

Minutes from the December 15th, 2021, Bolinas Fire Protection District Board Meeting,
Via Zoom.

Pres. Molesworth called the meeting of the Bolinas Fire Protection District to order at 7:05 P.M. Vice Pres. Kimball, Dir. Torrey, Dir. Martinelli, and Dir. Dunne were present. Also present: Chief Krakauer, Asst. Chief Marcotte, IT consultant Ian Johnson and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor.

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

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

None.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MEMA

No update.

Chiefs

Chief Krakauer will attend the monthly Chiefs meeting Thursday, December 16th.

Prevention

Chief Krakauer attended a meeting of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority Operations Committee on Wednesday, December 15th, where the committee discussed a plan to develop operational support staff for the new JPA, and a new online portal for submitting local and core project proposals. Vice Pres. Kimball asked if there were any updates regarding permits from the California Coastal Commission for prevention-related projects. Chief Krakauer stated that this has been identified as a potential speed bump to certain projects within the coastal zone, however there has been no update at this time.

Roads

Chief Krakauer reported that the top of Altura Ave. has been blocked to vehicles, due to a recent significant landslide.

Inspections

No update.

Grants

Isaac Taylor and Chief Krakauer will be submitting a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters micro-grant proposal for new firefighter turnout pants and jackets.

Training

On Tuesday, November 30th, Asst. Chief Marcotte led a successful live-fire training in our extensively-upgraded shipping container. This demonstration was attended by firefighters from Stinson Beach. Asst. Chief Marcotte is also constructing a roof prop addition, to train firefighters in ventilation tactics. Chief Krakauer thanked Asst. Chief Marcotte for his work on this project, and the District for purchasing the container. The final weekly training of this year was held on Tuesday, December 7th, where the volunteers drew raffle winners and elected officers. Weekly trainings will resume in the new year after our usual break for the holidays.

Volunteers

Fire King Fire Protection has been requested to service fire extinguishers on our abbreviated Fire Safety Day on January 15th. Vickisa will be making street and house signs at her free sign clinic, and we will be selling NOAA radios, volunteer apparel, and distributing fire safety information.

Chief Krakauer thanked the community for their support of our annual volunteer raffle. The volunteers raised approximately \$15,000, which is approximately the same as raised last year and represents a two-fold increase from 2 years ago. Chief Krakauer thanked Meg Gould for her great work on the raffle. Due to COVID, the District was once again unable to put on a holiday dinner for the volunteers, so instead provided \$75 gift certificates from the Coast Café to each volunteer. Chief Krakauer thanked Coast Café for their continued support. Roseanne and the Coast Café are always showing up on emergencies with food and coffee for the firefighters.

The volunteers plan to update their bylaws in the new year, and explore new fundraising ideas.

Apparatus

Engine 265 is currently in Oakdale for its manufacturer service and inspection. During the rain last weekend, firefighters changed the oil in all District vehicles.

Disaster Council

No update.

Resource Recovery

Another potential replacement loader will be delivered to the Resource Recovery site next week for a trial rental period. Hopefully, this machine will fit the needs of the site better, and can be purchased after one month with previously-approved MWPA grant funds.

Buildings and Grounds

Chief Krakauer made contact with a facilities manager for Petaluma Health Center, who plans to address needed maintenance items on the clinic building.

General Operations/Administration

More wet weather is on the way. The last storm produced 3.5 inches, as recorded at the fire house. Chief Krakauer heard from Verizon representatives that they expect to provide draft cellular site rental agreement language to the District before the holidays. Isaac Taylor continues to work with CalPERS on a contract amendment process to allow his enrollment as a Miscellaneous employee.

Personnel

Chief Krakauer welcomed back firefighter Joe Walker, who has resumed his weekly shift every Sunday night.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Action Item #1 – Review and Approve Night Driver Stipend Program

MSC Dunne/Martinelli (unan.) to approve the Night Driver Stipend Program.

Chief Krakauer explained that the department historically has had one paid officer on duty 24 hours per day in addition to the volunteers, 7 days per week. More recently, the District has increased staffing to two officers during daytime hours, enabling much greater response capacity. However, from the hours of 5pm to 8am, the department still has only one paid officer on duty. The intention of this new, voluntary program is to incentivize additional coverage overnight, to help ensure that a fire engine (which requires a second firefighter) can respond whenever needed. In addition to increasing response capacity, this program will help train prospective duty officers from within the volunteers.

Dir. Torrey spoke for the Human Resources Advisory Committee, and expressed full support for the initiative. She noted that this program would offer the community greater assurance of appropriate fire department response. Pres. Molesworth also spoke on behalf of the Finance Advisory Committee, and noted that ensuring a rapid engine response to just a single emergency call could easily justify the program's modest cost.

Action Item #2 – Approve Resolution 195-2021, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BOLINAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY PERSISTS, RE-RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA ON MARCH 4, 2020, AND RE-AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF BOLINAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOR THE PERIOD OF DECEMBER 18TH, 2021 TO JANUARY 17TH, 2021, PURSUANT TO BROWN ACT PROVISIONS.

MSC Torrey/Kimball (unan.) to approve Resolution 195-2021.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Vice Pres. Kimball attended last month's MWPA Board meeting on Thursday, November 18th. While acknowledging some challenges in the first year of this new Joint Powers Authority, Kimball gave his strong support for the MWPA as a model for building upon the culture of mutual aid in the fire service. Kimball also noted the need for leadership in the MWPA from all participating agencies, even smaller agencies like those in West Marin. He encouraged the Bolinas Fire Protection District to continue investing leadership in the MWPA going forward.

Finally, Kimball shared that tonight will be his last board meeting as a Director of the Bolinas Fire Protection District. He shared his gratitude for every board member's efforts supporting the transition in leadership from former Chief Anita Tyrell-Brown.

Pres. Molesworth thanked Vice Pres. Kimball for his many years of service to the District, highlighting many significant contributions. These include steering the District toward a much more sustainable financial model, growing the District's reserve fund, responding with skill and sensitivity to community concerns, managing the transition in department leadership, developing and sustaining community partnerships, and most recently representing the District and West Marin in an exemplary way as a member of the MWPA Board of Directors. Molesworth also personally thanked Kimball for his mentorship and collegiality.

Dir. Torrey commended Vice Pres. Kimball for his constant positive attitude, and thanked him for his service. Dir. Martinelli thanked Kimball for his leadership in the District and the wider community. Dir. Dunne thanked Kimball for his consistently good questions. Isaac Taylor thanked Kimball for his high standard of public service. Ian Johnson thanked Kimball for two decades of consistent, dedicated service. Vice Pres. Kimball shared his gratitude for the foundation laid by former Chief Anita Tyrell-Brown, and for the Bolinas volunteers, who inspired his service through ups and downs. Chief Krakauer thanked Kimball for his commitment to seeing the department through its recent transition and for mentoring him personally.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources Advisory Committee – Dir. Torrey reported that the committee discussed potential staff salary increases, professional development goals for the chief and staff, and a wholistic staffing needs assessment. Vice Pres. Kimball added that the committee also reviewed the Night Driver Stipend Program. He also noted the importance of reevaluating paid department staffing, as we track a gradual decrease in volunteer firefighters becoming officers.

Finance Advisory Committee – Pres. Molesworth reported that the committee reviewed the Night Driver Stipend Program, mid-year budget progress, potential staff pay increases, status of cellular lease agreement negotiations, and potential additional contributions to the District’s CalPERS unfunded accrued liability.

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 8:05 P.M.

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.