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Next meeting:

Special meeting, 08/03/11, 7:00pm, to discuss options for administrative offices

Next regular MOFD Board meeting is August 17th, 7:00pm, Station 41 (1280 Moraga Way, Moraga), (go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

Moraga Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings

Meetings of the MOFD Board of Directors are open to the public and take place on the third Wednesday of each month in the Board Room, Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.



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MOFD Board Will Consider Building Purchase Tonight

Other options include renting space from City of Orinda

... continued from page A1

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According to a recent facilities report, Station 41 on Moraga Road is in need of upgrades with regards to size, seismic and gender issues. Station 41 includes space for some of the district's administrative activities, including the Board Room - Station 45 in Orinda currently houses the MOFD's formal headquarters.

The report contained options for Station 41 that included retrofitting the existing building and expanding the space to accommodate both firefighters and administration, or combining administrative offices in an off-site location by either leasing space or buying property. Cost estimates for the retrofit of Station 41 span a broad range from \$500,000 and up depending on the size and scope of the project.

At the July meeting, Fire Chief Randy Bradley presented his concept for purchasing an existing building at 1150 Moraga Way. Bradley said he saw this as a cost effective option that would have long-term benefits, stating he believed it would serve the District well as an administrative office because of its central location, adaptability to fire services needs, and improved efficiency as duplicative services would no longer be necessary. Bradley estimated the cost of purchasing and renovating the structure to range from \$1.7 million to more than \$2.2 million.

Public comment regarding this issue was mixed. Several members of the audience disagreed with the idea of purchasing a building and suggested those funds could be put toward MOFD's unfunded liability. Those in favor saw it as a sound investment.

The Board was equally divided. Dick Olsen voiced concerns about earthquake safety and possible mold resulting from the water used to extinguish a relatively recent fire. He would also like to have an outside consultant review the purchase documents.

Brook Mancinelli spoke about 'cost creep,' where prices are beginning to move up and how that could change the overall cost. He went on to directly state that he does not support the purchase of the building. The other three Board members, while not as adamant as Mancinelli, agreed that more discussions were necessary.

Tonight's meeting will be held in the MOFD Board Room, 1230 Moraga Way, at 7:00 p.m.

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MOFD Moves Forward with Facilities Upgrade

Receives information about new citizens task force

By Lucy Amaral

A March 16 report from MOFD's ad-hoc facilities committee found the 60-year-old Station 43, on Via Las Cruces, needed seismic upgrades, has an apparatus bay too small for current emergency vehicles, and lacks adequate space for personnel and equipment. The Board opted to replace the station and at its July 20 meeting approved the hiring of Harris & Associates to serve as Project Manager.

In his staff report, MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley said he received nine proposals and interviewed five firms before selecting Harris & Associates. As project manager, Harris & Associate will manage the design and construction of the fire station.

The cost to replace the station is estimated to be \$3 million, with funding coming from the Special Revenue fund, and it is estimated that it will take two years to complete the project.

In addition to designing the new station, one of the first orders of business, according to Harris & Associates, will be to set up a temporary station to ensure continuity of service.

During this meeting's public comment session Vince Maiorana, of Orinda, informed the Board that residents have formed an independent task force called Orinda Citizens Emergency Services Task Force. In his statement, Maiorana said that this task force was formed to better understand where they stand with this element of city services. He added that any conclusions obtained from their research that causes a concern regarding the operation of MOFD would be shared with the MOFD Board of Directors.

Please submit Letters and Opinions:
letters@lamorindaweekly.com