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State Farm Home Office, Bloomington, IL

Split MOFD board declines to change reserve balance policy

By Nick Marnell

Despite the pandemic-driven decrease in ambulance revenue and other high-risk operating areas the district faces, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board voted 3-2 to maintain the policy of a general fund balance equal to 17% of fund revenue, quashing a motion to raise the level to a minimum of 30%.

Prudent fiscal management involves keeping a reasonable amount of money in a reserve account to cover short-term operating contingencies. But public entities walk a fine line between the right amount and an excessive amount, as public agencies are not in the business of hoarding taxpayer dollars.

"A fund balance is not a savings account," Director John Jex said. "It's putting money away so that you can operate successfully."

Some of the operating contingencies the district faces include potential abatement charges it has to pay upfront to clear weeds from properties whose owners defy the fire code ordinance. The district also faces uncertainty with its ongoing pension costs and an ambulance revenue shortfall due to COVID-19.

Its unfunded pension liability remains a high-risk area for the district, though MOFD created a pension stabilization trust fund to set aside money to prepay pension costs. In addition, the equity markets, into which the district pension

plan manager invests more than three-quarters of its assets, have climbed nearly 40% in three years.

On hold because of the pandemic are capital improvements to Fire Stations 41 and 45 and the administration center. The district may be vulnerable to infrastructure crises as upgrades to the buildings were recommended in the 2017 Facilities Plan and it is not clear when these capital projects can be funded.

"When I listen to these risks, and you're looking at two months of expenditures as a reserve, I feel that number is grossly inadequate," Jex said.

Vice President Craig Jorgens agreed on nearly doubling the reserve policy, noting how the Great Recession bat-

tered district finances. "We need those kinds of reserves so we can weather those kinds of storms," Jorgens said. "And we might be in one of those storms right now."

The majority of the board did not see it that way. "I'm certainly in favor of having more savings," said Director Michael Donner, a member of

the board majority that voted against increasing the reserve balance policy. "I'm not in favor of mandating it at the present moment." A motion to maintain the current 17% level passed, with Jorgens and Jex voting against. "To identify the risks and make no change to address those risks I think is incompetent," Jex said.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, Sept. 22, 1:00 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Orinda reviews virtual evacuation as notification system is updated, town hall scheduled

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda Police Chief David Cook reviewed the responses to the survey of participants in the recent virtual evacuation drill with the city council on Aug. 18. In the week that the survey was available, 1,916 residents responded. Cook noted that his information came from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District emergency preparedness coordinator, who worked on the drill.

With 1,311 respondents saying that they received a Community Warning System (CWS) text to their smart phones, only 670 reported receiving a CWS text to a basic cell phone; 156 respondents said that they received a CWS voice call to their home and 76 reported receiving a CWS voicemail on their home phone. In addition, 106 respondents said that they got

an email either from CWS or MOFD, 60 respondents reported being notified by a friend, neighbor or relative in person, and 150 respondents said they received no type of alert.

The great majority of respondents were over the age of 50 and had no children in their households. Over 88% reported that they would be willing and able to check on their neighbors before leaving in their vehicles. Only a very small percent of the respondents considered the exercise to be not valuable, while the majority considered it very valuable.

Cook reported that 3,156 "reverse 911" calls were made, but that they were only 44% successful, which represented the highest failure rate among the attempted contacts. Nearly 8,675 emails and 8,673 text messages were sent out to residents notifying them of the drill.

In public comments, Nick Warranoff suggested that "given significant failure rates, we need a subsequent test soon." Charles Porges wondered how many people did not receive a warning, either because they didn't sign up or they did sign up, but failed to get a warning. Cook said that most people had registered mobile phone numbers and email addresses, but said he would check with CWS.

Shortly after the Orinda virtual evacuation drill, the CWS changed its Caller ID used to issue alerts from the old caller ID number, 000-000-0000, to the new caller ID number, 925-655-0195.

