

Minutes from the October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Bolinas Fire Protection District Board Meeting, Via Zoom.

Pres. Molesworth called the meeting of the Bolinas Fire Protection District to order at 7:01 P.M. Vice Pres. Torrey, Dir. Pierce, Dir. Dunne and Dir. Martinelli were present. Also present: Chief Krakauer and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor.

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to approve the Agenda. Seeing no objections, the Agenda is approved.

**PUBLIC EXPRESSION**

None.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

**MERA**

Chief Krakauer attended the MERA meeting on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Member agencies approved a new Gen 2 radio site work bid package, as well as a memorandum of understanding to allow use of Gen 1 MERA channels by external agencies such as ATF and CHP, when mutual aid is requested.

**Chiefs**

Chief Krakauer was unable to attend the October Chiefs meeting, but understands there was a demonstration of a new regional medical and multipurpose helicopter, "Sonoma 1." Director Martinelli shared that this helicopter is likely to begin responding to medical calls in the Bolinas-Stinson area.

**MWPA**

On Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, Chief Krakauer attended an MWPA hearing on the core project proposal for roadside evacuation route fuel reduction work in West Marin. Pres. Molesworth noted that she and Chief Krakauer each submitted public comment in support of the proposal, along with representatives of other agencies, prior to the hearing. The permit for this core project was approved, which is encouraging news for fire prevention work in our local area. The project includes only the county-maintained roads, and would allow for safer evacuation under fire conditions while ensuring emergency units from outside Bolinas can safely respond.

**Prevention**

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

**Roads**

Chief Krakauer has obtained clarification on road clearance guidelines for PG&E transmission lines, a question raised last month by Director Pierce. These guidelines depend on several factors, including fire risk maps issued by Cal Fire and the CPUC. In the case of Mesa Road, trees that are dead, dying or diseased from within 4 feet of high-voltage lines will be targeted for removal, and healthy trees must be maintained to allow for 12 feet of clearance from lines on all sides.

**Inspections**

No update.

## **Planning**

No update.

## **Grants**

Chief Krakauer attended a Zoom meeting with agency representatives from the five agencies awarded funds for new SCBAs by the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant program. Lead agency Stinson Beach FPD has formally accepted the award, and member agencies discussed next steps, including reviewing quantities and quotes obtained from two SCBA equipment vendors.

We continue to await a decision on a second FEMA micro-grant proposal for new firefighter turnouts.

## **Training**

Training has been focused on EMT skills. We devoted one drill to stuffing envelopes for the Volunteers Association annual raffle, and have also had two weeks of structural firefighting training. Firefighter Emily Easom plans to attend a “train-the-trainer” CPR course next week. Once she completes the course, both she and Asst. Chief Marcotte will be able to conduct CPR trainings for volunteers and the community.

## **Volunteers**

Chief Krakauer thanked everyone who attended and helped with the recent Fire Safety Day. Following a two-year delay due to COVID, the event was a huge success and well-attended. Volunteer apparel was a popular item for sale, and the District distributed NOAA radios and coordinated fire extinguisher sales and service by Fire King.

The annual Volunteer raffle is in full swing, and the drawing will be December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Krakauer is exploring a Volunteers appreciation dinner, the first of its kind in two years due to COVID-19.

Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor attended Fire Safety Day and a firefighter training, and was voted in as the newest member of the Bolinas Volunteer Firefighters Association.

## **Apparatus**

Engine 285 is back from Hi-Tech and is in service.

Engine 283 is currently out-of-service following an electrical mishap during routine generator maintenance. We hope to have the engine back in service soon, after replacing a shorted-out battery disconnect component. In the meantime, wildland Engine 265 has been reconfigured with structural hose lines, and was recently used in structural firefighting training.

## **Disaster Council**

Asst. Chief Marcotte was out of town for a few days, but Chief Krakauer reported that he has been working on relocating a disaster radio from its current location at Commonweal to one of the new MERA radio sites, to improve radio coverage for the Disaster Council. Marcotte plans to bring his proposal to the MERA board in the near future. It may entail a small fee for both Stinson Beach FPD and BFPD, for a significant improvement in disaster communications.

The demonstration of LRAD sirens by Genasys has been rescheduled for November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am. As previously planned, the District will be working with Disaster Council members to evaluate the system's utility.

### **Resource Recovery**

No update.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

No update.

### **General Operations/Administration**

AT&T's cellular site ground lease has been renewed for a final five-year extension by the current lease assignee, Peppertree Capital d/b/a Octagon Towers LLC/Sooner Towers LLC, with an amendment specifying the expected increase to monthly rent. Chief Krakauer thanked Isaac Taylor, Pres. Molesworth, and Ian Johnson for their work on this latest extension. The lease fully expires in 2027, when the tower will be 30 years old, so we anticipate more comprehensive negotiations at that time.

Chief Krakauer and Admin. Mgr. Isaac Taylor have a tentative engagement with auditors at Nigro & Nigro PC on November 7<sup>th</sup>, depending on the status of Isaac's jury duty summons.

Isaac Taylor shared that the District's AT&T contract for broadband internet and telephone service has been renewed, with a request by Ian Johnson to upgrade a switch from a copper switch to a SIP digital switch. The new equipment is expected to permit more simultaneous telephone calls and additional lines. We hope to install this equipment prior to a system transfer tentatively scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Personnel**

Volunteer firefighter Pawel Kruk, who has earned certifications as an EMT and apparatus driver, worked his first paid firefighter shift this week. He has been signing up for nighttime standby driver duty for a few months, and helped fill in regular duty while firefighter Easom was away for an event. Chief Krakauer commended firefighter Kruk.

