

Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m.
 Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.
 Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, Oct. 23, 1:30 p.m.
 Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez. For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.



Split MOFD board approves three-year labor contract with firefighters union

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District came within one vote of a near meltdown.

A deeply divided MOFD board narrowly approved a three-year labor contract with the firefighters union Oct. 3 and staved off an impasse and a likely unfair labor practice charge filed by the union had the agreement not been passed. The board voted 3-2 in favor, with the swing vote coming from Director Steve Anderson, who had previously balked that the agreement was overly generous to the union.

"It was political suicide," Anderson said of his vote to approve the agreement. "But it was the best thing to do for the district. We needed that so that MOFD can move on, and the chief can do the job he wants to do." Anderson is fighting a hotly contested Division 3 race against a union-backed candidate and an independent.

The agreement includes a 13 percent wage increase over the three years, a portion of which is a 5 percent equity adjustment, used to address how far district employee wages had drifted below comparable compensation in

the market. "It was a way to catch up to the median," said district lead negotiator Jeff Sloan.

"I am still in shock," said Division 3 independent candidate Red Smith. "I guess it was a parting gift to labor from the three board directors that are either retiring or being challenged for their board seats."

Kathleen Famulener, one of the two directors who is retiring, voted for the agreement. Famulener has been in favor of pay increases for the rank and file since the beginning of negotiations, to the extent that she protested the funding of the district pension stabilization trust in order to have more money available for firefighter compensation. Outgoing President Brad Barber, hoping to bring the community together, cast a yes vote despite his reservations. "The financial condition of the district is a serious problem," Barber said. "We don't have enough revenue and we have too much pension liability."

Director Craig Jorgens, who voted no, disagreed with the comparables used to arrive at the equity adjustments, insisting that salary and benefits – not just sala-

ry – should have been included in the formula. Jorgens also called the negotiation process broken, complaining that the public only saw information once the tentative agreement was reached, allowing not enough time for citizen input.

The other no vote was cast by John Jex, the director who based his action on what he often cites as the tenuous financial condition of the district. "Our general fund reserves are totally inadequate," Jex said. According to the latest audited district financial statements, MOFD reports an unfunded pension and retiree health care liability of \$68 million and a general fund reserve of nearly \$5 million.

With such a bitterly divided final vote, neither management nor labor engaged in any high fives or victory laps, and reactions were muted, if any. "We looked forward to having this contract settled so we can move on to other things," said Vince Wells, Local 1230 president. Fire Chief Dave Winnacker declined to comment on the agreement.

The new labor pact runs through June 30, 2021.

Fire chief dismisses two employees for unauthorized political activity

By Nick Marnell

Two Moraga-Orinda Fire District aides acted without authorization or approval by looking up the addresses of candidates running for seats on the district board and conducting exterior hazard abatement inspections on their property. On Sept. 26, at the Orinda home owned by Division 4 independent candidate Lucy Talbot, the aides posted a 30-day notice to abate fire hazards, which required a large-scale removal of trees.

"I was flabbergasted," Talbot said. "It would have required thousands of dollars of expense. As a candidate, I want to be a model citizen, so I reached out to other board members and took it to the chief."

Fire Chief Dave Winnacker went to Talbot's house the next day and apologized to her for the

actions of his employees. Talbot said the chief did a walk-through of her property and told Talbot that her home was absent any major violations.

The chief immediately terminated the two employees. He said that the aides were attempting to help the candidates by making sure their homes were not in violation of any ordinance. The employees inspected the homes of all six new candidates but issued a notice only at Talbot's.

"It was an act of complete insubordination," Talbot said. "I am convinced there was malice intended."

Local 1230 President Vince Wells said he did not know either of the two district aides, who were hourly, unrepresented employees. "I take offense that there is an assumption that, because

it's a candidate we don't support, any of our members would have been behind that. That's not how we do business," he said.

Winnacker released a statement afterward. "I am personally and professionally embarrassed by this unauthorized action and understand the violation of the public trust that it represents. We have conducted a top to bottom review of recent inspections and the policies and procedures that govern the district aides who conduct this work. We are conducting reset training and enhanced oversight to ensure this does not happen again. I apologize to those affected and to the community. This action does not reflect MOFD's culture or our commitment to those we serve."