Lamorinda CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) reported that it has been asked why the CWS system changed its phone number at a time when the CWS is so critical. CERT explained that the number was changed

owing to a change in FCC rules, that would have caused calls from the system to be rejected and/or undeliverable if reported as coming from 0000000000.

CERT advises that local residents take the following steps to make sure to receive CWS alerts: add the new CWS number as a new contact in mobile devices and label it "Community Warning System." Then make this new contact a favorite and add it to emergency bypass. According to CERT, taking these steps should stop calls from being identified as Spam or silenced by the Do Not Disturb feature on your phone. For more information about the Community Warning System visit: www.CoCoCWS.us

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan announced a Wildfire Preparedness and Property Insurance Virtual Town Hall to

be held from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 11. The town hall is in partnership with California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara and the Orinda Firewise Council. The discussion will cover how homeowners can take steps to lower wildfire risk, navigate insurance issues and share helpful resources. State Fire Marshal Chief Mike Richwine, Executive Director of United Policyholders Amy Bach, Executive Director of United Policyholders, and experts from the Department of Insurance will speak and answer questions. Interested persons can RSVP at <https://a16.asmdc.org/events/upcoming-events> and are asked to submit questions in advance, by Sept. 8, to crb@insurance.ca.gov with "Orinda Firewise Council Town Hall" in the subject line.

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

Aug. 9 - Aug. 22

Alarms	47
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	18
Traffic	69
Suspicious Circumstances	10
Suspicious Subject	20
Suspicious Vehicle	16
Service to Citizen	61
Patrol Req./Security Check	45
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	21
Vacation House Check	10
Welfare Check	30
Ordinance Violation	2

Vehicle violations

DUI Misd	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Reckless Driving	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Hampton Rd.	
Moraga Rd./Nephi Ct.	
Tc - Property Damage	
Lafayette Cir./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.	
Other criminal activity	
Computer Fraud	
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.	
Fraud Credit Card	

3300 Block Sweet Dr.	
Fraud False Pretenses	
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.	
3100 Block Kingsley Pl.	
900 Block Mountain View Dr.	
Identity Theft	
3500 Block Brook St. (2)	
4100 Block Happy Valley Rd.	
3200 Block Sweet Dr.	
Petty Theft	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
3700 Block Mosswood Dr.	
600 Block St. Marys Rd.	
Bavarian Ln./Bavarian Ct.	
3200 Block S Lucille Ln.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Residential Burglary	
3800 Block Los Arabis Dr.	
Shoplift	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic	
1100 Block Orchard Rd.	
10 Block Southampton Pl.	
3600 Block Bickerstaff St.	
Loud Noise	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
Springhill Elementary School	
3400 Block School St.	
3300 Block Kincheloe Ct. (2)	
3700 Block Rose Ct.	
200 Block Lafayette Cr	
Loud Party	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.	
600 Block Burton Dr.	
Rowland Dr./Reliez Valley Rd.	
Coralee Ln./Acalanes Rd. (2)	
Rowe Pl./Moraga Rd.	
Public Nuisance	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.	
El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24	
Vandalism	
3500 Block Terrace Way	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	

Other

Animal Cruelty	
1000 Block Stuart St.	
Covid19 Violation	
900 Block Of Oakhill Rd.	
K9 Outside Assist Request	
1000 Block Sunvalley Blvd., Phi	
Litter	
El Nido Ranch Rd./Wb Sr 24	
Mentally Ill Violent	
10 Block Diablo Cir.	
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.	
Phone Harass	
3200 Block Camino Colorados	
900 Block Kelley Ct.	
Threats	
900 Block Diablo Dr.	
500 Block McBride Dr.	
1700 Block Toyon Rd.	

900 Block Stow Ln.	
Trespass	
School St./1st St.	
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.	
3400 Block School St.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
800 Block Oak St.	
3500 Block Oconner Dr.	
3400 Block Little Ln.	
Trespass W/ Vehicle	
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Unwanted Guest	
Olympic Blvd./Windtree Ct., Wcr	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Violation Custody Order	
Police Department (2)	
1200 Block Warner Ct. (2)	
Violation Restraining Order	
3500 Block Walnut St.	

