

Minutes from the October 27th, 2021, Bolinas Fire Protection District Board Meeting, Via Zoom.

Pres. Molesworth called the meeting of the Bolinas Fire Protection District to order at 7:05 P.M. Vice Pres. Kimball, Dir. Torrey, Dir. Martinelli, and Dir. Dunne were present. Also present: Chief Krakauer and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor.

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to approve the Agenda with the amendment to move item 5b to the beginning of the meeting. Seeing no objections, the amended Agenda is approved.

Discussion – Alert Alarms for Bolinas, presented by Judith Shaw

Judith Shaw shared details of a preliminary proposal she requested from Genasys Inc. for a system of emergency alert alarms in Bolinas. The proposed price tag for such a system would be approximately \$600,000, though this would be subject to changes based on site visits and thorough project planning. Judith voiced appreciation for the District’s fire prevention and evacuation safety efforts, but shared her feeling that only alarms could save lives in the case of a wildfire emergency. She encouraged members of the board to review the proposal, and shared her opinion that a fundraising campaign could help pay for such a system.

Pres. Molesworth thanked Ms. Shaw for her consistent advocacy around the issue of sirens or alarms for Bolinas. Chief Krakauer also thanked Ms. Shaw, and assured her that he and the District are investigating Genasys and other types of alarm or siren systems, alongside many other District priorities and financial responsibilities.

Director Martinelli agreed with Ms. Shaw that alarms or sirens are an important consideration, but noted that the Bolinas Fire Protection District has many different responsibilities to address under a limited budget. He noted that medical emergencies make up the vast majority of emergency calls in Bolinas, and that, while serious, the risk of wildland fire remains relatively lower in our area due to its significant coastal influence. In his professional opinion, investment into areas like staffing for medical emergencies and maintenance of evacuation routes are higher priorities. Vice Pres. Kimball noted that the District has a responsibility to manage its reserve funds very carefully to prepare for large expenses like replacing a fire engine, but thanked Ms. Shaw for her continued advocacy around this issue. Directors Torrey and Dunne agreed with the thoughts shared by Director Martinelli and Vice Pres. Kimball, and Pres. Molesworth once again thanked Ms. Shaw for bringing this discussion again to the board.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Judith Shaw asked how the District used its Measure C funds. Chief Krakauer responded that

CHIEF’S REPORT

MERA

Chief Krakauer attended a MERA meeting on Wednesday, October 27th, but reported no major updates.

Chiefs

Chief Krakauer was unable to attend the Chiefs meeting due to a conflicting meeting with the Resource Recovery Project.

Prevention

Chief Krakauer discussed District wildfire preparedness and response in item 5d.

Roads

Chief Krakauer reported that all signage associated with the proposal supported by the District have now been installed. These include Fire Lane signs on Wharf Rd. and Terrace Rd., as well as No Parking signs on the west side of Olema-Bolinas Rd. near downtown.

Inspections

No update.

Grants

The District did not receive the multiagency FEMA grant for replacing SCBAs. We did budget for this contingency, and have ordered replacement cylinders to bring our packs back into compliance.

Training

Training has been focused on structural firefighting, storm response, and safety as we head into the winter months and storm season.

Volunteers

Fire Safety Day was cancelled due to the recent early season atmospheric river event. We plan to reschedule a smaller event, where the public can have fire extinguishers serviced or disposed, purchase new extinguishers, and get a custom road or house sign from Vickisa's sign clinic. We will also host an informational table and offer NOAA radios and volunteer apparel for sale.

The annual Volunteer Raffle is currently underway, and we are seeing a great response from the community. Proceeds from the raffle go to support the Alisa Anne Ruch Burn Foundation, local youth sports teams, and the volunteers' snacks, supplies, and "rainy day" fund.

Apparatus

Engine 285 had its water tank sensor recalibrated, as we were finally able to flow some water Tuesday night. Engine 285 also has a recall for an electrical component that engages the pump. We are working with our vendor to hopefully receive the part and install it here, so the engine will not need to travel for repairs.

