

**SAN FRANCISCO**  
 **MUNICIPAL ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION** 

**MINUTES**  
Executive Board Meeting

Monday, April 14, 2008  
12:15 p.m.  
Flower Market Cafe

Present:

Tom Owen (CA), President  
Elliot Beckelman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Daro Inouye (PD), 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Linda Colfax (PD), Treasurer  
Jerry Coleman (DA), Secretary  
Doug Welch (PD), PD Rep.  
Michon Martin (DA), DA Rep.  
Frank Brass (CA), At Large Rep

Absent:

Sean Connolly (CA), City Atty. Rep  
[NEW FEATURE: Underscoring below reflects action item for a board member to accomplish before next meeting.]

**Call to Order:** President Owen called the meeting to order at 12:18 pm.

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and the minutes of the 1-25-08 meeting and 2-25-08 Emergency Meeting were approved by unanimous (8-0) vote, subject to correction of the meeting dates and addition of the two dissenting voters' names on 2-25-08 minutes.

**President's Report:** President Owen advised of a ten year capital expenditure plan by the City which envisions a huge bond issue for 2010 to replace the Hall of Justice with a seismically safe building.

**Treasurer's Report:** Linda Colfax confirmed our balance of \$582,682 (up from last report by \$43,454), representing two CD's and a checking account balance (the latter being \$130,637). Interest on the 2 CD's is at 2.96%. Legal bills for February, 2008 were only \$40.00.

**Executive Board Announcements:** Nothing was covered on this item.

**Imperative Calendar:** Nothing was covered on this item.

**Update on Retirement Issues:** 1<sup>st</sup> VP Beckelman reported the retirement committee met with HRD Director Micki Callahan, and got some baseline figures from PERS, but to finalize the figures for the negotiations, still needs the City to provide the figure for all employees' accrued assets (City's as well as employees' share, current to 7-1-07) to be turned over to PERS. We have asked for that as of March 27, 2008, and are still waiting for Retirement Board to provide. Beckelman also noted some political movement has been begun on changing the Social Security issue. Treasurer Colfax noted that current PERS figures are quite different than those that came from past discussions, due to PERS current assumptions/calculations being more conservative (esp. 12 year amortization period). Beckelman concluded noting that PERS, as a defined benefits plan, is actually better for younger members (with 5-15 years' service) than SFERS, a defined contribution plan. Secretary Coleman assured 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Inouye that before the membership voted on any choice of plans, we would have a written analysis (prepared by a benefits analyst specialist) available many days before the group meeting, and that voting on the plan would be extended for a full week to allow for maximum information and participation.

**City Budget Issues/Dept. Cuts:** Secretary Coleman and DA Rep. Martin noted that DA's are quite concerned re layoffs (as result of recent management meetings in DA's Office) and whether severance pay would be triggered. President Owen noted the City could possibly argue that a budget layoff represents not a person terminated but a position terminated, and try to avoid severance. 1<sup>st</sup> VP Beckelman strongly moved we take a position, after advice from legal counsel, that the MAA considers any layoff contemplated in the upcoming budget to be a termination triggering severance, and to notify the City that such is the union's position. Motion seconded, after addition that any letter from MAA counsel Jim Lassart include a request for true budget information on our departments so we can explore alternatives to layoffs (by a subcommittee of concerned MAA members). Motion passed unanimously. Lassart draft letter to be distributed to the Board prior to sending; Owen will contact Lassart.

**Discussion re increase in Health Care Costs:** President Owen noted that because our members have an option to get cash back, our costs increase more than other unions. Costs are figured yearly, in public meetings by the Health Services Board, based on a review of health care provider costs and a survey of 10 county's contributions (as a way to set SF's contribution). 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Inouye suggested we concentrate on our members keeping our jobs, rather than fighting to improve health care costs (at this time, health care costs for 2008 having already been set). His exact words were for us to "strike with a stiletto, rather than a pitchfork."

**Discussion re 3+3 retirement plan:** President Owen suggested that had to be approved at the ballot, could not pass before November, and thus would be ineffective as a plan for the current fiscal issues beginning in July; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Inouye noted that the last time this was utilized, it didn't save the City money.

**Proposal to Hire Business Agent:** 1<sup>st</sup> VP Beckelman reported none of his contacts were interested; still awaiting report from City Atty. Rep. Connolly; so on next meeting's agenda.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.  
- Jerry Coleman, Secretary, MAA