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

Aug. 11 - Aug. 23

Alarms	13
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	24
Suspicious Circumstances	10
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	8
Service to Citizen	29
Patrol Req./Security Check	15
Supplemental Report	5
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	3
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations

Excessive Speed	
Rheem Bumoraga Rd	
Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo	
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.	
Safeway	
Moraga Rd./Madrone	
Moraga Rd./Woodford Dr.	
Rheem Blvd./Park St.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Ivy Dr./Miramonte Dr.	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.	
Tharp Dr./Camino Pablo	
Moraga Way/Coral Dr., Ori	
Rancho Laguna Park	
Tamper With Vehicle	
1900 Block Ascot Dr.	
Other criminal activity	
Petty Theft	
1500 Block Moraga Rd.	
Petty Theft From Veh	
1900 Block Ascot Dr.	
Shoplift	

Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-domestic	
100 Block Miramonte Dr.	
Disturbing The Peace	
300 Block Rheem Blvd.	

Loud Music	
Not Available	
200 Block Rheem Blvd.	
Campolindo High School	
Canyon Club Brewery	
Loud Noise	
2100 Block Donald Dr.	
2000 Block Ascot Dr.	
Not Available	
Not Available	
Loud Party	
Not Available	
Not Available	
80 Block Miramonte Dr.	
Vandalism	
Moraga Commons Park	
500 Block Rheem Blvd.	
Not Available	
2000 Block Donald Dr.	

Other	
Covid19 Violation	
Moraga Commons Park	
Loitering	
60 Block Buckingham Dr.	
Ordinance Violation	
10 Block Miramonte Dr.	
2100 Block Donald Dr.	
Country Club Dr./St Andrews Dr.	
Public Assembly Check	
Rheem Elementary School	
Safeway	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center	
Cvs	
Trespass	
Via Joaquin/Alta Mesa Dr.	
Safeway	
10 Block Miramonte Dr.	
Violation Restraining Ord	
300 Block Birchwood Dr.	

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

Aug. 9 - Aug. 22

Alarms	34
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	11
Traffic	14
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	9
Suspicious Vehicle	6
Service to Citizen	67
Patrol Req./Security Check	62
Public/School Assembly Check	6
Supplemental Report	16

Welfare Check	8
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations

Reckless Driving	
Bear Creek Rd./Camino Pablo	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.	
Camino Pablo/Wb Sr 24	
Tc - Property Damage	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.	
Shell	
Vehicle Theft	
20 Block Camino Del Diablo	
Mcdonnell Nursery	

Other criminal activity

Grand Theft	
50 Block Tarry Ln.	
Identity Theft	
60 Block Meadow View Rd.	
20 Block Rheem Blvd.	
Police Department	
40 Block Lost Valley Dr.	
10 Block Crown Ct.	
Panhandling	
50 Block Moraga Way	
Petty Theft	
Rite Aid	
Safeway	
Petty Theft From Veh	
Bear Creek Rd./Camino Pablo	
Shoplift	
Cvs	
Warrant Arrest	
400 Block Camino Sobrante	

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbing The Peace	
10 Block Lost Valley Dr.	
Barbara Rd./Oak Rd.	
Loud Music	
10 Block Patricia Rd.	
10 Block Hall Dr.	
30 Block Sleepy Hollow Ln.	
30 Block Lombardy Ln.	
Loud Noise	
20 Block Ramona Dr.	
10 Block La Madronal	
Loud Party	
Lombardy Ln./Van Ripper Ln.	
100 Block Hall Dr.	

Other

Accident Property	
Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Way	
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24	
Mcdonnell Nursery	
Covid19 Violation	
200 Block Longview Terrace	
Dalewood Dr./Sundown Terrace,	
Other Felony	
10 Block Crown Ct.	
Revocation Of Probation	
Cvs	
Violation Restraining Ord	
10 Block Gardiner Ct.	
Possession Of Stolen Prop	
Beverages And More	