

MINUTES

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 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 April 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. by Past Chair Vince Rossini.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Chaplain Emily McColl.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Former Director Gene Hernandez led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Vince Rossini, Past Board Chair
Mike Frost, Dana Point
Shelley Hasselbrink, Los Alamitos
Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach
Anne Mallari, Cypress
Bob Ruesch, Mission Viejo
Joshua Sweeney, Laguna Hills
Connor Traut, Buena Park

Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo
Carol Gamble, Rancho Santa Margarita
Kelly Jennings, Laguna Niguel
Tammy Kim, Irvine
Nitesh Patel, La Palma
Dave Shawver, Stanton
Mark Tetterer, Lake Forest
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange

Absent: Phil Bacerra, Santa Ana
Chris Duncan, San Clemente
Beth Haney, Yorba Linda
Austin Lumbard, Tustin
John O'Neill, Garden Grove, Chair

Troy Bourne, San Juan Capistrano. Vice Chair
Katrina Foley, County of Orange
Noel Hatch, Laguna Woods
Chi Charlie Nguyen, Westminster

Also present were:

Fire Chief Brian Fennessy
Deputy Chief TJ McGovern
Assistant Chief Lori Smith
Assistant Chief Jim Ruane
Assistant General Counsel Michael Daudt

Deputy Chief Lori Zeller
Assistant Chief Robert Cortez
Assistant Chief Rob Capobianco
Assistant Chief Stephanie Holloman
Assistant Clerk Martha Halvorson

REPORTS

A. Report from Budget and Finance Committee

Budget and Finance Committee Director Rossini reported at the April 10, 2024, Committee Meeting, the Committee reviewed and by unanimous vote forwarded the 2023 Long Term Liability Study & Accelerated Pension Payment Plan to the Board of Directors to receive and file the report, and voted to forward the Fiscal Year 2022/23 Backfill/Overtime and Calendar Year 2023 Total Earnings/Compensation Analysis to the Board of Directors for consideration and approval of the recommended actions.

B. Report from the Fire Chief

Fire Chief Fennessy reported in 2023 OCFA responded to 178,370 incidents. This number outpaced 2022 by 3,000 calls, and almost 30,000 more than 2021. A twenty percent increase over three years by dedicated professional staff whose commitment is steadfast. He noted our professional staff within the Emergency Command Center who receive these calls offer the highest in unwavering professionalism. He spoke of attending Captain Rob Culp's services recently; a reminder of a life lost in service of others. Chief Fennessy reviewed the Third Quarter Goals and Objectives. Chief Fennessy highlighted the recent Western Fire Chief Association's Firefighter Track Summit, a two-day event with the emphasis on implementing technology that tracks firefighters when they step off their apparatus to battle wildland or structure fires. He recognized Division Chief Kevin Fetterman who while performing his regular duties as a Division Chief of Command and Emergency Planning also has collaborated with OCFA's IT Division to work with emerging technology endeavors, including First Watch, Tablet Command, Active Alert, and AI. Lastly, Chief Fennessy gave thanks for their commitment to OCFA; our firefighter and professional staff, Local 3631 and all OCFA labor groups, the communities we serve, and OCFA's honorable Board of Directors.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Director Frost left at 6:10 p.m.

1. PRESENTATION

A. Recognition of Outgoing Director Gene Hernandez, representing the City of Yorba Linda (FILE 11.09)

Past Chair Rossini and Fire Chief Fennessy presented out-going Board Director Gene Hernandez a recognition for his dedicated service as a Board of Director.

Director Shawver praised Director Hernandez for his accomplishments while serving the Board.

Director Hasselbrink thanked Director Hernandez for his guidance, his mentorship, and many contributions to the Board.

Chris Hamm, President Local 3631, spoke with thanks and appreciation to former Director Gene Hernandez for his service on the Board of Directors, and his strong leadership.

Director Gamble spoke of the many contributions Director Hernandez provided to the Board.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Director Shawver and second by Director Kalmick, approved Agenda Item Nos. 2A-2G (Directors O’Neil, Foley, Duncan, Lumbard, Bacerra, Haney, Bourne, Nguyen, Hatch, and Frost absent).

