

Director again warns of potential MOFD financial emergency

By Nick Marnell

Even with the approval of two new labor contracts retroactive to July 1, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District expects to reverse the general fund budget deficit of \$583,000 to a \$99,000 surplus for the current fiscal year, based on a midyear budget adjustment presented to the board at its Feb. 20 district meeting. And though the resultant increase to the general fund balance raises it to more than \$6.3 million, equal to 25 percent of budgeted revenue, director John Jex cautioned that the district was still far short of what it needs to safely operate.

The district approved new three-year contracts with its chief officers association and with its clerical and technical employees that run through

June 30, 2021. The additional \$72,000 expense of those two contracts was included in the surplus the district recognized for the current year.

But with the district forecasting losses over the next two years, after having added only \$99,000 to its general fund balance this year, Jex warned that the district may not be able to pay its current obligations come 2021.

"I hope the committee working on the long range plan recognizes that a plan for the next three years that shows expenses in excess of revenues is a trip to an eventual declaration of a financial emergency and reversal of all the financial progress the district has made during the last three years," Jex said. "This will eventually force the district to cut services in addition

to relying on an unreliable source of borrowed funds to finance current operations."

Jex was speaking of the district reliance on the Contra Costa County Teeter Plan, which advances the district its total property tax entitlement in July, whether collected or not. The advance to MOFD is repaid as the county collects the outstanding taxes, penalties and interest, per Bob Campbell, county auditor-controller. In effect, the county takes on the tax collection risk in exchange for the penalties and interest. "If the county somehow changed that, we'd have no money to pay the bills come July and August," said Jex, who maintained that having a general fund balance of 50 percent of revenue – equal to six months of operating expenses – is the

only way to avoid such a catastrophe.

Neighboring fire districts project various general fund balance percentages of revenue for the current year ending June 30. San Ramon Valley Fire reports 91 percent; East Contra Costa Fire, 70 percent; Kensington, 66 percent; Rodeo-Hercules, 2 percent. The general fund balance of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District sat at 33 percent of revenue for the prior fiscal year.

Jex was the only director who did not approve the district midyear budget adjustments. The long-range financial plan that he spoke of, which is still in the works, is expected to be made public this spring, likely at a district financial workshop.

Fire Station 16 in Lafayette will not let Carman go quietly



Fire Chief Jeff Carman, left, addresses members of the ConFire Advisory Fire Commission

Photo Nick Marnell

By Nick Marnell

Talk about going full circle.

Fire Chief Jeff Carman's final Advisory Fire Commission meeting

evoked memories of his first meeting with the commissioners more than five years ago in that a problem regarding Lafayette was on the table. In 2013, the subject was the possible

Lafayette detachment from the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District over the city's frustration with the closure of Fire Station 16. On Feb. 25, the issue was the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's causing a potential delay in the station reopening.

No detachment occurred, of course, and the ConFire board in 2016 agreed to not only reopen Station 16 but to tear down the existing structure and build a new station from scratch. Construction has moved along, albeit slowly, for three years, with the district shooting for an April occupancy.

But a PG&E inspector balked at the placement of some of the power equipment at the station, despite the utility having already approved the model in use, according to Assistant Fire Chief Aaron McAlister. "If they hold their ground, that is a major problem," McAlister told the commis-

sion.

Of concern to the utility is the location of the meter, which ConFire places inside each of its fire stations. "PG&E wants the meter outside the building, so they can have access," McAlister said. "But a fire station is different from a residential structure. A fire station is open 24 hours, every day, and PG&E can access our meters anytime."

"It's nothing different than what we have done at any of our other stations."

McAlister said that negotiations with the company are ongoing, and he is clinging to the April occupancy date that Carman relayed to the fire commissioners.

Carman retires from the district March 29, possibly days before the reopening of the fire station.

SMC student honored by MOFD for heroic lifesaving efforts

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Unfortunately for the chief, Newton plans to attend law school. She said this incident helped inspire her to

practice law in the health care industry. "I want to draft a policy that requires an AED in every public space, because I see the need," she said. The Moraga Starbucks does not have an

automated external defibrillator.

As befitting someone who exhibited such care for others, Newton deflected all praise to others. "I want to thank my parents for teaching me to

always do the right thing in times of need, to never be afraid and to always have courage," Newton said at the meeting.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, March 20, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.
Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire
Board of Directors
Tuesday, March 12, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber Room 107,
Administration Building
651 Pine St., Martinez.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com

Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com

Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Mark Nagel 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report



- Feb. 10 - Feb. 23**
- Alarms 61
- 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 18
- Traffic 119
- Suspicious Circumstances 13
- Suspicious Subject 35
- Suspicious Vehicle 35
- Service to Citizen 48
- Patrol Request/Security Check 21
- Vacation House Check 23
- Supplemental Report 18
- Welfare Check 14
- Vehicle violations**
- Abandoned Vehicle
- 3800 Block Quail Ridge Rd.
- 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 1100 Block Sierra Vista Way
- Knox Dr./Chapel Dr.
- 3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
- 3300 Block Moraga Blvd.
- Dewing Ave./Brook St.
- 1100 Block Sierra Vista Way
- Ac Pd Needed
- Deer Hill Rd./N Thompson Rd.
- Auto Burglary
- 900 Block Oak Hill Rd.
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 50 Block Lafayette Cr.
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 50 Block Lafayette Cr.
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 900 Block Hough Ave.
- 50 Block Lafayette Cr.
- 700 Block Moraga Rd.
- 1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
- 1000 Block Sierra Vista Way
- 3200 Block Beechwood Dr.
- Exhibition of Speed
- Mt. Diablo Blvd./Village Center
- Hit And Run Misdemeanor
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

