

Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.

Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.

Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire

Board of Directors

Tuesday, Jan. 15, 1:30 p.m.

Board Chamber room 107, Administration

Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez. For

meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.



Latest MOFD financial report shows a \$12 million dent in long-term liabilities

By Nick Marnell

After years of negative financial news, including the errant reporting of \$23 million, a fired auditor, and warnings of bankruptcy and fire station closures, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District presented a rosier economic picture to its board and district residents at its Dec. 5 public meeting. The MOFD Certified Audited Financial Report for 2017-18 detailed a healthy revenue increase, a higher operational surplus and a decrease in district long-term liabilities.

According to the CAFR, general fund revenue grew \$1.8 million over 2017, an 8.6 percent increase, raising the district June 30 general fund balance to \$6.3 million. The reserve improved to 28 percent of budgeted general fund revenue, though still falling short of the district goal of 50 percent.

The report listed MOFD current assets at more than double the current liabilities of \$6.2 million, with the district long-term liabilities decreasing \$12 million, thanks largely to the net pension liability dropping from \$33 million to \$23 million.

An explanation of the net pen-

sion liability calculation was added to the footnotes of the report: The \$23 million net pension liability equals the difference between the district's \$193 million total pension liability and its \$170 million fiduciary net position. Total pension liability is the present value of the benefits already earned by MOFD employees, and the fiduciary net position equals the assets held in trust by the district pension manager, the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association, to pay those benefits. The calculation of the individual component parts of the formula is done by actuaries hired by CCCERA.

As of the end of 2017, the district pension plan was 88 percent funded. Though a fully funded pension plan is ideal, a typical corporate pension plan was 90.2 percent funded in 2018, according to Northern Trust, a financial management company. Also of note, as of June 30 the MOFD pension rate stabilization trust fund held more than \$700,000.

In addition to the net pension liability, three other main components comprise the district long-

term liabilities. A pension obligation bond, purchased in 2005 for \$28 million, shows a balance of \$14 million, and the district retiree health care liability sits at \$15.3 million. Lease-purchase agreements for district apparatus and the renovation of Fire Station 43 bring the total noncurrent liabilities to \$56 million.

The district capital fund account reports a balance of \$8.3 million, with much of the money committed to capital projects like the renovation of district fire stations.

The good news may be short-lived, however, as in December the 2018 financial markets have headed toward bear territory. That negative performance will likely hurt the return on assets held by the district pension manager, which projects a 7 percent annual return on its investments. According to the district audited report, had CCCERA used a 6 percent discount rate in figuring the long-term expected rate of return on its pension assets, the 2017 MOFD net pension liability would have been \$50 million.

Spirit of Saint Mary's headed to afterlife

By Nick Marnell



Engineer Chris Davies ends an 11-year relationship.

Photo Nick Marnell

One of the most popular, larger-than-life personalities of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has made its last emergency call and will soon be sold to the highest bidder.

The MOFD board of directors authorized Fire Chief Dave Winnacker to dispose of Truck 41, the Spirit of Saint Mary's, as the truck completed 17 years of service and had reached the end of its useful life.

Truck 41 had in fact exceeded its expected lifespan, as trucks normally provide 15 years of service, according to the chief. "This piece of equipment no longer has a place in our response matrix," Winnacker told the board. "It is not even in reserve status."

When the district purchased a new truck, which is deployed at Fire Station 44 in Orinda, the demise of Truck 41 was inevitable. The death warrant was sealed in November, when Winnacker negotiated with Saint Mary's College officials and they granted the district an early exit from a 20-year fire apparatus agreement with the school.

In 1999, Saint Mary's College contributed \$650,000 to the district toward the purchase of a 2000 Spartan Fire Truck, the Spirit

of Saint Mary's. MOFD agreed to permanently house and maintain the truck and use it on emergency calls from 2001 until 2021. "We don't see an issue that the truck did not last through the length of the contract," said Mike McAlpin, assistant vice provost of the college. "We are proud of our collaboration with the community, and we hope there will be other opportunities for collaboration with the fire district."

