

Minutes from the October 22nd, 2020, Bolinas Fire Protection District Board Meeting, Via Zoom.

Pres. Molesworth called the meeting of the Bolinas Fire Protection District to order at 7:00 P.M. Vice Pres. Kimball, Dir. Torrey, and Dir. Martinelli were present. Also present: Chief Krakauer, Administrative Asst. Cadance Lynam, and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor.

MSC Molesworth/Kimball (unan.) to approve the Agenda with the amendment to move item 4a to the beginning of the meeting.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Krakauer was unable to attend the Chief's meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

NERA

Chief Krakauer will attend the next NERA meeting on Wednesday, October 28th.

Prevention

Chief Krakauer discussed District wildfire preparedness and response in item 4b.

Roads

Chief Krakauer met with a resident and civil engineer on October 14th to discuss additional Terrace Avenue road signage and painting, and also met with Marin County Sheriff Parking Officer Emily Cushman to discuss road blockages and parking issues at the end of Wharf Rd and other locations.

Inspections

Chief Krakauer reported that follow-up business inspections on Bolinas Community Land Trust buildings were completed. A final inspection of a private water system was also completed on Horseshoe Hill Road.

Planning

Chief Krakauer met with Scott Alber to discuss the new online plan review platform.

Grants

Chief Krakauer reported that Matt Phillips applied for a DHS grant for 12 new high-band radios on behalf of the District. Phillips runs the grants program for Central Marin Fire.

The District is planning to submit a FEMA grant proposal for self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBAs). Isaac will help with proposal development, which is planned to include both Stinson Beach Fire and Muir Beach Fire like our original SCBAs grant.

Training

Trainings continue to be focused on wildland firefighting, structure protection and chainsaws for Saturday. Trainings will be transitioning into structural

firefighting. Asst. Chief Marcotte did a class and demonstration on fire behavior using a model home.

Volunteers

There is one new resident firefighter. Chief Krakauer reports we are at capacity. The volunteer raffle is in progress, with Meg Gould leading the effort. We plan to stuff envelopes soon. This is the largest fundraising event for volunteers, and we extend our sincere thanks to Meg.

Captain Vickisa Feinberg is creating flyers to help residents create more clear signage for their house numbers.

Apparatus

Ian is planning to reinstall our low-band paging system in 219.

Disaster Council

No update.

Resource Recovery

No update.

Buildings and Grounds

Stroupe Petroleum completed its annual inspection of our fuel tank. The tank passed inspection, but a 12-foot fill line hose needed to be replaced.

Firefighter Joe Walker received the ballasts to repair light fixtures in the front bathroom and meeting room.

To meet our growing needs, Captain Pete Smith constructed and installed 8 new lockers with shelving in the turnout room. As his time was volunteered, our only cost was materials. Chief Krakauer thanked Captain Smith and noted the new lockers are very nice and match the originals, also built by Captain Smith several years ago.

General Operations/Administration

The Woodward Fire was declared 100% contained as of October 10th. The fire is still burning in the interior, and this will continue until we receive significant rains. Resources continue to monitor the situation, but do not anticipate any threat to containment lines.

There is a Red Flag in effect until 8am Friday, October 23rd, with possibly the largest wind event of the year forecast for Sunday, October 25th.

Asst. Chief Marcotte and Firefighter Aaron Pendergraft went on an engine from Stinson Beach Fire to the Glass Fire incident at 1am for 24 hours. We also provided personnel for pre-position assignments for recent Red Flag events.

Chief Krakauer is drafting a policy for mutual aid assignments and reimbursement. We are also exploring the idea of a shared service agreement with Stinson Beach Fire.

There was a significant rope rescue for two dogs trapped on a cliff above Brighton Beach last weekend. Chief Krakauer commended Firefighters Aaron Pendergraft, Joe Walker, Michael Krakauer, Tate Thompson and Captain Pete Smith for a job well done. After three stressful hours, both dogs were rescued safely in front of a large audience on the beach. Firefighter Pendergraft did sustain a small injury requiring stitches. Additional ropes training will be given soon.

Three local fishermen responded to a radio call for assistance and rescued 3 people after their boat capsized around Duxbury Reef.

Volunteers are continuing to get free COVID tests in San Rafael through Marin County's Health and Human Services program for first responders.

Chief Krakauer and Isaac Taylor had a phone call with Archive Social to discuss District social media posts and possible public records requests. We will revisit these issues as we begin to utilize social media more frequently.

Chief Krakauer spoke on the potential reopening of the community meeting room. County guidelines now permit indoor meeting for non-overlapping groups smaller than 12, with the use of masks, temperature checks, a names log, and cleaning between uses. Vice Pres. Kimball noted the use of a disinfectant fogger at his dentist office. Dir. Martinelli noted recent purchase of foggers and chemical ingredients by EOC. Vice Pres. Kimball noted maximum occupancy must comply with standards for square footage. District will be responsible for cleaning between uses of community meeting room.

Administrative Mgr. Isaac Taylor started on Monday, October 19th. All is going well working with Cadance, Ian and Chief Krakauer to get a broad introduction to the District. Isaac renewed SAM.gov registration in anticipation of seeking federal grant money. Chief Krakauer and Ian gave Isaac and orientation to the town and District.

Chief Krakauer note than Ian repaired issue with color printer, and is working to get new phones and an iPad on our Verizon contract. Ian also replaced computer battery packs and is working on the VPN so the server can be accessed remotely.

Verizon has indicated a desire to possibly move some of their equipment onto the AT&T tower. Ian advised this is likely unfeasible, and is working on negotiations with Verizon.