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Police Departments

Moraga Police Department Incident

Summary Report Sept. 25 - Oct. 8

Alarms	16
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	68
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	11
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Service to Citizen	57
Patrol Request/ Security Check	19
Supplemental Report	12
Welfare Check	6

Vehicle violations

Abandoned Vehicle	Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd.
	40 Block Wandel Dr.
	2100 Block Ascot Dr.
Excessive Speed	Rheem Blvd./Chalda Way
	Canyon/Country
	Larch Ave./Wandel Dr.
	Carter Dr./St. Marys Rd.
	Larch Ave./Roberts Ct.
	Larch Ave./Ross Dr.
	Morgaga Way/Eastwood
	7/Eleven Parking lot
	Alta Mesa Dr./Moraga Rd.
	Rheem Blvd./Park St.
	Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd.
Reckless Driving	Walford Dr./Rimer Dr.
Revoked License	Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.
Traffic Hazard	Campolindo High School
	Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.
	St. Marys College

Other Criminal activity

Animal Cruelty	Cedarwood Dr./Rimer Dr.
Fraud False Pretenses	1300 Block Camino Peral
Identity Theft	700 Block Augusta Dr.
Petty Theft	Police Department
	Safeway
Vandalism	Sanders Ranch Rd./Camino
Pablo	1100 Block Moraga Way
	100 Block Miramonte Dr.

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-Domestic	1000 Block Larch Ave.
Loud Music	800 Block Camino Ricardo
Loud Noise	10 Block Merrill Dr.
Loud Party	2000 Block Ascot Dr.
	2000 Block Ascot Dr.
	2000 Block Ascot Dr.
	10 Block Miramonte Dr.
	30 Block Miramonte Dr.
	Corliss Dr./Ashford Pl.
Public Assembly Check	St. Marys College
	Starbucks

Other

Accident Property	Corliss Dr./Lynwood Pl.
Death Non Criminal	20 Block Miramonte Dr.
Mentally Ill Commit	St. Marys College
Other Non Criminal	1200 Block Rimer Dr.
	1000 Block Larch Ave.
Run Away Juvenile	Campolindo High School
Violation Restraining Order	700 Block Augusta Dr.

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Sept. 23-Oct. 6

Alarms	45
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	5
Traffic	98
Suspicious Circumstances	9
Suspicious Subjects	10
Suspicious Vehicles	13
Patrol Request/ Security Check	45
Service to Citizen	48
Supplemental Report	12
Vacation House Check	31
Welfare Check	7

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary	Wilder Sports Fields (2)
	Nations
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	100 Block Spring Rd.
Petty Theft From Vehicle	Wilder Sports Fields (2)
Reckless Driving	Wildcat Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo
	Morgaga Way/Glorietta Blvd.
	Camino Sobrante/Orinda Way
	20 Block Loma Vista Dr.
Traffic Hazard	600 Block Moraga Way
	Orchard Rd./Valley Dr.
	100 Block Ardith Dr.
	100 Block Orchard Rd.
	10 Block Camino Pablo
	40 Block Camino Sobrante
	30 Block Orinda Way

Other Criminal activity

Battery	Morgaga Way/Glorietta Blvd.
	Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo
Fraud False Pretenses	500 Block Tahos Rd.
Misc Burglary	70 Block Brookwood Rd.
Petty Theft	Safeway
Residential Burglary	70 Block Brookwood Rd.
	Wilder Sports Fields
Warrant Arrest	Safeway

Nuisance to the Community

Accident Injury	Calvin Dr./Calvin Ct.
Accident Property	Coral Dr./Moraga Way
	10 Block Shawnee Ln.
	Monte Vista Rd./Camino Pablo
	Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd.
Barking Dog	10 Block Crest View Ct.
	100 Block Glorietta Blvd.
	10 Block Ellen Ct.
Disturbance-Domestic	Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
Disturbing The Peace	Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24
	10 Block Crest View Dr.
Drunk In Public	Rite Aid
Harassment	10 Block Estates Dr.
Loud Music	Lomas Cantadas/Tres Mesas
	Meadow View Rd./Glorietta Blvd.
Loud Noise	200 Block Orchard Rd. (3)
	10 Block Frogs Leap Way
	Dalewood Terrace/Dalewood Dr.,
Loud Party	100 Block Camino Sobrante
	Sundown Terrace/Silver Oak
	Terrace,
Public Assembly Check	10 Block Theatre Sq.
Run Away Juvenile	10 Block Edgewood Rd.
School Assembly Check	300 Block Camino Pablo
	MHS (4)
	Orinda Intermediate School
	Sleepy Hollow School (2)
	Del Rey School
Trespass	El Ribero/Camino Sobrante



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