Chris Davies was the primary engineer on Truck 41, having become truck certified in 2006 and taking over the controls the following year. He logged 15,000 of the 54,000 miles put on the vehicle.

Davies recalled his most memorable moments on the truck, with the 2017 La Finestra-Lafayette Circle fire atop the list. "It was a very challenging fire for a driver-operator - having access issues, water supply issues, overhead ladder obstructions, exposure issues. This was the kind of call where time in the seat, along with having a very experienced and dedicated crew, came into play," he said.

Some events were maybe less memorable than others. "If you drive a 47-foot, 74,000-pound fire truck long enough, you're bound to have an issue or two along the way," Davies said.

When he was a fairly new engineer, Davies responded to a fire alarm on Crestview Drive in Orinda. Davies was forced to make an even tighter hairpin turn than usual because a car was parked where it should not have been. Sure enough, the right rear of the truck body completely bottomed out and stuck. The crew spent the next 30 minutes working to free the truck. "I didn't make many friends in Orinda that day as traffic was completely blocked from getting through and there were people yelling and screaming at us," Davies said. "Luckily the call ended up being a false alarm."

Davies mused about Truck 41, at times sounding as if he was losing a family member. "T41 was a great piece of apparatus to work on for all those years," he said. "It was a head turner that many children and adults alike enjoyed seeing. Whether it was responding to an emergency, driving in the Fourth of July Parade, or just cruising through town, people always stopped what they were doing to watch T41 drive by. Wherever T41 goes from here, it will be a wonderful addition to its new department and the community it serves."

Police Departments

Lafayette Police Department

Lamorinda Weekly has contacted the Lafayette Police Department and the city several times to publish the incident report. Unfortunately we are unable to provide the report at this time.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Dec. 2 - Dec. 15

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|--------------------------------|----|
| Alarms | 42 |
| 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) | 7 |
| Traffic | 95 |
| Suspicious Circumstances | 5 |
| Suspicious Subjects | 15 |
| Suspicious Vehicles | 16 |
| Patrol Request/ Security Check | 24 |
| Service to Citizen | 41 |
| Supplemental Report | 11 |
| Vacation House Check | 14 |
| Welfare Check | 10 |

Vehicle violations

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Hit and Run Misdemeanor | |
| 10 Block Sleepy Hollow Ln. | |
| 200 Block La Espiral | |
| Anta Maria Way/Camino Pablo | |
| Reckless Driving | |
| Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. | |
| Orchard Rd./Glorietta Blvd. | |
| Camino Pablo/Claremont Ave. | |
| Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Way | |
| Moraga Way/Brookside Rd. | |
| Tc - Property Damage | |
| Library | |
| Traffic Hazard | |
| Happy Valley Rd./Sundown Terrace | |
| Moraga Way/Overhill Rd. | |
| St. Stephens Cr./El Nido Ranch Rd. | |
| Vehicle Theft | |
| 10 Block Pueblo Ct. | |

Other criminal activity

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Assault w/ Deadly Weapon | |
| 10 Block Abbott Ct. | |
| Battery | |
| Orinda Convalescent | |
| Meadow View Rd./Glorietta Blvd. | |
| 10 Block Mira Loma | |
| Burglary | |
| Police Department | |
| Identity Theft | |
| 30 Block Arvilla Rd. | |
| Ordinance Violation | |
| 20 Block Arvilla Rd. | |
| 100 Block Lucille Way | |
| Stanton Ave./Claremont Ave. | |
| Panhandling | |
| Safeway | |
| Petty Theft | |
| 20 Block Redcoach Ln. | |
| Prom Shoot | |
| 20 Block Ardor Dr. | |
| Residential Burglary | |
| 100 Block Van Ripper Ln. | |
| 30 Block Park Lane Dr. | |
| 100 Block Ardith Ct. | |
| Vandalism | |
| 50 Block Moraga Way | |
| Rite Aid | |
| Vandalism Medical | |
| 90 Block Orinda Way | |
| Violation Restraining Ordinance | |
| 10 Block Richard Ct., | |
| Warrant Arrest | |
| Beverages And More | |
| Rheem Blvd./Calvin Dr. | |
| Nuisance to the Community | |
| Public Assembly Check | |
| 300 Block Camino Pablo | |
| School Assembly Check | |
| Miramonte High School (4) | |
| Other | |
| Accident Property | |
| Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd. | |
| 10 Block Los Dedos Rd. | |
| 400 Block Camino Sobrante | |
| Moraga Way/Lloyd Ln. | |
| Estabueno Dr./Moraga Way | |
| Bomb Threat | |
| 90 Block Moraga Way | |
| H&S/Tr Sale Marijuana | |
| Miramonte High School | |
| Hazmat | |
| 100 Block Overhill Rd. | |
| Missing Adult | |
| 600 Block Tahos Rd. | |
| Other Infraction | |
| Bart Orinda Station | |