Chief Krakauer noted the District has been sharing resources and personnel with Stinson Beach Fire. Firefighter Michael Krakauer is working with Stinson Beach Fire on a pre-position related to the Red Flag warning. Chief Krakauer suggested the District may want to explore a mutual aid agreement with Stinson Beach Fire, especially with significant potential revenue through state reimbursements.

Dir. Martinelli noted the value of Firefighter experience on mutual aid assignments.

Surfers' Overlook Repair/Terrace Avenue

No Update.

Personnel

No Update.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion – Introducing Mark Brown, the new Executive Officer of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority

Vice Pres. Kimball reminded attendees that Measure C passed in March, establishing the new agency. 80 applicants for Executive Officer were narrowed to 10, with Mark Brown ultimately selected for the position.

Dir. Martinelli noted that he worked with Mark Brown for a long time, including as Mark's direct report. Dir. Martinelli stated that Mark is highly qualified, and has experience with small fire districts, along with a broad perspective on the fire problem in Marin County.

Exec. Ofc. Mark Brown stated that he is honored to be the EO of MWPA, and is enjoying meeting with different councils and discussing the roles of new MWPA agency. Mark has been in fire service for 35 years, and has a connection with small towns, being from Kenwood. The past seven years have been dramatically different. Mark stated a need to take a holistic and drastic view of what is needed to protect county residents. Mark also stated that local fire agencies are the "subject matter experts" for our communities. He remarked that it is often easy to focus on megafires, but we need rather to focus on the majority of fires which are small fires. Mark argued for a prevention strategy beginning in the home and working outward. By focusing on danger from small fires, establishing more evacuation routes, creating more defensible space, and increasing community awareness and notification systems, Mark argued we will have less danger of megafires. Mark emphasized that residents must be active participants and do their part.

Mark noted that 20% of Measure C funds will go back to local fire agencies, with another 20% going to defensible space evaluations and home hardening projects, and 60% going to core MWPA projects, such as the current Chipper Day program. MWPA is starting a program to purchase and distribute NOAA weather radios to Marin communities, in order to have another way to get messages out during power outages due to high wind events. MWPA is also focused on environmental compliance, understanding that certain fire prevention tactics could potentially cause more environmental harm than fires themselves. Additional priorities include gathering countywide escape route data (RFP pending) and local fuel reduction projects. Mark noted the Measure C tax exemption for low income seniors. MWPA is establishing an appeal process for qualified seniors who did not know about or apply for the exemption.

Chief Krakauer noted that the District expects to receive a small number of NOAA weather radios soon. Vice Pres. Kimball asked if radios include rechargeable batteries; Mark Brown stated the radios simply require AA batteries.

Vice Pres. Kimball updated Mark Brown about resource recovery, and stated that the District is exploring MWPA project funding or grant opportunities to insure that Resource Recovery is financially viable especially since the front-end loader has been used beyond its useful life and the volunteer manager at some point will need to be replaced with paid staff. Resource Recovery is a possible a demonstration facility that might be replicated in other Marin county locations given the increased focus on fuel reductions (brush, etc.).

Exec. Ofc. Brown stated that California wild land relies on fire to be healthy, but since 1910 suppression policy has removed natural fire from the system. Native people practiced prescribed burning to maintain wild land health, however, there has been resistance to the practice over concerns over *smoke* and potential *accidents*. Mark noted that any amount of smoke from prescribed burns will be far less than from a major fire. He stated that Bay Area Air Quality Management District has recently come around to this understanding, and is working with MWPA to advance the practice of prescribed burning. Mark noted that the problem will take more than ten years to solve, and that residents will need to get accustomed to associating smoke from prescribed burning with healthy land management.

Pres. Molesworth thanked Exec. Ofc. Brown for joining the call and taking the time to meet with us.

Discussion – District Wildfire Preparedness and Response

Chief Krakauer met with Vice Pres. Kimball and MWPA Exec. Ofc. Mark Brown on October 7th to discuss his goals, and reports they had a good conversation.

Vice Pres. Kimball attended a meeting of the MWPA finance committee, where they discussed agency formation and policymaking processes.

Chief Krakauer attended MWPA meeting on October 21st and became the West Marin representative for an upcoming RFP for a countywide evacuation routes study. Preliminary action items include fuel reduction along major roads, battery backup for traffic lights at major intersections, and traffic redirection to allow large amounts of cars to pass through.

Chief Krakauer listened to a meeting about NOAA weather radios. The District can acquire more radios for \$25 each from Fire Safe Marin. He notes that radios have the potential to fill a significant gap in emergency communications, and only turn on in the case of an emergency. Chief Krakauer suggested using Measure C funds to promote radios to the public around Fire Safety Day or other holidays.

A Chipper Day is scheduled through Fire Safe Marin for October 28th. Chief Krakauer reports good registration numbers once again.

Don Murch widened the strip along Poplar Road on the NPS side, using District Measure C funds.

Asst. Chief Marcotte made and distributed flyers filled with good information.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MSC / Torrey/Kimball (unan.) to approve the Consent Calendar.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

None.

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Dir. Martinelli confirmed EOC will provide a disinfectant fogger for District use.

Admin. Asst. Cadance Lynam reported audit work is still underway, and she believes we are close to finishing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Updates from Finance and Budget, Personnel, Building and Grounds and Operations Working Group.

Finance Committee – No Update.

Personnel Committee – No Update.

Buildings and Grounds – No Update.

Operations Working Group –No Update.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Pres. Molesworth thanked Admin. Asst. Cadance Lynam for all her hard work during the transition process.

Vice Pres. Kimball commended Chief Krakauer for taking a successful vacation.

ADJOURNMENT

MSC /Kimball/Martinelli (unan.) to adjourn at 8:40 PM.

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 www.bolinasfire.org.