



# Bolinas Fire Protection District

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December 19, 2005

The regular meeting of the Bolinas Fire Protection District was called to order at 7:30 PM by Pres. Sands. Vice Pres. Binley, Dir. Phillips, Dir. Aitken, Chief Brown, Kim Bender, David Bunnett, Lisa Bell, Don Smith and Bill Lyons were present. Dir. Currey was absent.

## **PUBLIC EXPRESSION**

None.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Capital Campaign Update**

Kim Bender began by announcing that Wulff, Hansen & Co. is busy selling bonds and soliciting investors for the Project. The proceeds from the sale of the Bonds will be held at the County of Marin where they will earn interest at a 3.75% rate which is higher than the rate at the US Trust Bank in New York. She reported that Sid, a new phone solicitor for the Capital Campaign, has successfully raised \$15,000 in two weeks. She reported that a new naming campaign will begin in the New Year.

Kim also reported that local contractors have been in touch with Oliver & Co.

### **Solar Update**

Don Smith gave a community solar update. Don presented the basic terms for the Solar Electricity Purchase Agreement and Lease Agreement between the District and Don Smith as a representative of the investors. The basic outline of the agreements states that the investors will buy the solar equipment with a potential State rebate paying for 40% of the costs, and pay for installation of the equipment on to the roof of the new building. The District will then pay the investors, not PG&E, for the electricity at the current PG&E rates. This rate will be frozen even if PG&E rates rise over time. Because the equipment is so expensive even with the State rebate, the District won't save much money at first, but over time as energy costs rise the District will save more and more money because they will be paying the lower frozen rate. The District would insure the solar equipment and be liable for property damage. Don urged the Board to sign the agreements before the year's end in order to submit them to the CA Energy Commission in time to qualify for rebates. He stated that the agreements involve no financial obligation from the District at this time. He also stated the Building Permit needs to be submitted to the County with the rebate reservation before the end of the year.

Lisa Bell encouraged the Board to consider the benefit and value to both the District and Community to use green energy.

Kim asked about a timeline for decisions and who is responsible for buying brackets and when. Don stated that the investors would be responsible for purchasing equipment except the brackets which would need to be placed during the original construction of the roof.

Vice. Pres. Binley applauded Don's efforts and asked if permits are needed from the County for both the Firehouse and Clinic solar equipment. A building permit would be necessary. Chief Brown expressed her concern about thoroughly understanding the agreements before signing them.

Dir. Phillips expressed her support of the solar project but suggested having a lawyer look at the agreements before signing them.

Dir. Aitken commended Don for his good work but expressed his discomfort with the documents and stated that he is against signing off on any of the agreements.

Pres. Sands asked what the risks are in signing the agreements.

Don replied that there is essentially no risk to the Department as both agreements require no financial obligation from the District and are between the Department and Don, not the California Energy Commission. Both agreements can be broken in the future without any financial loss to any party. Both signed agreements however, are required by the California Energy Commission before December 31, 2005 to qualify the District for State rebates making the purchase price of solar equipment lower.

Vice Pres. Binley suggested the Board make the following motion:

MSC, Binley/Phillips (Aitken opposed) to sign both the Solar Electricity Purchase Agreement and the California Energy Lease Agreement to allow Don Smith to reserve a State rebate the District is entitled to at a cost commitment of \$1 per year for the next 25 years.

### **Building and Grounds Report**

Chief Brown stated that ground breaking is tentatively scheduled for February 14<sup>th</sup>. She reported that a permit is needed to move the forty foot trailer here to be used as an office space and that a CHP officer needs to escort the move. These requirements are pushing the schedule back for the move to temporary facilities and demolition. Also, a site for the temporary utility pole needs to be located. She reported that the Committee has been busy with value engineering and have made close to \$550,000 worth of savings by determining item by item changes to the plans.

Vice Pres. Binley asked for an update on setting up a Vehicle Replacement Fund at the County.

Dist. Secretary Brown said she is in the process of setting one up and will keep the Board updated with her progress.

Dir. Aitken announced a motion is necessary for the District to fund the annual Volunteer Christmas dinner party.

MSC, Aitken/Binley (unan) for the District to fund the annual 2005 Volunteer Christmas Party.

Vice Pres. Binley asked if there is an ideal number of Volunteers needed for the District to function best.

Chief Brown stated that twenty are ideal. Presently, there are eighteen at the District but more mid-level Volunteers would be optimal.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

MSC, Binley/Aitken (unan) to approve of the Consent Calendar including the Warrant List, the Financial Report, the Minutes from November 28, 2005, the transfer of \$10,000 from Investment to Operating Accounts and Correspondence.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

#### **Communications**

The low band equipment is moved and operational.

#### **MERA**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup>. Chief Brown reported that the MERA lease agreement with the Martinellis is close to being signed. All power will be put underground. The site should be operational in June or July.

## **Volunteers**

The Volunteers wish to extend their gratitude for the Christmas Dinner on December 11<sup>th</sup>. They met for the last drill of the year on the 13<sup>th</sup> and spent their time stuffing envelopes for the annual raffle. The drawing is scheduled for January 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **Apparatus**

The charging system on U219 is faulty. Ian Johnson has decided to put in a battery cut-off switch similar to existing switches in the other engines. Some piece of faulty electronics is draining the battery. Dir. Aitken will take U231 for smog testing this week.

## **Disaster Council**

The Disaster Council held disaster training at the Department on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Disaster Coordinators David and Bobbi Kimball participated. Asst. Chief Marcotte simulated a large earthquake and enlisted residents to call in about every minute with an emergency. The drill was excellent and Asst. Chief Marcotte did an excellent job. Another drill is planned for the first quarter of the New Year.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

MSC, Aitken/Binley (unan) to approve renewal of Underwriting Contract with KWMR.

## **BOARD MEMBER REPORT**

None.

## **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

During this closed session, Board membership was discussed.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

MSC, Binley/Aitken (unan) to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Brown

District Secretary

NOTE: All minutes to all Board meetings are available for review at the Bolinas Library.