

Fire district on target – and then some – at midyear review

By Nick Marnell

Few questions, and virtually no complaints, surrounded the midyear review presented by the staff of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Feb. 19, with the district financial condition trending so positively that one board member called for further discussion of an increase in daily on-duty staffing.

Administrative Services Director Gloriann Sasser presented the board of directors a detailed examination of fiscal year 2020 revenue and expenses, which showed the district with a projected general fund surplus of \$872,000, bringing the district reserve balance to \$8.7 million. The reserve balance projects at 35% of general fund revenue, exceeding the district policy of 17% but short of the goal of

50%.

Highlights of the midyear review included a nearly \$1 million increase in property tax revenue to \$22.1 million, a 4.5% increase over the \$21.1 million received last year. Property tax accounts for 88% of district revenue.

Commensurate with the revenue increase came a \$1.2 million decrease in expenses, mainly due to administrative position vacancies and a reduction in overtime and strike team activity. Total general fund expenses equal \$24.2 million, of which 89% are employee salaries and benefits. (The difference between revenue and expenses does not gel with the surplus because the district reclassified more than \$1 million of fire flow tax revenue out of the general fund.)

The numbers presented

were enough for the board to unanimously vote to fund two of its trusts with the entire amount budgeted: \$1 million into its pension stabilization trust and \$559,000 into the district other post-employment benefits (retiree health care) trust. The trusts are used to prefund pension costs and to reduce the district OPEB obligation.

Director Gregory Baitx capped the meeting by calling for discourse on an increase in district daily staffing from 17 to 19 personnel, with the

intent to fully staff Medic 45, the cross-staffed ambulance in Orinda. Three years ago, MOFD received federal grant funding to hire four firefighters but used the money to fill overtime positions, not to increase staffing.

The firefighters union has been frustrated over the reduced daily staffing model on the books since 2013. “Our mission statement says ‘to provide the highest level of emergency service’ and that’s exactly what we are trying to accomplish,” said Capt. Mark

McCullah, district labor representative. “We are confident this board will finally do the right thing for our community.”

The district has declined to increase daily staffing to 19, citing additional annual costs of between \$1 million and \$1.4 million, though the board voted in 2014 to temporarily raise staffing during that year’s fire season because of the drought. The staffing issue is expected to come back to the board on March 25.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, March 25, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.
Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, March 10, 1:00 p.m.
Board Chamber Room 107,
Administration Building
651 Pine St., Martinez.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Letters to the editor

The Campo Season That Could Have Been

The Campo varsity soccer season ended in disappointment last week. But the real let down was the lack of transparency and leadership about how the incident of 8 November last year at Campo was handled.

I wanted to provide a perspective into what happened and give the removed players and the fired coach a voice – since the school and AUHSD administration haven’t. The incidents of that night were investigated by law enforcement authorities who found no wrongdoing. This case closed long ago, because there never was one to begin with.

We moved our family here like many parents in this community, for the quality of the schools. Campo has a great reputation because of the leadership and administration, and I’m grateful for the work they do. There’s something for everyone there. Unfortunately, that includes hazing in some sports programs. Multiple sports. Multiple seasons. Multiple years. It didn’t begin with soccer and doesn’t end there – because we have failed to fix the culture that created it.

The way this incident was handled and the way these student athletes have been treated is that very culture exposed. Rumor and gossip fill the void of communication. Little transparency from leadership. Remove players in one sport and turn a blind eye to hazing in others. Fail to act as an AUHSD gov-

erning body to update district-wide sports policies. Take meetings with parents trying to help but do nothing.

Did some of the players break school rules that night? Yes. Should they have been disciplined? Yes. Should police have investigated? Maybe. I don’t question any of that. What I question is why the entire team was punished for the actions of a few. Why they were subject to cyber-bullying off the field and so many injuries and taunting on it. Why the administration used this incident to cover-up years of inaction. And why, in an educational setting, we missed the learning moment it presented to keep it from happening again. Every Campo athlete should learn something from this but won’t. And that’s the biggest loss of the season, and maybe the year.