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

Action: Approve the Minutes for the March 28, 2024, Regular Meeting as submitted.

B. Proclamation for Wildfire Awareness and Prevention Season (FILE 11.09A)

Action: Approve proclamation designating mid-summer through early autumn as “Wildfire Awareness and Prevention Season.”

C. Proclamation for Drowning Prevention and Awareness Season (FILE 11.09A)

Action: Approve proclamation designating May and continue through August as “Drowning Prevention Awareness” and authorize participation in the “Always Watch the Water” and “Never Swim Alone” 2024 campaigns by encouraging all families, parents, residents, schools, recreational facilities, businesses, and homeowner associations to become partners in preparedness by increasing their knowledge of proper safety measures in drowning prevention.

D. Approval of the California Fire and Rescue Training Authority Urban Search & Rescue Mobilization Exercise Agreement (FILE 16.02)

Action Approve and authorize the Fire Chief or his designee to execute the proposed agreement and accept \$519,000 from the California Office of Emergency Services (CAL-OES) to administer an approved National US&R Task Force mobilization and deployment exercises.

1. Approve a Budget Adjustment to the FY 2023/24 General Fund (121) budget to increase revenue and expenditures by \$519,000 for MOBEX funding.

E. 2023 Long Term Liability Study & Accelerated Pension Payment Plan (FILE 17.06A)

On April 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 7-0 (Director Chun and Bourne absent).

Action: Receive and file the report.

F. Fiscal Year 2022/23 Backfill/Overtime and Calendar Year 2023 Total Earnings/Compensation Analysis (FILE 15.11)

Action:

1. Direct staff to continue pursuing reductions in overtime by filling vacant positions as quickly as possible after the positions become vacant.
2. Direct staff to continue using overtime to fill shifts which are temporarily vacant, recognizing this as a cost-effective practice for temporary needs.

G. Accept Grant Funds for OCFA's Hazardous Materials Response Team for San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Response Activities (FILE 18.02)

Action: Approve a Budget Adjustment in General Fund 121 to increase revenue and expenditures by \$40,000.00 for the grant program award.

Director Frost returned 6:20 p.m.

3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Approval of Side Letter Agreement to Memorandum of Understanding Orange County Professional Firefighters Association FILE 17.04B1)

Deputy Chief Zeller presented the report.

On motion of Director Shawver and second by Director Chun, approved 15-1 (Director Tettermer opposed, Directors O'Neill, Foley, Duncan, Lombard, Bacerra, Haney, Bourne, Nguyen, and Hatch absent) to:

1. Approve and authorize staff to execute the proposed Side Letter Agreement to the 2023-2027 MOU between the Orange County Fire Authority and the Orange County Professional Firefighters Association.
2. Approve the establishment of the new classifications for Handcrew Squad Boss and authorize the reclassification on the Master Position Control List of four Fire Apparatus Engineer positions to four Handcrew Squad Boss positions.
3. Approve the establishment of the new classification for Handcrew Assistant Superintendent, and authorize the reclassification on the Master Position Control List of four Fire Captain positions to four Handcrew Assistant Superintendent positions.

4. Approve the salary ranges for the positions of Handcrew Squad Boss, Handcrew Assistant Superintendent, Fire Pilot, and Chief Fire Pilot, as detailed in the Updates to Salary Table for Firefighter Bargaining Unit, effective May 3, 2024.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Chun reported attending the paddle out in memory of Fire Captain Rob Culp, who passed, March 4, 2024, and served OCFA 16 years; a firefighter for over 25 years.

Director Mallari thanked Division Chief Dohman and others who attended a Cypress City Council Meeting recently, where a city resident was honored and recognized for saving the life of a person caught in an apartment fire.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

Assistant General Counsel Daudt reported there was no need for Closed Session.

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

ADJOURNMENT – Past Chair Rossini adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m. The next meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors will be on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.



Martha Halvorson
Assistant Clerk of the Authority