With fire season behind us, wildland Engine 265 is now ready to be scheduled for tank repair service in Oakdale. The tank is under a lifetime warranty.

Disaster Council

No update.

Resource Recovery

A used 2018 Caterpillar was delivered today to the Resource Recovery site as a rental. The District hopes to purchase it with funds from an MWPA grant, if it is suitable for the needs of the site.

Chief Krakauer and Isaac Taylor also met with Jennifer Blackman on Monday to discuss some administrative tasks for the site, including the creation of an updated memorandum

of understanding detailing the obligations and responsibilities of the four Resource Recovery member agencies: Bolinas Fire Protection District, Stinson Beach Fire Protection District, Bolinas Community Public Utility District & Stinson Beach County Water District.

Buildings and Grounds

Professional exterminators have been hired to abate rodent issues in the fire station. A professional deep cleaning has also been scheduled.

The station generator received its annual service, and was found to be in good shape.

Chief Krakauer contacted a facilities manager with Petaluma Health Center regarding some needed maintenance items at the Bolinas Clinic, including new paint and replacing gutters.

General Operations/Administration

Chief Krakauer noted that the station has recorded 7 inches of rain since October 17th, and received nine calls over the recent two-day storm for flooding and downed trees and utility wires. Firefighters patrolled roads and placed barricades in various places for flooding and mud slides. The heaviest flooding occurred around the Bolinas School, where Pine Gulch Creek overflowed its banks. Despite these impacts, the rains represent a welcome relief to our local fire protection and water agencies. Chief Krakauer noted an impressive 25 inches of rain were recorded at Mount Tamalpais this month, with nearly 17 inches in the two-day storm alone.

The District is continuing conversations with Verizon regarding a new lease contract for their cellular tower on District property. The existing contract will expire in January 2022, and our next meeting with Verizon is scheduled for Monday, November 1.

Marin LAFCo is continuing its municipal service review, and Isaac Taylor is providing information as requested.

We expect Nigro & Nigro, PC to provide a draft audited financial report for review at the November board meeting.

Chief Krakauer met on October 8th with members of the Bolinas Eucalyptus Project, Marin DPW, and Supervisor Rodoni to discuss the group's intentions to remove eucalyptus trees at sites near Resource Recovery and along Mesa Road and Olema-Bolinas Road. Supervisor Rodoni plans to reach out to both PG&E and MWPA Executive Officer Mark Brown to determine if any such removal may fall under their purview. Chief Krakauer and Supervisor Rodoni also then met with members of the BCPUD, Firehouse Community Park Agency (Mesa Park), and the Bolinas Community Land Trust to discuss various issues around town.

Chief Krakauer also attended Supervisor Rodoni's Office Hours, where much of the time was devoted to questions regarding affordable housing and permitting of Accessory Dwelling Units. Community Development Agency members attended and answered questions from the public. The Bolinas Downtown Parking Committee asked Chief Krakauer to join them and members of DPW to discuss some of their preliminary potential parking plans, and speak to any related public safety concerns pertinent to the mission of the Fire Protection District.

Isaac Taylor reported that he has been providing information to CalPERS as they wrap up an actuarial evaluation for a new contract amendment, which would add a new Miscellaneous category in order to correct his enrollment. He expects the contract amendment to be brought to the board for approval within the next two or three months.

Chief Krakauer mentioned the Toxic Away Day scheduled for November 6 at Mesa Park. This event is sponsored by the BCPUD and the San Rafael Fire Department, and supported by the District.

President Molesworth asked Isaac for background on the amended Illness and Injury Prevention Program under our General Business agenda. Isaac shared that this item was brought to his attention by FASIS, the District's workers' compensation insurer. The program is referenced in the District policy manual, and Isaac updated the policy, originally developed by Chief Anita Brown, based on the latest recommendations from our insurance administrator.