Keith Pearce
Moraga

Orinda’s Streetscape Folly

The consultant’s draft Streetscape Master Plan (<https://city-of-orinda.app.box.com/v/ConnectOrindaDraft>) should be rejected, because it does not deliver what we were promised we would receive in return for \$300,000 of taxpayer funds plus substantial city staff time. This Plan was funded by a \$250,000 CCTA grant of taxpayer money plus \$50,000 of Orinda matching funds. The City promised the CCTA that we

would receive a design level conceptual plan, and after public hearings, “DESIGN DOCUMENTS” consistent with the conceptual plan and a FINAL “Downtown Orinda Streetscape Master Plan.” (<https://www.cityoforinda.org/DocumentCenter/View/2614/Contra-Costa-Transportation-Authority>)

It now turns out that we will receive none of the above. The Draft ConnectOrinda Master Plan bears little resemblance to what the City promised the CCTA we would receive, what the RFP (<https://city-of-orinda.app.box.com/s/dl-fu2h9o979sn2w2tdcroendgymovjk>) required, and what the consultant promised to deliver. (www.cityoforinda.org/DocumentCenter/View/2445/Eisen-Letunic-)

Instead of a “FINAL” plan, we will receive an INTERIM plan in which the consultant suggests that further consultants be hired to pursue future possible plans, each at a substantial additional cost.

Instead of “design documents,” we will receive “guidelines” that include “use landscaping” and “develop a maintenance program.” (see pp. 24-25 of the consultant’s contract for what was promised) These requirements could have been developed by a group of high school students doing a civics

project.

The plan does nothing to address parking, in contrast to the requirements of the RFP at pages 9 and 13, and in contrast to the promises of the consultant contract at p. 25. In fact, the only mention of “parking” is a vague suggestion to “improve bike/scooter parking.” (Item 4 of the Streetscape Design Guidelines.)

At a minimum, the Council should require that the consultant come back with something that is consistent with what the City promised the CCTA, and what the consultant promised the City, we would receive.

Nick Waranoff
Orinda

Private roads. Clarifications.

The residents of private roads are requesting that their roads be allowed to become public at a reasonable cost to the residents. The current city policy (59-18) precludes most private roads from ever becoming public. For the rest it imposes exorbitant costs to create a CalTrans quality road that will last for 20 years without maintenance. It further requires that the older narrow roads be widened, which in many cases is impossible, and many expensive geotechnical reports. These expenses to be

shared by the few residents of each private road with no assurance that the road will become public even if it meets all the city requirements.

Private road residents have already paid about \$4 million to repair public residential roads that are just like theirs. This excludes the payments made for arterials and collectors that we all use. They will contribute another \$12 million.

We are asking for inclusion into the public road network at a reasonable cost! To date the city has been unwilling to accept any road into the public network. The city has also been unwilling to get any private road or drain data that would cost very little. They wish to pretend private road residents don’t exist except to pay for bonds, taxes, and garbage truck (which cause by far the most wear) impact fees so that the public streets get repaired and maintained.

The citizens for fair road funding want a fair deal: a reasonable path to inclusion. The city seems to want us to disappear. Until a reasonable city policy is created we shall be forced to vote against any new taxes for roads or drains.

Charles Porges
Orinda

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer’s name and city/town of residence – we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate and be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

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, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

Jan. 26 - Feb. 8

Alarms 62
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 14
Traffic 113
Suspicious Circumstances 6
Suspicious Subject 31
Suspicious Vehicle 19
Service to Citizen 66
Patrol Req./Security Check 45
Public/School Assembly Check 1
Supplemental Report 32
Vacation House Check 31
Welfare Check 9

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary
3500 Block Moraga Blvd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dewing Ave.
20 Block Lafayette Cir.
Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Terrace Way
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
1100 Block Sierra Vista Way (2)
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3200 Block Judith Ln.
Lafayette Cir./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Reckless Driving

1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
Reliez Station Rd./Glenside Dr.
Mountain View Dr./Crescent Dr.
Quandt Rd./Woodborough Rd.
Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Aileen St.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
Happy Valley Rd./Baker Ln.

Stolen Vehicle Recovery
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.

Tc - Minor Injuries
Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24

Vehicle Theft
1000 Block Carol Ln.
S Thompson Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Dewing Ave.

Counterfeit
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Embezzlement
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Fraud False Pretenses
1000 Block Carol Ln.

Grand Theft
1000 Block Carol Ln.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Panhandling
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3500 Block Brook St.
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3100 Block Linda Vista Ln.
3300 Block Ameno Dr.
3200 Block Beechwood Dr.

Robbery
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Robbery Armed
3400 Block Golden Gate Way

Shoplift
3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic
15t St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Disturbance-fight
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. (2)

Harassment
1200 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
10 Block Gladys Ct.
3400 Block Lana Ln.

