

Minutes from the August 24<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. Dir. Dunne, Dir. Pierce, and Dir. Martinelli were present. Also present: Chief Krakauer, Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor, and Stinson Beach Fire Chief Jesse Peri. Vice Pres. Torrey was absent.

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to amend the Agenda to move item 5a to the beginning of the meeting. Seeing no objections, the Agenda is approved.

**PUBLIC EXPRESSION**

None.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

**MERA**

Chief Krakauer attended the MERA meeting on Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, and reported no major updates.

**Chiefs**

Chief Krakauer attended the monthly Chiefs Meeting on Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, and reported no major updates.

**MWPA**

On Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, Chief Krakauer attended an MWPA hearing on the core project proposal for evacuation route roadside clearing 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.

**Prevention**

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

**Roads**

No update.

**Inspections**

Chief Krakauer conducted four life and safety inspections on BCLT rental properties. The department conducts these inspections annually for all businesses.

**Planning**

Several local permit requests have been forwarded to Fire Marshal Scott Alber at the Marin County Fire Department. We have seen a number of Tesla roofs being installed.

**Grants**

No update.

**Training**

Chief Krakauer and Isaac Taylor attended a CSDA preconference workshop on special district finance on Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> in Palm Desert, CA. They made some good professional connections, and learned about topics including reducing CalPERS unfunded

accrued liability, strategies for bond refinancing, new grant opportunities, and financing options for capital projects. They intend to present this information at the next meeting of the Finance Advisory Committee.

### **Volunteers**

The Department lost two volunteers who can no longer make the commitment, but also gained one new volunteer, Annabelle Scott, who is eager to learn. The volunteers had an Association meeting to discuss fundraising goals and strategy. Meg Gould is starting work on the annual volunteer raffle. Tickets are expected to be available starting sometime in September.

The volunteers are planning to hold the annual Fire Safety Day this year in late October.

### **Apparatus**

The District's procurement of a UTV with Measure C local funds is delayed, as all 2022 models are currently sold out.

### **Disaster Council**

No update.

### **Resource Recovery**

No update.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

No update.

### **General Operations/Administration**

Call volume has been relatively high, and training continues with new firefighter Emily Easom.

All three board positions up for election this year have successfully filed with the County of Marin for the November election. No other candidates filed.

### **Personnel**

Chief Krakauer conducted an annual performance evaluation with firefighter Aaron Pendergraft, and plans to conduct an evaluation of Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor next week.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Discussion Item #1 – Emergency Warning Systems for Bolinas with Judith Shaw**

Pres. Molesworth welcomed Judith Shaw and thanked her for presenting on the topic of LRAD (long-range acoustic device) voice emergency warning systems available from Genasys, Inc.

Chief Krakauer thanked Ms. Shaw for her dedication and passion for the issue of emergency alerting in Bolinas, and for bringing this subject back to the attention of the board of directors. Chief Krakauer stated that he has been thoroughly investigating the topic, and noted that the technology of audible alerting has changed significantly since the District last considered installation of a mechanical siren, and the deployment of LRAD-based systems for fire emergencies has only emerged locally in the last two years. Chief Krakauer has spoken with representatives of several other fire agencies in Marin

County who are evaluating this technology, and attended a sound test in Kentfield in 2020. Chief Krakauer noted that sirens are one of several emergency alert systems, including mobile notification systems like AlertMarin and Nixle, NOAA Emergency Alert radios, and social media. Chief Krakauer noted the high cost of LRAD-based systems, including initial costs for land leasing and infrastructure, ongoing maintenance costs, and replacement costs at the estimated 20-year lifespan. He shared that he is aware of potential grant opportunities, but stressed that the District is pursuing an integrated approach that works most comprehensively across the District and in coordination with the rest of the County including the Office of Emergency Services..

Pres. Molesworth thanked Chief Krakauer for his report, and asked Dir. Martinelli to share comments based on his experiences with emergency alerting systems. Dir. Martinelli noted that no alert system reaches 100% of people, but that layered systems will reach the most people. Dir. Dunne asked Dir. Martinelli what advantages LRAD may have over other systems. Dir. Martinelli responded that LRAD systems could reach people who do not have access to other alerting systems such as mobile phones or NOAA radios, however, he also noted that door-to-door notification may still be necessary to reach people with impaired hearing, limited mobility, or other issues.

Pres. Molesworth raised the possibility of forming an ad hoc committee of the board to evaluate the utility of these newer alerting systems, and then asked Chief Krakauer if the system installed in Mill Valley in 2019 is comparable to what Genasys, Inc. is now offering. Chief Krakauer responded that both Mill Valley and Berkeley have chosen to upgrade their alert systems by installing LRAD systems in some wildland-urban interface areas with a high fire hazard. Pres. Molesworth asked about the demonstration Chief Krakauer attended two years ago, and whether Kentfield Fire Protection District decided to adopt the system. Chief Krakauer responded that they did not, and that he is reaching out to the Kentfield Fire Chief to get further perspective on their decision-making process. Chief Krakauer noted that he personally did not find the device to be clearly audible at that demonstration. However, Genasys claims their system is clear and superior to traditional mechanical sirens, and that several sites (upwards of 8) would be needed to create full coverage in our fire district. At a cost of approximately \$100,000 per fixed site, plus the cost of leases and infrastructure, initial costs for this model would be substantial. Alternatively, Chief Krakauer is also investigating a portable unit, which could be deployed quickly to a specific area under threat. Pres. Molesworth stressed the need for the District to evaluate alerting systems together, to ensure that different systems work in a coordinated fashion. Chief Krakauer stated that, due to the necessity of coordinating emergency alerting systems with our neighbor, he is also in communication with Chief Peri of the Stinson Beach Fire Protection District. Chief Krakauer noted that, while Mill Valley and the Southern Marin Fire Protection District are moving forward with this type of system, other fire districts are not, and it is important for Bolinas to make an informed decision in the best interest of our community. Chief Krakauer noted that he and Chief Peri would be having another conversation with Chris from Genasys, and that he would update Judith and the board following that conversation.

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

The District hosted three Chipper Day events since the last board meeting. All went well, with a few minor scheduling and registration problems which were resolved. Two more Chipper Days are scheduled for September; however, they are already filled. One more Chipper Day event is scheduled for the last week of August through the MWPA, and residents can register online for that event.

The District still has NOAA Emergency Alert weather radios, wildfire preparedness mailers, and evacuation tags available at the fire station.

Dir. Dunne asked whether residents have reported issues with the NOAA weather radios, and how the District can offer technical support. Chief Krakauer responded that there have been some reported issues, and that Isaac Taylor has been assisting residents with those issues. Dir. Dunne suggested that the District issue messages to address common issues with the radios, and Dir. Pierce suggested that this information be made available at Fire Safety Day. Pres. Molesworth added that these ‘tips’ should be part of ongoing District communications. Chief Krakauer remarked that, while Bolinas has put effort into distributing and promoting NOAA radios, similar efforts have been lacking at the County level. Dir. Martinelli shared that the Marin County Office of Emergency Services is currently in a state of transition, and hopes that the addition of a Public Information Officer will help with this level of public education. Pres. Molesworth suggested that Bolinas could serve as a useful example of a community attempting to employ this technology for wildfire preparedness.

Chief Krakauer noted that there will be NOAA radios available at Fire Safety Day.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

AYES: Molesworth, Pierce, Dunne, Martinelli.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Torrey.

### **BOARD MEMBER REPORT**

No updates.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Human Resources Advisory Committee – No update.

Finance Advisory Committee – No update.

Operations Working Group – No update.

### **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

None.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor  
Administrative Manager

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