Personnel

One new volunteer resident firefighter has been voted in by the volunteers, and has completed his first 24-hour shift. An additional resident candidate is expected to be voted in next week.

A new volunteer firefighter is also expected to be voted in next week, having already attended three trainings.

Chief Krakauer received his "360" evaluation this week from President Molesworth and Vice Pres. Kimball. Chief Krakauer thanked President Molesworth, Dir. Torrey, Vice Pres. Kimball, and everyone who participated in the review.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Action Item #1 – Approve Amended Injury and Illness Prevention Program

MSC Torrey/Kimball (unan.) to approve the amended Injury and Illness Prevention Program.

Vice Pres. Kimball asked how the District can confirm that it is in compliance with the requirements of our insurer. Isaac Taylor reported that he has a meeting scheduled with our insurer for Thursday, October 28th to go over all aspects of the program and address any areas that may need attention to bring them in compliance. Dir. Torrey asked if the District has a plan to ensure all employees are aware and informed of the program. Chief Krakauer responded that the District is working to strengthen its training and documentation practices, to ensure all elements of the program are fully implemented.

Discussion – District Wildfire Preparedness and Response

Chief Krakauer reported that 36 brush piles were chipped during the most recent Chipper Day event on October 23rd. Because of over-registration, some piles were not able to be chipped. The District decided to extend the final Chipper Day on November 20th, which is already full, to chip any leftover piles from October 23rd.

The District's vacant lot letter program for defensible space compliance has seen slowing responses, but many lot owners continue to do work on their properties. Chief Krakauer is seeking guidance from Capt. Jordan Reeser at Marin County Fire to develop a District plan for follow-up and potential enforcement actions for vacant lot owners who remain out of compliance.

County defensible space evaluators have completed over 430 inspections on the Big Mesa. Approximately half of inspected properties were found in need of moderate defensible space work, with a quarter needing extensive work and the remaining quarter in full compliance. Next year, evaluators will inspect properties downtown and along Olema-Bolinas Road toward Dogtown. While the inspections were well-received overall, the District understands some residents feel anxiety about the inspections and keeping their properties compliant with defensible space regulations. The District is working with residents to reinspect properties on request, and educate residents about ways to make their properties safer. As a result of these inspections, we have seen a significant increase in Chipper Day registrations.

Don Murch is nearly done with mowing along access and egress roads. Steve will be working with Don to complete mowing along Lauff Ranch Road and Canyon Road. With assistance from District prevention funds, Don also completed mowing on BCPUD property around the Resource Recovery site and sewer ponds.

The District continues to advertise and sell NOAA Emergency Alert weather radios, and is still distributing MCSO Evacuated tags.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MSC Dunne/Martinelli (unan.) to approve the Consent Calendar.

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Vice Pres. Kimball and Chief Krakauer shared some notes from the most recent MWPA board meeting. Kimball shared that the MWPA is working hard to develop a grants program for residents who lack the financial resources to complete defensible space work. Two ad hoc committees have been created, and Kimball is serving on the Strategic Planning committee looking at administrative staffing needs and environmental compliance. This planning process is expected to go to the full board of MWPA in December for approval.

Chief Krakauer shared that he and Asst. Chief Marcotte met with MWPA planning and program manager Anne Crealock and her assistant, and are hopeful that grant-seeking agencies throughout the county will have greater support at MWPA next year.

Vice Pres. Kimball also shared details of a new program being supported by the MWPA called Fire Foundry, which is intended to create opportunities for young people from underserved communities to get trained and work in defensible space and fire prevention programs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources Committee – President Molesworth shared that members discussed Chief Krakauer’s very positive annual evaluation in closed session, and that no actions were taken or votes conducted.

Finance Committee – No update.

Operations Working Group – No update.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

A report on the closed session was shared in the Human Resources Committee report above.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor
Administrative Manager

Note: Minutes of all Board meetings are available for review at the Bolinas Library and on the District's website.