

Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District



BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2019
(Approved July 17, 2019)

1. The Board of Directors convened in Open Session at 6:03 p.m. on July 8, 2019 at the Sarge Littlehale Room, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, California. President Danziger called the meeting to order and noted that all five Board Directors were present. Present were the following Directors and Staff:

Director Baitx
Director Donner

Director Jex
Director Jorgens

President Danziger
Dave Winnacker, Fire Chief

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Danziger opened the public comment. There were no requests to address the Board. President Danziger closed the Public Comment.

3. SPECIAL CALENDAR

- 3.1 Authorize the Fire Chief to Enter into a Contract with Firestorm Wildland Fire Suppression, Inc. to Perform all Necessary Services Required for the Construction of the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break Project in an Amount not to Exceed \$2,000,000.

Chief Winnacker provided the report. The District has contracted with the State of California to create a 14-mile long shaded fuel break in North Orinda and Lafayette in partnership with CALFIRE, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, EBMUD and EBRPD. The District issued a request for proposals on June 14, 2019. The District received three proposals. Firestorm Wildland Fire Suppression, Inc. was selected based on experience, past history working on similar projects, ability to provide the necessary resources, ability to complete the work within the specified time restrictions and price. The North Orinda Emergency Fuel Break Special Revenue Fund Budget contains sufficient appropriations for these services. The services are funded through the District's contract with the State. Staff recommends the Board authorize a contract with Firestorm Wildland Fire Suppression, Inc. for consulting Services for the construction of the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break Project in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000. Chief Winnacker noted that the Contract has been vetted through the District's Counsel, CalFire, and the vendor. The pricing and hourly rates in the Contract are from the Department of Labor and CalFire and are standardized rates. The crew bosses will be managing the ten-man modules are qualified safety officers. The hourly rate is verified by District supervision so the daily work tags are reviewed and approved before submitting for payment. The Contract sets the framework that, on a daily and weekly basis, through the work order process and the District's supervision, identifies how the contractor will be paid. The Contract is for time and materials and not for the Project per se. The hard to work on/high cost/low impact areas will be identified and given a lower priority. Director Jex asked how the Project will be supervised and how the supervisors will be selected. Chief Winnacker responded that Jim Call is the Project Manager. Two additional supervisors will be hired. Crews will be working seven days a week on two different overlapping shifts. Two retired CalFire Battalion Chiefs will be hired as supervisors. The Project will use the same forms used on a Wildland Fire Incident. Using a form familiar to CalFire should reduce any challenges during reimbursement. Director Jex questioned the hour rates for the equipment. Chief Winnacker stated that the rates are from the CalFire rates. Director Jex asked if the costs incurred will be reimbursed. Chief Winnacker stated that the costs are reimbursable including administrative fees. Director Jorgens asked if there are variables which the District should be consider for chipping and stump grinding. Chief Winnacker stated that it depends on the land owner, environmental specifications, and archeological sites. The work order for the day includes the specification for the work unit and any environmental or archeological restrictions.

President Danziger asked for details on Firestorm Wildland Fire Suppression, Inc. Chief Winnacker stated that they are based in Chico and have access to a tremendous amount of specialized equipment. They do two classes of work: fire suppression and post fire repair and fuels mitigation. Director Jex asked for the dollar difference in the contracts. Chief Winnacker responded that this is the only bidder who could provide the scale needed. All of the bidders used the CalFire rates. Director Donner asked if the

contractor is confident that the work can be completed. Chief Winnacker stated that the contractor believes the work can be done in six months with two ten man crews. The goal is to have the hand crew work requiring small power equipment completed by August. Director Jorgens asked if they carry fire suppression equipment. Chief Winnacker stated that the crews are required to have fire suppression capability which will include five gallon water packs, hand tools, and staging water trailers. Director Baitx asked if the crews are experienced 'hand crews'. Chief Winnacker stated that they are. Director Jex asked how they charge per tree. Chief Winnacker stated that any tree which is chopped down has been signed off and tagged. Each piece of brush is also assessed and tagged. President Danziger asked if the process to tag trees has begun. Chief Winnacker stated that Sequoia Ecological Consulting is already working on it. In the areas where work has been done, a biologist visits and signs off. This sign off is good for seven days. President Danziger asked that future reports include the names of all bidders.

President Danziger opened the public comment. There were no requests to address the Board. President Danziger closed the Public Comment.

Director Jex questioned the insurance limits. Chief Winnacker stated that they were recommended by Cal Fire and reviewed by District Counsel.

Motion by Director Jorgens and seconded by Director Jex to Authorize the Fire Chief to Enter into a Contract with Firestorm Wildland Fire Suppression, Inc. to Perform all Necessary Services Required for the Construction of the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break Project in an Amount not to Exceed \$2,000,000. Said motion carried a 5-0 vote (Ayes: Baitx, Donner, Jex, Jorgens, and Danziger; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None).

Chief Winnacker stated that he has already expended some of the \$4M grant funds. Phase One will include hand crew and the occasional tree. Phase Two is the large scale tree removal. The intent is to have at least \$1M as a 'bumper' to cover what is unknown at this time. He plans to hold back some of the money from the grant and ask for an extension to pay for a prescribed burn next year for clean up when conditions are favorable. Director Jorgens asked how updates will be provided to the Board. Chief Winnacker stated that he plans to provide monthly updates regarding money spent, money recovered, and amount remaining. Director Jorgens asked how the progress will be accessed. Chief Winnacker stated that there are two metrics: linear miles and acreage. He will report on both metrics. Director Jorgens asked for before and after pictures. Chief Winnacker stated that drone photos will be available for overflights and 'backpack' to access the understory. New technology will enable the District to estimate the biomass removed. Chief Winnacker stated that MOFD is the only agency using this technology to show fire spread before and after the work which will provide the efficacy of the work in a scientific based process. If other agencies do not use all of their funds, the money is returned to the state. If MOFD can quantify the success of the project, it may be in a better position to secure these unused funds.

4. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:30 p.m., Director Jorgens' motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Director Donner. Said motion carried a 5-0 vote (Ayes: Baitx, Donner, Jex, Jorgens, and Danziger; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None).