

Minutes from the January 8th, 2026, Bolinas Fire Protection District Special Board Meeting at the Bolinas Fire Station.

Pres. Molesworth called the meeting of the Bolinas Fire Protection District to order at 7:00 P.M. Vice Pres. Torrey, Dir. Pierce, Dir. Dunne, and Dir. Martinelli were present. Also present: Chief George Krakauer, Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor, and IT volunteer Ian Johnson.

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to approve the Agenda, with an amendment to move item 9 to the beginning of the meeting. Seeing no objections, the amended Agenda was approved.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

None.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MERA/Chiefs

Chief Krakauer attended the annual West Marin TOT tax meeting at Woodacre in early December. Chiefs went over the respective tax distribution amounts and how each agency is using funds. Attendees were formally introduced to Marin County Fire Department Interim Fire Chief Mike Marcucci.

MWPA

Chief Krakauer reported attending several MWPA meetings to discuss the status of various ongoing projects.

Prevention

Chief Krakauer reported inspecting some potentially hazardous trees with an arborist.

Roads

Chief Krakauer reported meeting with Belle and Georgia from BCPUD, a PG&E vegetation management specialist and Marin County DPW civil engineer last month to inspect roadside trees along Mesa Road and Olema-Bolinas Road. The group discussed PG&E's trimming and removal plans and reviewed our latest arbor report for hazardous roadside trees. Chief Krakauer will be meeting with Marin Wildfire, BCPUD and PG&E representatives on the January 14th to explore collaborating on the permitting process.

Chief Krakauer reported minor flooding and debris on Highway 1 between Bolinas and Stinson Beach last week due to a combination of south winds, king tides, excessive rainfall and large swells. However, Chief Krakauer noted that the recent Bolinas Wye improvements resulted in far less flooding and much better drainage than in previous years.

Chief Krakauer reported a large mudslide on the Little Mesa, taking out the lower half of Cliff Rd. Debris flows caused damage to a structure at 65 Brighton. Chief Krakauer has been communicating with residents and coordinating with Marin County civil engineers to protect the slide area while residents work to begin repairs. For now, conditions require two-way traffic on Altura Avenue in order to access the Little Mesa. Residents plan to install temporary traffic signals at the top and bottom of the road, and limit use by heavy vehicles due to additional cracking on Altura Avenue.

Chief Krakauer reported that Don Murch completed spreading material received from the recent County road project on Panoramic Highway on several key emergency access roads which are not County-maintained. Chief Krakauer plans to meet with BCPUD again next week to discuss road maintenance and repair efforts and priorities going into next year.

Inspections

Chief Krakauer reported that inspections were completed at the Bolinas School and Bolinas Museum.

Planning

Chief Krakauer reported looking at a driveway design for a planned substantial remodel at a property on Olema-Bolinas Road, to ensure adequate emergency access.

Chief Krakauer is also awaiting a final walkthrough inspection with Marin County Fire Department at a new horse barn and cottage on Horseshoe Hill Road.

Grants

No update.

Training

Chief Krakauer reported that last night was the first regular training since the annual holiday break, and focused on SCBAs.

Volunteers

Chief Krakauer reported that the 2025 annual Volunteer Raffle was a big success, and all raffle winners have been notified to pick up their prizes at the fire station.

Apparatus

Chief Krakauer reported that Engine 285 is back from the shop after its annual service and a repair to a faulty throttle sensor.

Chief Krakauer reported that the ad hoc Engine Replacement Committee is awaiting new schematics and updated pricing on its latest engine buildout. Build time is estimated at two years. Chief Krakauer will reach out to the Finance Advisory Committee and full board prior to signing a contract, hopefully within the next few months. Pres. Molesworth asked for a full presentation on the new engine when it comes before the board.

Disaster Council

No update.

Resource Recovery

Chief Krakauer reported that site conditions are relatively good after the recent rains, with no anticipated closures. Chief Krakauer will be discussing site operations with BCPUD next Monday.

Buildings and Grounds

Chief Krakauer reported that the fire station lost several roof tiles during recent storms, which were quickly repaired.

After internal review, Chief Krakauer reported that the department is no longer interested in pursuing a possible grant opportunity for a battery backup system.

General Operations/Administration

Chief Krakauer reported over 8 inches of rain since December 16th, and 14 weather-related emergency calls.

Chief Krakauer reported on a countywide communications outage that temporarily disabled the 911 Emergency system on January 4th, which is being investigated by Marin County Fire Department.

Chief Krakauer reported meeting with Octagon Towers, LLC to request a simplified summary of their 20-page EME-RF report, which will be discussed in item 5a.

Chief Krakauer reported that District staff will attend a planned evacuation drill at the Bolinas School on January 14th.

Chief Krakauer reported that the District has fully transitioned to a new emergency call reporting system, which is fully compatible with the new national standard. Chief Krakauer thanked Asst. Chief Marcotte for his help with the new software and training for staff.

Isaac Taylor reported that he is expecting the final audit report soon for fiscal year 2024-25.

Personnel

Chief Krakauer reported that recruitment for a new Firefighter-Engineer Duty Officer has been suspended, and all applicants have been notified. The District will continue with its current staffing model for the moment, following a meeting with the HR Advisory Committee to discuss staffing plans.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion Item #1 – Cellular Site Radio Frequency-Electromagnetic Energy Compliance Report

Isaac Taylor explained that Octagon Towers, LLC prepared an RF-EME report based on actual readings of emissions from all equipment located on District property, as well as a detailed simulation of projected emissions with the inclusion of proposed additional equipment for T-Mobile. The report includes very technical details of the findings, and we subsequently met with engineers to request a summary of these findings. The bottom line of the findings, according to Ian Johnson, is that the additional equipment will result in a very small change in overall emissions, which remain well under FCC limits for public and occupational exposure. Because the additional equipment would be added to the top of an existing monopole, the majority of its emissions would radiate outward, with little change to potential human absorption at ground-level.

Dir. Dunne asked whether the report's results were trustworthy. Isaac Taylor responded that staff met repeatedly with the report's lead engineer, who answered multiple questions in great detail. Vice Pres. Torrey asked why the new equipment needed to be 20 feet higher. Ian Johnson responded that the antennas themselves would be 12 to 14 vertical feet, requiring the height for separation.

Pres. Molesworth noted the importance of forming an ad hoc committee to study the tower design and lease details. She also noted the potential public safety benefit of additional cellular connectivity within the District by adding another carrier.

Isaac Taylor shared that staff are discussing the possibility of adding a beacon light to the top of the tower, which could be activated by fire department staff before landing a medical helicopter nearby.

Action Item #1 – Formation of Ad Hoc Communication Lease Committee

MSC Torrey/Dunne (unan.) to form an ad hoc Communication Lease Committee with the following members: Chief Krakauer, Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor, Ian Johnson, Dir. Dunne and Dir. Pierce.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources Advisory Committee – Vice Pres. Torrey reported a meeting of the HR Advisory Committee on December 12th. The committee discussed department staffing plans, including a suspension of the active recruitment. The District plans to fill staffing needs with existing part-time employees.

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 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor
Administrative Manager

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