Loitering
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Music
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Party
3100 Block Somerset Dr.
10 Block Fallen Leaf Ct.

Phone Harass
3600 Block Robertson Rd.

3600 Block Bickerstaff St.
Public Nuisance

900 Block Dewing Ave.
1000 Block Walnut Dr.
1000 Block Stanley Blvd
Lindsey Ct./Buchan Dr.
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.

Vandalism
1200 Block Via Gabarda
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.

Other
Fireworks
Acalanes Rd./Coralee Ln.
10 Block Black Forest Ct.

H&S Violation
Reliez Valley Rd./Pleasant Pl.

K9 Outside Assist Request
600 Block Pebble Dr., Eso
2300 Block Monument Blvd., Concord
40 Block Singingwood Ln., Orinda
3400 Block Pacheco Blvd., Martinez

Mentally Ill Violent
3600 Block Robertson Rd.

Ordinance Violation
3900 Block Happy Valley Rd.

Threats
3400 Block Lana Ln. (2)

Trespass
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
600 Block Michael Ln.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Violation Custody Order
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

Feb. 4 -Feb. 24

Alarms 27
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 10
Traffic 91
Suspicious Circumstances 14
Suspicious Subject 4
Suspicious Vehicle 22
Service to Citizen 73
Patrol Req./Security Check 49
Supplemental Report 23
Vacation House Check 6
Welfare Check 6

Vehicle violations

Accident Property
Moraga Commons
100 Block Fernwood Dr.

Auto Burglary
10 Block Haven Ct.

Dui Misd
Moraga Commons
3700 Block Via Granada

Excessive Speed
Martinez Superior Court
Not Available
100 Block Hardie Dr.
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.

Ifo 132 Moraga Rd
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
Rheem Valley Shop.
Exhibition Of Speed

800 Block Camino Ricardo
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way

Petty Theft Veh Parts
400 Block Center St.
Reckless Driving
Safeway
Moraga Commons
300 Block Fernwood Dr.
Moraga Rd./Al Ta Mesa Dr.
Moraga Commons Park

Vehicle Theft
10 Block Magee Ct.
Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo

Other criminal activity
Battery
200 Block Ivy Pl.

Burglary
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.
Fraud False Pretenses
Moraga Rd Passing Corliss
Joaquin Moraga Int School

Grand Theft
Safeway
Identity Theft
Woodford Dr./Moraga Rd.
Campolindo High School
Campolindo High School

Petty Theft
Joaquin Moraga Int School

Shoplift
Joaquin Moraga Int. School
Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd.

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
Wilder Rd./Wb Sr 24
Police Department
Harassment
Campolindo Dr At Natalie Dr.
20 Block Inverleith Terrace

Loud Music
Rheem Blvd./Scofield
500 Block Moraga Rd.

Loud Noise
1000 Block Camino Pablo

Loud Party
Police Department
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.

Neighbor Dispute
Police Department
Phone Harass
200 Block Ivy Pl.
Moraga Commons Park

Public Nuisance
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.

Vandalism
2100 Block Ascot Dr.
500 Block Moraga Rd.

Other

Elder Abuse
Walnut Creek Superior Court

Indecent Exposure
HWay 13/Broadway Terrace

Mentally Ill Commit
Moraga Rd./Corte Santa Clara
Bank of America

School St./Country Club Dr.
2000 Block Ascot Dr.

Public Assembly Check
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.

Violation Custody Order
200 Block Ivy Pl.

Violation Restraining Order
100 Block Corliss Dr.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Feb. 16 -Feb. 22

911 Hangup 4
Abandoned Vehicle 2
Accident Injury 1
Accident Property 1
Alarm False 21
Auto Burglary 2
Barking Dog 1
Battery Domestic Misd 1
Civil 2
Cvc Moving Detail 24
Cvc Non Moving Detail 27
Dui Misd 1
Medical Hospital 2
Missing Juvenile 1
Occupied Stalled Vehicle 1
Ordinance Violation 1
Outside Assist 14
Parking Detail 6
Patrol Request 30
Petty Theft 3
Phone Harass 1
Residential Burglary 2
School Assembly Check 12
Security Check 19
Service To Citizen 29
Suspicious Circumstances 3
Suspicious Subject 3
Suspicious Subject Stop 4
Suspicious Vehicle 2
Suspicious Vehicle Stop 4
Unwanted Guest 1
Vacation House Check 9
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1
Walk Through 2
Warrant Arrest 2
Welfare Check 3