

**SPECIAL MEETING OF  
DIRECTORS OF BELMONT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
Tuesday, March 22, 2011  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ONE TWIN PINES LANE**

**CALL TO ORDER 8:05 P.M.**

**ROLL CALL**

Directors Present: Warden, Lieberman, Wozniak, Feierbach, Braunstein

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present: Executive Director Scoles, Interim City Attorney Kane, Finance Director Fil, Community Director De Melo, Deputy Finance Director Lazzari, Human Resources Director Dino, Police Chief Mattei, Fire Chief Fry, Parks and Recreation Director Gervais, City Treasurer Violet, Deputy Agency Secretary Plut

**ITEMS APPROVED ON CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting of February 22, 2011**

**Approval of Resolution 2011-5 Amending the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget and Approving a Revision to Revenue and Supplemental Appropriation.**

**ACTION:** On a motion by Director Lieberman, seconded by Director Braunstein, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

**Update Regarding Provision for Future Fire Services for the Belmont Fire Protection District Stand-Alone Fire Department and Project Timeline, and Consideration of the County of San Mateo's Request for Mediation with the City of San Carlos**

Finance Director Fil provided an update on the status of the creation of a standalone fire department. He stated that progress has been made in meetings with Redwood City regarding the Fire Marshall and the training cost-sharing. He indicated that there is potential in cost saving for fire inspectors and disaster preparedness officers, and that the funding for the ladder truck has been secured. He stated that the ladder truck is presently being outfitted with final details in Sacramento and once in Belmont's possession, the final payment will be made. He stated that finalizing an agreement between the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department relative to the reimbursement for the truck is in progress. He introduced the timeline for establishment of a standalone fire department and explained that it is presently in the initial phase and will be revised as the process moves forward.

District Manger Scoles stated that Belmont received a letter from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors regarding an offer to the cities of San Carlos and Belmont to participate in mediation to preserve the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department. He stated that San Carlos has formally agreed and responded to the mediation process through a letter to the County.

President Feierbach explained that if there were three votes Belmont would participate in the mediation offered by the County. She stated that she does not support the mediation offer and will not participate.

Director Wozniak stated that she is committed to doing the best thing for Belmont including exploring any benefit or options that may result from mediation talks. She stated that the process of forming a standalone department for Belmont should continue, as she did not know what the result of mediation will be.

Director Braunstein stated that he supports exploring all options. He stated that he would support a regional type of fire department. He stated that Belmont needs to have an open mind because other cities are looking at Belmont and how it is behaving in this process.

Director Warden stated that he does not support the mediation process. He stated that San Carlos is not supportive of the financial model in place now. He stated that there is no other discussion needed.

Discussion ensued regarding mediation.

Director Lieberman stated that he supports a resolution between Belmont and San Carlos in order to continue to provide fire and emergency services that is agreeable by both cities. In response to Director Warden, Director Lieberman stated that the mediation process could include members of Firefighters Local 2400 as they have expressed an interest in providing solutions to continuing a joint fire department. He stated that mediation will provide both cities an opportunity to discuss the type of financial arrangements that would work for both cities. He stated that a new cost structure could be discovered in the process. He stated that he supports having both Cities as well as members of the Firefighters Union to be part of the mediation.

Discussion ensued regarding the process of attending the mediation.

**ACTION:** On a Motion by Director Wozniak, seconded by Director Braunstein, and approved by a show of hands (3-2 Feierbach/Warden no) to accept mediation with the City of San Carlos.

District Manager Scoles provided suggestions on how the mediation process could occur. He stated that the process has not been discussed by either party. He advised that the 2+2 (two representatives from each City would participate) process could be utilized, as it would not be subject to the Brown Act. There is no opportunity for a closed session process, as it does not meet any of the closed session requirements.

Interim City Attorney Kane stated that her firm has a conflict on substantive issues related to the dissolution of the Fire Department and she is unable to provide counsel on the mediation process to the District.

Discussion ensued regarding the process of attending the mediation.

In response to President Feierbach Directors Wozniak and Lieberman indicated their interests in representing Belmont in mediation.

**ACTION:** On a Motion by Director Braunstein and seconded by Director Warden and approved by a show of hands (4-1 Feierbach, no) to appoint Directors Wozniak and Lieberman to represent Belmont in mediation.

Director Lieberman stated that should San Carlos choose a different process to represent their City, Belmont Fire Directors would discuss the new process in a subsequent meeting.

Director Warden questioned the standalone fire department implementation schedule. He stated that the schedule lacks a critical path and is not detailed enough due to the time constraints that remain for implementation.

Discussion ensued regarding the implementation schedule.

Finance Director Fil stated the document represents a work in progress and there are dependencies in the schedule. He explained that staff is working to produce a document with a critical path.

**ADJOURNMENT** at this time, being 8:40 P.M.

**Jozi Plut**  
**Deputy District Secretary**

Meeting audio-recorded and videotaped  
Audio Recording 781