

Minutes from the July 28th, 2021, Bolinas Fire Protection District Board Meeting, Via Zoom.

Vice Pres. Kimball called the meeting of the Bolinas Fire Protection District to order at 7:00 P.M. Dir. Torrey and Dir. Dunne were present. Also present: Chief Krakauer and Asst. Chief Marcotte. Dir. Martinelli joined the meeting at 7:04 P.M. President Molesworth and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor were absent.

MSC Torrey/Dunne (unan.) to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

No additional general public expression.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MERA

Chief Krakauer attended a MERA meeting on Wednesday, July 28rd. He reported that work continues on upgrading to the Next Gen system.

Chiefs

Chief Krakauer attended a Chiefs meeting on Thursday, July 22nd.

Prevention

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

Roads

Chief Krakauer reported that work continues in the area of 13 Turns to remove fall-prone branches from above the roadway. Marin County DPW has been mowing the sides of county-maintained roads. PG&E has completed removal of approximately 7-8 diseased Eucalyptus trees from lower Mesa Road, which he understands to be the first phase of a multi-year project.

Chief Krakauer is expecting news from county traffic officials on approval by the Board of Supervisors of the District-supported parking proposal which would establish fire lanes along Terrace Ave. and Wharf Rd.

Inspections

Chief Krakauer reported that firefighters completed four fire safety inspections on BCLT properties this month. The District is also conducting a survey of private water sources, updating our maps to reflect accurate information on water sources potentially available to firefighters, as well as adding more complete and up-to-date information on parcels in Dogtown.

Grants

The District continues to await decisions on a CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grant proposal for fuel reduction work around Resource Recovery and a regional FEMA grant proposal for SCBAs. The aging Resource Recovery front loader remains operational at this time.

Training

Training has been focused on wildland firefighting and EMT skills. Chief Krakauer and Asst. Chief are working with Marin County Battalion Chief Graham Groneman toward the goal of certifying several Bolinas and Stinson Beach firefighters with Red Cards, in case of requests for out-of-district assignments on wildland fires.

Volunteers

Chief Krakauer announced that one potential new volunteer has attended two trainings. Volunteer apparel, featuring artwork by Oliver Whitcroft, continues to sell well at the fire station and elsewhere in town. The volunteers are beginning to consider the possible return of Fire Safety Day or an alternate community event, depending on public health conditions.

Apparatus

Chief Krakauer shared that the utility vehicles have passed their smog tests. Firefighter Joe Walker and Asst. Chief Marcotte continue to work on replacing leaking valves, and are investigating a possible tank leak on the top of Engine 265. Engine 285 goes in for its annual service this week.

Disaster Council

Asst. Chief Marcotte shared that Disaster Council finished its second successful CERT class in Point Reyes. Ian Johnson is assisting with upgrading our emergency radio system.

Resource Recovery

Chief Krakauer shared that Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority and Bolinas Firefighters will be conducting defensible space evaluations later this summer, possibly beginning in late August, and will focus on the Big Mesa area. He hopes that residents will continue to clear defensible space and deposit their green waste at the Resource Recovery site or register a pile with the District's Chipper Day program.

Buildings and Grounds

Chief Krakauer is working with Petaluma Health Center to address some needed maintenance at the Bolinas Clinic. Firefighters will be working with Mesa Park to continue some defensible space work on park grounds.

General Operations/Administration

Chief Krakauer met with County health officials for an update on COVID protocols. Wearing masks indoors is still highly recommended, but at this time there are no new mandates, however, that may change with the Delta variant.

The District mailed over 1,100 newsletters to Bolinas residents. Chief Krakauer thanked Ken Masterson, Isaac Taylor, Vice Pres. Kimball, and others for their contributions. This is the first of several expected mailers. The mailer focused on evacuations, defensible space and home hardening.

Chief Krakauer, Pres. Molesworth, Vice Pres. Kimball, Ian Johnson and Isaac Taylor had a meeting with Verizon representatives regarding the cell tower lease currently held by Crown Castle, which is scheduled to expire in January 2022. No further update is available at this time.

California State Parks has upgraded an antenna and relocated it from the cell tower to the fire station roof.

Chief Krakauer and Isaac Taylor had a Zoom meeting with Marin LAFCo, informing them about our District in preparation for their upcoming municipal service review. Chief Krakauer is also in communication with Stinson Beach Fire Chief Jesse Peri regarding potential shared service arrangements.

Personnel

Chief Krakauer continues to hold one-on-one meetings with volunteers to check in and setup annual goals. There is one new applicant for the volunteer resident firefighter position, which Chief Krakauer hopes will help to augment our occasional short staffing.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion – Update on BCLT Use of Bolinas Fire Station Restrooms & Utilities

BCLT Project Manager Annie O’Connor was not able to attend as planned, but submitted notes for Chief Krakauer to deliver to the board. BCLT and Mesa Park are moving forward with the shared mobile office trailer project, currently in a discovery phase following BCLT board approval. A site visit with Jennifer Blackman and Chief Krakauer is being scheduled. Due to a shortage of County planners, the permitting process is expected to be delayed by approximately two months. BCLT still plans to update the District board on results of the discovery process in our August monthly meeting. Dir. Torrey and Vice Pres. Kimball stated that specific expectations and a provision for periodic status review meetings should be written into the eventual memorandum of understanding between the District, Mesa Park and BCLT.

Discussion – District Wildfire Preparedness and Response

Thomas Maiorana informed the District that the UC Davis group’s recent grant proposal for continued development of a Bolinas wildfire evacuation simulation was unsuccessful. The District is exploring the potential for further collaboration.

The District added an additional Chipper Day on August 7th, intended primarily for recipients of letters regarding defensible space on vacant lots. There will be a FIRESafe Marin Chipper Day during the week of August 30, and the District will also be offering Chipper Days on September 25th and October 23rd.

After surveying the Big Mesa, the District sent 128 letters to owners of vacant lots in need of legally-required defensible space clearing. The work will hopefully provide much needed defensible space to neighboring developed parcels. We have communicated with approximately 25 owners so far, and are offering site consultations about work needed. Several owners have initiated or completed clearing on their lots.

Annual mowing has been completed along Poplar Road, and the District plans to sponsor additional mowing along primary egress roads. The District has obtained CEQA Notices of Exemption through MWPA program manager Anne Crealock for both roadside mowing and Chipper Days. The District continues to consult with biologists to ensure prevention projects do not damage or disrupt critical habitat.

Chief Krakauer and Dir. Martinelli participated in a call regarding the anticipated rollout of Zonehaven evacuation platform to the public later this year. This resource, supported by MWPA core funds, will allow residents and first responders to access better and more timely information in the case of an evacuation order or warning.

The District continues to offer and sell NOAA Emergency Alert Weather Radios, and is offering MCSO “Evacuated” tags at the fire station, library, and post office.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

No update.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources Committee – No update.

Finance Committee – No update.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Vice Pres. Kimball commended Chief Krakauer, Asst. Chief Marcotte, Isaac Taylor, and the entire Bolinas Fire team for all their work on wildfire prevention initiatives, while continuing regular operations and emergency response.

ADJOURNMENT

MSC Dunne/Martinelli (unan.) to adjourn at 8:26 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.