- 3300 Block Mildred Ln.
- 900 Block Mountain View Dr.
- Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cr.
- 900 Block Mountain View Dr.
- Old Tunnel Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
- 1200 Block Quandt Ct.
- Reckless Driving
- Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.
- Deer Hill Rd./Happy Valley Rd.
- 700 Block Moraga Rd.
- Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
- Moraga Rd./School St.
- 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Oak Hill/Eb 24 Off
- Vehicle Theft
- 1100 Block Pleasant Hill Cr.
- 600 Block Murray Ln.
- Other criminal activity**
- Fraud False Pretenses
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Grand Theft
- Mt. Diablo Blvd./Shreve Ln.
- Identity Theft
- 3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
- Petty Theft
- 10 Block Shreve Ln.
- 200 Block Lafayette Cr.
- 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 600 Block Glenside Dr.
- Shoplift
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 100 Block Lafayette Cr.
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Vandalism
- 900 Block East St.
- 3600 Block Bickerstaff St.
- Nuisance to the Community**
- Disturbance-Domestic
- 3100 Block Somerset Dr.
- Drunk In Public
- Acalanes Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Loud Music
- Pleasant Hill Rd./Olympic Blvd.
- Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Loud Party
- 500 Block St. Mary's Rd.
- Phone Harass
- 1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.
- Public Nuisance
- 1000 Block Buchan Dr.
- Sierra Vista Way/Hidalgo Ct
- 10 Block Maloyan Ln.

- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 1000 Block Dewing Ave.
- Pleasant Hill Rd./Acalanes Ave.
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 20 Block Olympic Oaks Dr.
- 3900 Block S Peardale Dr.
- 1000 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
- School Assembly Check
- 30 Block Circle Creek Ct
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Other**
- H&S Violation
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Panhandling
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Threats
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 500 Block St. Mary's Rd.
- Violation Restraining Ord
- 1000 Block Via Roble

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



- Feb. 19 - Feb. 25**
- Alarms 6
- 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 11
- Traffic 29
- Suspicious Circumstances 2
- Suspicious Subject 1
- Suspicious Vehicle 8
- Service to Citizen 16
- Patrol Request/Security Check 27
- Supplemental Report 6
- Vacation House Check 5
- Welfare Check 4
- Vehicle violations**
- Reckless Driving
- 1200 Block Rimer Dr.
- Corliss Dr./Moraga Rd.
- Other criminal activity**
- Commercial Burglary
- CVS
- Forgery
- 90 Block Buckingham Dr.
- Fraud Credit Card
- 50 Block Miramonte Dr.

- Fraud False Pretenses
- Police Department
- 90 Block Buckingham Dr.
- Grand Theft
- Not Available
- Harassment
- 300 Block Rheem Blvd.
- Identity Theft
- 30 Block Woodside Dr.
- Petty Theft
- 800 Block Country Club Dr.
- Not Available
- Nuisance to the Community**
- Loud Noise
- Los Perales Elementary School
- Loud Party
- 1900 Block Ascot Dr.
- 1900 Block Ascot Dr.
- Public Assembly Check
- Country Club
- Other**
- Mentally Ill Commit
- St. Mary's College
- Runaway Juvenile
- 100 Block Cypress Point Way



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

- Feb. 10 - Feb. 23**
- Alarms 54
- 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 11
- Traffic 56
- Suspicious Circumstances 6
- Suspicious Subject 11
- Suspicious Vehicle 2
- Service to Citizen 79
- Patrol Request/Security Check 17
- Vacation House Check 6
- Supplemental Report 10
- Welfare Check 9
- Vehicle violations**
- Accident Property
- Safeway
- 10 Block Orinda Way
- 10 Block Orchard Rd.
- Camino Pablo/Los Amigos

- 20 Block Altarinda Rd.
- Auto Burglary
- 90 Block Brookwood Rd.
- 10 Block Irwin Way
- Hit and Run Misdemeanor
- 100 Block Lucille Way
- Reckless Driving
- Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
- Tc - Property Damage
- 20 Block Miner Rd.
- Vehicle Theft
- Wagner Ranch Elementary
- Other criminal activity**
- Identity Theft
- 10 Block Snow Ct.
- Residential Burglary
- 400 Block Moraga Way
- 10 Block Dolores Way
- Shoplift
- Safeway
- Nuisance to the Community**
- Disturbance-Domestic
- 200 Block Ivy Dr.
- 20 Block Orinda Way
- Shell Gas
- Disturbance-Fight
- Nations
- Loud Party
- 100 Block Lucille Way (2)
- Knickerbocker Ln./Candlestick Rd.
- Public Assembly Check
- Cvs (2)
- Public Nuisance
- 100 Block Canon Dr.
- Overhill Rd/Hillcrest Dr.
- Vandalism
- Windy Creek
- Way/Monkeyflow Ln.
- Camino Encinas/Underhill Rd.
- 30 Block Marston Rd. (2)
- Other**
- H&S Violation
- Orinda Way Jso Santa Maria Way
- Litter
- E Altarinda Dr./Harran Cr.
- Ordinance Violation
- 30 Block Barbara Rd.
- 10 Block La Cuesta Rd.
- Other Infraction
- Chevron
- Sleepy Hollow Ln./Lombardy Ln.