



Bolinas Fire Protection District

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www.bolinasfire.org

May 25, 2009

President Binley called the regular meeting of the Bolinas Fire Protection District to order at 7:30PM. Vice President Buchanan, Dir. Kimball, Dir. O'Donnell, Dir. Kilkenny and Chief Brown were present. Also present: Secretary Brown and Bill Lyons.

MSC, Kimball/Kilkenny (unan) to approve agenda.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MERA – Chief Brown reported that she attended the regular MERA Board meeting on May 20th. Included in the agenda were the adoptions of the operating budget, the Bond Debt Service budget and the New Financing budget. The BFPD 2009/2010 payments will total \$23, 796.00, which is a \$14.00 increase from payments made last fiscal year. Among other issues discussed was a letter written by the Stinson Beach Fire Board regarding lack of coverage in areas of Highway 1 and Panoramic Highway. The MERA board understood the concerns of Stinson Beach as well as other jurisdictions experiencing coverage issues. It was explained that all coverage issues would be addressed if and when there are funds available to do so. Most issues could be fixed but not without a great deal of staff time and financing.

Inspections –

311 Daffodil

Chief Brown reported that she inspected an undeveloped property on Alder along with deputies from the Marin County Sheriff's Office and two representatives from the County. She reported that the residence in the bushes had many fire dangers including electrical cords strung from trees and combustible debris. The issues will be addressed and followed up on by the Marin County Code Enforcement department.

Planning – 520 Aspen Road.

98 Brighton Ave. – Request to remodel and add to existing non-conforming buildings.

45 Wharf Road – Request to remodel.

Reviews continue for 56-58 Horseshoe Hill Road and 875 Horseshoe Hill Road.

Grants - Asst. Chief Marcotte has applied for the current Assistance to Firefighter's Grant offered by FEMA/DHS. An application for a new set of Hurst Tools (extrication) has been submitted. The District plans to apply for a grant from the National Park Service through Rural Fire Assistance. The District will ask for \$20,000 for equipment including wildand hoses, personal

protective gear and mobile radios that need to be replaced due to a change in frequencies being made by the state.

Training – Chief Brown reported that Tuesday night trainings will continue with structure hose evolutions moving into wildland fire training as the season demands. Someone donated an old vehicle to the department for the purposes of training. Chief Brown reported that Asst. Chief Marcotte plans on using it to train volunteers with Hurst (extrication) tools. She invited the Board to attend the training that will take place on a Saturday morning in the near future.

Volunteers – No update.

Apparatus – The Engine Committee continues to meet. The potential loss of revenues t the state may affect the District’s ability to purchase the new engine as planned.

Disaster Council – Chief Brown reported that she has been asked by Marin County OES to participate in an educational video about Tsunamis and disaster preparedness. This will take place on the following Friday.

Building and Grounds – Chief Brown reported that Lea Earnhardt of Native Landscapes offered to weed and chip around the station at a reduced cost. The budget covered the cost of the day of maintenance needed to the landscaping. Lea offered to weed and chip twice per year at a reduced rate to maintain the original native landscaping at the station.

General Operations/Administration – Chief Brown reported that she received a draft copy of the audited financials for FYE 07/08. She is currently working with Vanessa Marcotte and her sister Amanda Pal to review the financials and have a final draft copy ready for the regular meeting in June for adoption.

Chief Brown discussed the potential impact on the District should the Governor move ahead with the proposal of suspending Proposition 1A to help balance the state budget. The state would “borrow” 8% of the fire district’s tax revenues for 3 years. This could mean a loss of anywhere from \$38,000 to \$74,000 for the fire district. The state would be liable to repay the money to the District with interest but on an unknown schedule. Chief Brown has written a letter to the Governor, along with other special district’s in Marin, stating the devastating impact this proposed tax shift would have on the fire district and asking that he exempt fire district’s. Chief Brown will update the Board as information becomes available.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion: Meeting Room Insurance Policy – No update.
2. Discussion: Planning and financing of engineered solution for the Surfer’s Overlook portion of Terrace Avenue. No update.
3. **Action Item #1:** Verizon Wireless request to modify communications tower. Proposal to remove omni antennas and lines and replace them with nine panel antennas and twelve lines.

Chief Brown led the discussion with a report received from Verizon completed by Hammett & Edison consulting engineers regarding exposure standards of the existing towers at the station. The study concluded that the Verizon Wireless base station located at the fire station “complies with the prevailing standards for limiting public exposure to radio frequency energy and, therefore, will not for this reason cause a significant impact on the environment.” The conclusion did not include actual numbers to compare to the original studies on the tower. Director Kilkenny asked what the exact figures were from the original installation. Pres. Binley stated that he was involved with the original study done four years ago and remembered that the tower emissions are 7% of the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) standard requirements and limits. Pres. Binley reminded everyone that the District promised the Bolinas community that they would not approve of increasing EMF levels at any point in the future. The Board concluded that the report is missing data about the exact levels of EMFs emitted by the new proposed configuration as compared with the present one. Chief Brown agreed to ask Verizon for exact figures regarding the difference in EMFs emitted from the new configuration compared with the existing configuration. If a Special Meeting is required, Chief Brown agreed to ask for representatives from Verizon to attend either in person or via speakerphone.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MSC, Buchanan/O’Donnell (unan) to approve the Consent Calendar including the Minutes from the April 27, 2009 regular meeting, the warrant lists from April 21- May 12, 2009, and the financial reports for March 2009 with minor changes made to the minutes by Dir. Kimball. Chief Brown reported while looking at the financial report that the District will end the fiscal year with \$13,000 under the annual budget. Discussion ensued regarding using the funds for engine replacement.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chief Brown reported that she plans on asking for a Finance Committee meeting, Pres. Binley and Dir. Kimball, to meet to begin to draft the 09/10 budget. Chief Brown reported that the Building and Grounds Committee received a proposal from the architect to build the shed over the generator. Pres. Binley urged that the shed be completed as he noticed that the generator is beginning to rust. Chief Brown agreed.

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Dir. O’Donnell suggested that the Board go to County Dispatch or have Janell Myhre of the Marin County Office of Emergency Services come visit the Board to explain and educate them about the 911 emergency call and response system. Chief Brown explained how the system works in general from the point of call to the Woodacre dispatch station to pagers. Chief Brown stated that should anyone wish to visit the communications center at the Civic Center they would just need to let her know and she could set an appointment. Pres. Binley expressed enthusiasm about the prospect of visiting the dispatch operations.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

The Board went into closed session at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENT

MSC, Buchanan/Kimball (unan) to appoint Phillip Wall to the Duty Officer position under the conditions that are amenable to the Fire Chief:

The position during the month of June will be considered a training period of part time hours and no benefits offered.

As of July 1st, the position will become full time with health and dental benefits and will require enrollment in CalPers.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chief Brown announced that there will be a farewell party for Capt. Matthew Phillips on June 27th at the station. She said that FF Megan Gould will be leading the party preparations.

Dir. O'Donnell asked how much money was made from the pancake breakfast. Chief Brown reported that the Volunteers grossed \$2,400 before costs.

ADJOURNMENT

MSC, Kilkenny/Buchanan (unan) to adjourn the meeting at 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Brown
District Secretary

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