

Minutes May 14
Measure O Oversight Committee

1. Call to order: (18:05) Present: Angie, Noble, Frank Grimsley, Elizabeth Genai, Tara Shaia, Maureen Brennan. Absent: None

2. Pledge of Allegiance: (18:05)

3. Confirmation of Agenda: (18:06)

4. Approval of prior minutes: (18:07)

A motion was made by Frank G. to approve prior amendments with the suggested amendments . Second by Tara S.

Ayes: 5

No: 0

5. Public Communications: (18:07) No Public Comment

6. Future of Measure O; pending possible annexation:

Counsel Pio Roda stated that should annexation occur, Measure O will continue to be collected by the ConFire District, but will be 100% spent in Rodeo and Hercules. Committee Chair Brennan asked, how will the accounting show that? Brennan has been told, we will not receive additional staff, additional equipment, and no additional fire station.

Mr. Pio Roda said to ask Chief Broussard at the next Board meeting. Chair Brennan went on to say that Confire will be getting our staff, our equipment, our fire station, and \$7.2 million in our reserves account. And then we, the local community, still have to pay \$2.5 million per year on top of that?

Member Shaia asked if the Measure O Committee would continue to do oversight? Mr. Pio Roda believed that it would continue, but there would be new members appointed by the CCCo Board of Supervisors. Member Shaia went on to say, the people of Rodeo and Hercules are paying for Measure O, they voted to have it, and they should have an opportunity to say yes or no, by means of a vote

Chair Brennan then said, no other entities that have annexed to ConFire pay a Measure O tax. In fact, the East County fire district voted against such a tax three times. It seems unfair to continue to a tax that no one else pays. Mr. Pio Roda said that was a good question to ask Chief Broussard at the next Board meeting. An addendum: At the next Board meeting Chair Brennan asked that question, and the response came from Chief DesPain, a consultant. He said if there is no Measure O tax, he stated we would have to close a fire station [Rodeo].

Member Grimsley stated he is hearing a lot of speculation about what will happen with the Measure O money, but hasn't seen anything in writing. He doesn't see a \$2.5 million uptick in services for Rodeo and Hercules, nor any restrictions put on Confire as to how to use the money. He would like to more controls, in writing, for using the Measure O tax money. He says he is not a fan of ConFire, and he thinks the current service of our firefighters is good, and the \$2.5 million dollars [Measure O] is helping. He requests to see some hard numbers, and asks to see it in writing." He also stated that 2 of 3 people he has talked to prefer to keep the fire service

in Hercules, and not change to Confire. He would like to see more details in writing, especially regarding controls and accountability.

Chief Ramirez stated that once annexation occurs, there is no turning back. Mr. Pio Roda concurred. The Chief also referred the committee to the presentation of the East County captain, that presented a snapshot of the “before and after” of annexation. Chief Ramirez also concurred, that if Measure O money was removed, we would have to close one station.

Member Shaia noted that a requirement for annexation is that services remain the same, or improve. This is in conflict with what we are hearing. After further discussion, Chief Ramirez confirmed that we all share a passion for the district, and let’s talk about it at tomorrow night’s Board meeting.

Member Genai asked if there is still a possibility of opening a 3rd station in Hercules? Chief Ramirez said that currently our call volume does not warrant it.

Member Noble noted that her “constituency” is the firefighters. Not necessarily our neighbors. And that in asking the firefighters, they support annexation. They say it will allow for promotions, and greater education in their careers. So, she supports them in annexation. Member Shaia sees it differently. Her constituency is those being served, the taxpayers, not those who do the serving.

Public comment: (18:56)

Captain Derek

Captain Bischoff?

7. Consideration for 2024/2025 fiscal year for Measure O money:

See attachment. FY 2024/2025 Recommended Expenditures

Next meeting June 11, 6 pm at Station76.

8. Adjournment: (19:20) 7:38pm