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Dec. 4 - Dec. 16

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|--------------------------------|----|
| Alarms | 16 |
| 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) | 4 |
| Traffic | 65 |
| Suspicious Circumstances | 6 |
| Suspicious Subject | 4 |
| Suspicious Vehicle | 11 |
| Service to Citizen | 25 |
| Patrol Request/ Security Check | 32 |
| Supplemental Report | 9 |
| Welfare Check | 6 |

Vehicle violations

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|------------------------------|--|
| Excessive Speed | |
| Moraga Rd./Canyon Rd. | |
| Moraga Rd./Moraga Via | |
| Rheem Blvd./Park St. | |
| Moraga Rd./Corte Santa Clara | |
| School St./Moraga Way | |
| Reckless Driving | |
| St. Andrews Dr./Augusta Dr. | |
| Rheem Blvd./Harold Dr. | |
| 1000 Block Sanders Dr. | |
| Donald Dr./Moraga Rd. | |
| 1900 Block Ascot Dr. | |
| Tc - Property Damage | |
| Ace Hardware | |
| 1400 Block Moraga Way | |
| Traffic Hazard | |
| Moraga Rd./Canyon Rd. | |
| Moraga Country Club | |
| Moraga Rd./Donald Dr. | |

Other criminal activity

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Commercial Burglary | |
| 1400 Block Moraga Way | |
| Dependent Adult Abuse | |
| 1900 Block Ascot Dr. | |
| Grand Theft From Building | |
| St. Mary's College | |
| Identity Theft | |
| 1900 Block Ascot Dr. | |
| 200 Block Corliss Dr. | |
| Vandalism | |
| Los Perales Elementary School | |
| Rheem Elementary School | |
| Violation Custody Order | |
| Camino Pablo School | |
| Warrant Arrest | |
| Top Of Fay Hill | |

Nuisance to the Community

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Disturbance-Domestic | |
| Donald Dr./Donald Pl. | |
| 50 Block Ashbrook Pl. | |
| Disturbing the Peace | |
| 50 Block Ashbrook Pl. | |
| Moraga Commons Park | |
| Police Department | |
| 300 Block Bedford Pl. | |
| Harassment | |
| 40 Block Laird Dr. | |
| Loud Music | |
| 1400 Block Camino Peral | |
| Loud Party | |
| 2000 Block Ascot Dr. | |
| Public Assembly Check | |
| Rheem Valley Shopping Center (2) | |

Other

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Accident Injury | |
| Moraga Rd./Donald Dr. | |
| Accident Property | |
| Moraga Rd./Draeger Dr. | |
| Police Department | |
| Death Non Criminal | |
| 900 Block Country Club Dr. | |
| Mentally Ill Commit | |
| Campolindo High School | |
| Missing Adult | |
| 600 Block Rheem Blvd. | |



Photo Nick Marnell

New Moraga-Orinda Fire District board members are sworn in Dec. 19 at the Hacienda de Las Flores in Moraga by Contra Costa County Superior Court Judge John Kennedy. From left, Greg Baitx, Michael Donner and Steven Danziger. Fire Chief Dave Winnacker looks on.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

Send a letter to the editor:
letters@lamorindaweekly.com