistant Chief Lori Smith  
Assistant Chief Jim Ruane  
Assistant Chief Tim Perkins  
General Counsel David Kendig

## **REPORT(S)**

### **A. Report from the Budget and Finance Committee**

Budget and Finance Chair Bourne reported at its March 13, 2024, meeting, the Committee reviewed and by unanimous vote recommended forwarding the Designation and Appointment of Interim Treasurer for the Orange County Fire Authority to the Board of Directors to adopt the resolution appointing OCFA's Assistant Chief of Business Services as Interim Treasurer for OCFA effective immediately, until the Treasurer position is filled and formally appointed by the Board. The Committee also reviewed and by unanimous vote recommended forwarding the FY 2023/24 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment to the Board of Directors for the Board to authorize the proposed Mid-Year Budget Adjustments and transfers as detailed within the report and attachments.

Director Nguyen arrived at 6:07 p.m.

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

Fire Chief Fennessy reported on the loss of OCFA Fire Captain Rob Culp to cancer. Asking all to remember him, a short film provided a glimpse of how beloved he was as an OCFA firefighter. Thanks were given to firefighters, professional staff, TCTI, OCFA Peer Support, Local 3631, and the Board of Directors for their support for Fire Captain Culp and his family. Chief Fennessy reported OCFA Dispatcher Dawn Hale was recognized by the National Emergency Number Association as "the best" in 911. Training Officer Mindy Miller and Communications and ECC Supervisor Lori Jones were honored by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials. Chief Fennessy commented on the annual Open House, noting it was well attended with over 5,000 visitors who were provided fire safety education, with many demonstrations and events throughout the day. Dispatcher Awareness Week provided an opportunity to highlight a lifesaving event as newly trained Dispatcher Wilbert Medina provided direction to a 9-1-1 caller which helped to save an infant's life. Dispatcher Medina and the mother of the infant were recognized by Chair O'Neill and Fire Chief Fennessy.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

### **1. PRESENTATION(S)**

None.

Director Mallari arrived at 6:16 p.m.

### **2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

On motion of Director Rossini and second by Director Kim, approved 20-0 for Agenda Item Numbers 2A-2C (Directors Duncan, Frost, Kelly, Patel, and Tetterer absent).

**A. Minutes for the Board of Directors Meeting (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 February 22, 2024, Regular Meeting as submitted.

**B. Designation and Appointment of Interim Treasurer for the Orange County Fire Authority (FILE 11.17)**

Action: Adopt Resolution No. 2024-01 appointing OCFA's Assistant Chief of Business Services, Robert C. Cortez, as Interim Treasurer for the Orange County Fire Authority, effective immediately until the Treasurer position is filled and the new incumbent is formally appointed by the Board.

**C. FY 2023/24 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment (FILE 15.4)**

Action: Authorize the proposed mid-year budget adjustments and transfers as detailed in this report and attachments.

Director Duncan arrived at 6:32 p.m.

**3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR**

**A. OCFA's Joint Powers Agreement, History of Equity Mitigation, & Planning Beyond 2030 (FILE 10.01C)**

Deputy Chief Zeller presented the item.

On motion of Director Bacerra and second by Director Rossini, approved 21-0 (Directors Frost, Jennings, Patel and Tettermer absent) to receive and file the report.

**B. FY 2023 SAFER Grant Application (FILE 16.02B6)**

Assistant Chief Cortez presented the item.

On friendly amended motion of Director Shawver and second by Director Foley, approved 21-0 (Directors Frost, Jennings, Patel and Tettermer absent) to direct staff to submit the FY 2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant application to fund the addition of a fourth firefighter/paramedic at Fire Stations 7, 18, 45, 46, and 57 to enhance service delivery, improve efficiency and enhance firefighter safety, and:

- If successful in securing grants, allow OCFA staff to continue to work with the City of Stanton in looking for opportunities to mitigate or phase-in the additional cost associated with 4-0 staffing starting in year 4.
- The City of Stanton be provided with the opportunity to reassess 4-0 staffing in the event that their financial situation changes, and their budget does not allow for the City of Stanton to fully absorb the 4-0 staffing costs in year 4.

**C. Delegation of Authority to Approve Agreements for the Temporary Use of Property (FILE 11.03A)**

General Counsel Kendig presented the item.

On motion of Director Kim and second by Director Rossini, approved 21-0 (Directors Frost, Jennings, Patel and Tettermer absent) to adopt Resolution No. 2024-02 amending the OCFA's "Roles/Responsibilities/Authorities" matrix to broaden the Fire Chief's delegated authority to approve agreements for the temporary use of property.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Director Chun reported attending the large animal rescue training at The Shay Animal Training Center in San Juan Capistrano. He recommended other Board of Directors attend for the learning opportunity, noting many firefighters are trained in this type of rescue.

Director Kim thanked staff for a great OCFA Open House. She attended a demonstration provided in partnership with OCFA and Southern California Edison, to learn efficiencies of induction cooking. She felt it was very informative for the general public.

Chair O'Neill thanked the many Board of Directors who attended the Open House and congratulated staff on the well-attended event. He requested the meeting be adjourned in memory of OCFA Fire Captain/Paramedic Robin "Rob" Culp who passed away on March 5, 2024 after serving as a firefighter for 25 years.

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

General Counsel Kendig reported the Board would convene to Closed Session to hear 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 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

**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**

General Counsel Kendig stated the Board gave direction to its labor negotiators other than that; there was no reportable action.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Chair O’Neill adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m. The next regular Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

**Meeting Adjourned in Memory of  
OCFA Captain/Paramedic Robin “Rob” Culp**



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Maria D. Huizar, CMC  
Clerk of the Authority