

Civic News Fire Districts Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

MOFD Pension Bill Drops

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2013-14 was presented to its board of directors Oct. 15 by administrative services director Gloriann Sasser, who noted that MOFD is only the seventh California fire district to produce the document. The audited report confirmed that the district ended the fiscal year with \$17.8 million in revenue, \$17.3 million in expenses and a \$565,000 balance in its general fund. Not revealed in the report, however, is the district's \$45 million unfunded pension liability. "Those charges affect our liability," said director Steve Anderson. "Even though they are not required to be in our financials until next year, they should be publicized."

The Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association recently adopted new employer contribution rates for the pension plan. Effective July 1, 2015, the MOFD employer contribution rate will decrease from 80 percent to 71 percent of payroll. The new rate is projected to reduce the district's pension expense approximately \$700,000 in fiscal year 2015-16, and to reduce its pension liability to \$40 million.

Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force


The Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District crafted agreements over the summer for the construction and operation of proposed fire station 46, an option for improved delivery of fire and emergency medical services to Lafayette. Both the Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force and the Lafayette City Council support the proposed station.

"Draft agreements from both sides are on the table, and both districts are on the same page," said ConFire assistant chief Lewis Broschard, addressing the task force at its Oct. 21 meeting.

As the group discussed ConFire's interest in acquiring the available county ambulance service contract in 2015, task force member Jim Cunha suggested that, in its request for proposals for the new contract, the county include the requirement that ambulances be allowed to cross district boundaries. Under the current ambulance contract, because MOFD would operate station 46 it could not be dispatched to medical calls in Lafayette, which is served by American Medical Response.

"We want to deliver fire-based ambulance service throughout the county," said Broschard. "If ConFire wins the ambulance contract, and if MOFD is the closest available unit to an incident, MOFD will get dispatched. We aren't concerned about boundaries; that's a profit issue. Our ambulances would be dispatched just like fire engines."

In an Oct. 23 letter to the Board of Supervisors, the task force requested a 30-day public comment period once the fire districts agree upon a common draft of the station 46 agreement and before the board considers it for approval. The task force also requested, in a letter to Contra Costa County Health Services Department EMS director Pat Frost, that the ambulance RFP require that the winning vendor honor borderless boundaries and use a common communication system in the service area. "The closest available ambulance should always be dispatched, regardless of private compensation issues or other non-critical health related factors," the letter stated.

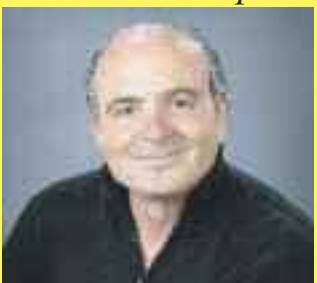


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Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings

Next meeting:
Wednesday, Nov. 19
check website for updates
(Go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)



ConFire Board of Directors Meeting

Next meeting:
Tuesday, Dec. 2
check website for updates
Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St. Martinez (Agenda at <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>)

MOFD Promotions



From left: battalion chief Felipe Barreto, engineer paramedics Steve Huebner and Brad Nygard, captain Adam Goodyear, Violet Goodyear and fire chief Steven Healy. Photo provided by Dennis Rein

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District formally recognized five of its employees at a badge-pinning ceremony in October. "I have a high degree of confidence in the people who received promotions this evening," said fire chief Stephen Healy. "Each followed a difficult path of preparation, testing, evaluation, and re-evaluation. Our testing process is very competitive and challenging because we want the best; and those people were recognized this evening." -N. Marnell

Rescue One Board Opening

Submitted by Greg Reams

The Rescue One Foundation is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on its board of directors. Residents living within the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's coverage area are eligible to apply.

The Rescue One Foundation serves as a support organization for the paramedic program of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, acquiring emergency medical equipment and training materials not otherwise available through the district's regular budget. Financial support comes from gifts of appreciation, memorials and annual tax-deductible donations

by members of the community. The foundation has provided in excess of \$350,000 of equipment and training materials for paramedics since its formation 35 years ago.

Letters of interest should be sent no later than Dec. 15 and addressed to:

Rescue One Foundation
1280 Moraga Way
Moraga, CA 94556

For further information about this position, please visit www.mofd.org/about/rescueone or call (925) 376-2086.



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