Another new firefighter, Boone Vale of Bodega, also worked his first daytime shifts. Chief Krakauer is thankful for the addition of part-time paid firefighters, which helps the department when primary staff need to be away. Capt. Pete Smith remains out while recovering from shoulder surgery. His return date is still uncertain, but he is doing well.

Chief Krakauer is working on his self-evaluation, part of his annual evaluation being coordinated this year by the HR Advisory Committee. The three hope to meet sometime in November.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Action Item #1 – Approve Amendment to District Conflict of Interest Code**

Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor explained that this item emerged from a notice to local agencies received from the Deputy Clerk of the Marin County Board of Supervisors earlier this year. The notice reminded agencies to review their Conflict of Interest Code, required under the State Political Reform Act, every two years for any changes necessitating an amendment. For Bolinas Fire Protection District, the proposed

amendment would add the Administrative Manager to its list of Designated Positions, those whom are “deemed to make, or participate in the making of, decisions which may foreseeably have a material effect on a financial interest.” Along with the Fire Chief and Directors, the Administrative Manager will submit Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests to the California Fair Political Practices Commission annually.

**Discussion Item #1 – First Reading of Ordinance No. 18-2022 “An Ordinance of the Bolinas Fire Protection District Adopting and Modifying the 2022 California Fire Code and Appendix A of the 2021 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code with Amendments Supported by Local Findings, Prescribing Regulations Governing Conditions Hazardous to Life and Property from Fire or Explosion; Providing for the Issuance of Permits for Hazardous Uses or Operations; and Defining the Powers and Duties of the Bolinas Fire Protection District and its Officers.”**

Pres. Molesworth read the title of Ordinance No. 18-2022 aloud. Chief Krakauer explained that the State of California adopts a new California Fire Code every three years. The California Building Standards Commission recently issued the 2022 California Fire Code, which is based on the 2021 International Fire Code.

Local jurisdictions are required to enforce the California Fire Code, but may enact more restrictive building standards than those set in the California Fire Code where those more restrictive standards are reasonably necessary due to local conditions caused by climate, geology, or topography. The Board of Directors must make express findings regarding the local conditions to support the adoption of more restrictive building standards, but the Bolinas Fire Protection District generally follows the findings and amendments of the Marin County Fire Department. Marin County Fire Marshal Scott Alber has been working with Fire Prevention Officers from every local agency to prepare this year’s amendments. The Bolinas FPD has only made changes to language regarding climate, topography & geography, population, vegetation and roads. Bolinas Ordinance No. 18-2022, along with a complete copy of the 2022 California Fire Code are available for public review at the Bolinas fire station, and members of the public may submit any questions, comments, or concerns either in writing or at the November meeting of the Bolinas FPD Board of Directors.

Local amendments to building standards are not effective for at least 30 days after local adoption, and until the required findings are adopted by the Marin County Board of Supervisors and sent to the California Building Standards Commission. The 2022 code adoption process will be complete and in effect on January 1, 2023.

Chief Krakauer and Administrative Manager clarified to Pres. Molesworth and Vice Pres. Torrey that the District adopts the California Fire Code in whole, with certain amendments specific to local findings in Marin County and within the Bolinas Fire Protection District. They added that the findings and amendments contained in the District’s ordinance have been reviewed by the Marin County Counsel’s Office.

Chief Krakauer and Dir. Martinelli shared examples of amendments to the 2022 California Fire Code added by Marin County Fire, such as permit requirements for the installation of exterior wildfire protection systems and backup generators.

Pres. Molesworth asked what the District will be required to publish in the Bolinas Hearsay News. Isaac Taylor explained that a summary of the ordinance would be published, outlining its sections, and advising the public of the expected date of adoption

(Wednesday, November 16) and the availability of the ordinance and code for review and comment.

## **Discussion Item #2 – District Wildfire Preparedness and Response**

Chief Krakauer reported that the final MWPA Chipper Day event in Bolinas would be happening over the week of November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Krakauer met with MWPA staff and representatives of member agencies regarding the West Marin evacuation route roadside maintenance project. At this time, there has been no appeal of the permit from the state, but we remain on standby as we await guidance on next steps from MWPA, who are considering contractors and finalizing plans and permits.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

AYES: Molesworth, Torrey, Martinelli, Dunne, Pierce.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

## **BOARD MEMBER REPORT**

Pres. Molesworth attended the monthly MWPA Board Meeting, where the Board received a presentation from the Marin Biomass Group, discussing environmentally responsible options for biomass resulting from prevention fuel reduction prevention projects. The Board also received updates on the West Marin roadside maintenance project, which is now permitted.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Human Resources Advisory Committee – Vice Pres. Torrey reported that the committee is continuing work on Chief Krakauer’s annual evaluation.

Finance Advisory Committee – No update.

Operations Working Group – No update.

## **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

None.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Pres. Molesworth commended the Bolinas Volunteer Firefighters for all their work on the 2022 Fire Safety Day.

Vice Pres. Torrey clarified that monthly Board meeting would change to the second Wednesday of the month in November and December 2022.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor  
Administrative Manager

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