

Minutes from the June 24th, 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 7:05 P.M. Pres. Molesworth, Vice Pres. Torrey, Dir. Pierce and Dir. Martinelli were present. Also present: Chief George Krakauer and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor. Dir. Dunne was absent.

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

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

The Board received public comment from one resident regarding the status of District cellular site lease negotiations and hazardous tree work.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MERA/Chiefs

No updates.

MWPA

Chief Krakauer reported multiple meetings with MWPA member agencies in the coastal zone to discuss a Cal FIRE grant application MWPA is developing.

Prevention

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

Roads

Chief Krakauer reported that he has been working with Marin County DPW to fill some potholes on lower Mesa Road. Dir. Martinelli noted the availability of a new Marin County digital service and mobile app called FixItMarin.

Chief Krakauer also noted that DPW has begun mowing County rights of way in Bolinas, and he is coordinating with MWPA and Don Murch to mow selected non-County maintained egress roads on the big Mesa. Chief Krakauer is also coordinating with NPS staff to mow the NPS side of Poplar Road.

Chief Krakauer reported he is continuing to work with DPW on the District's request for traffic speed monitoring along Overlook and Elm roads. He has requested new data for sections of those roads with more potential for speeding.

Chief Krakauer reported that engineering studies have begun for the road repairs on the Little Mesa.

Chief Krakauer also reported that equipment and materials have been staged at the Mesa Park parking lot for the Brighton seawall project.

Inspections

Chief Krakauer reported that staff are continuing to perform annual business inspections.

Planning

Chief Krakauer is coordinating with Marin County Fire Department to review plans for new driveways and water storage systems, including the potential addition of a hydrant tied to a new private pool.

Grants

No updates.

Training

Chief Krakauer reported that firefighters Walter Tom and Italo Vaccaro have been accepted into the Firefighter Academy at Santa Rosa Junior College. Pres. Molesworth expressed congratulations to both firefighters from the Board.

Chief Krakauer reported coordinating with Marin County Fire Department to set up a wildland firefighting training in July for approximately 25 West Marin volunteer department personnel.

Chief Krakauer reported that Asst. Chief Marcotte is planning an Emergency Medical Responder course for West Marin volunteer agencies.

Volunteers

Chief Krakauer reported that Nina Venezia has been voted in as the department's newest volunteer.

Apparatus

Chief Krakauer reported that Engine 265 had its annual service and received additional deferred maintenance.

Disaster Council

No update.

Resource Recovery

Chief Krakauer reported working with Belle Wood and BCPUD staff on recruitment for a new equipment operator at the Resource Recovery site. Don Murch and BCPUD staff have been assisting with operations, and will assist with training the new hire.

Buildings and Grounds

Chief Krakauer reported that the backup generator needs a cooling system service, and we are coordinating with Petaluma Health Center to share that cost per our agreement.

Chief Krakauer also reported that, following a recent inspection, the department is investigating the warranty on the station roof, in case certain parts may be reimbursable when the roof is replaced.

Chief Krakauer reported investigating some small cracks and holes developing in front of the station near the fuel pump, which we will attempt to fill.

Chief Krakauer also reported that Capt. Pendergraft identified a running toilet in the clinic after monitoring flow into the shared lift station. Clinic facilities staff will be repairing the toilet.

General Operations/Administration

Chief Krakauer reported that staff from Marin County Fire Department's Medic 97 have been staying overnight at the Bolinas fire station. Staff have all adjusted, and we are glad to have Medic 97 available for local calls.

Isaac Taylor reported that the District is awaiting a response from Octagon Towers to its revisions to a proposed lease amendment. The amendment would add T-Mobile as a second carrier to the existing AT&T tower. Additional updates will be provided when available.

Personnel

Chief Krakauer announced that Sydney Knudsen has become a full-time Firefighter-EMT, and firefighter Walter Tom is expected to start a full-time position July 1, when he will primarily be attending the Fire Academy.

Chief Krakauer reported that firefighter Easom has completed her Paramedic classroom portion and is awaiting next steps for clinical rotations. Firefighter Knudsen will also begin Paramedic school in August. Chief Krakauer is working with all staff to cover schedule needs.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Action Item #1 – Approve Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

MSC Torrey/Martinelli (unan.) to approve the Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Isaac Taylor summarized the Draft Budget for fiscal year 2026-2027, which has been reviewed by both the Finance and Human Resources Advisory Committees. Overall, there is a 4% increase in projected income, and a small 0.05% decrease in projected operating expenses, despite a 7.92% increase in payroll expenses.

Pres. Molesworth thanked Isaac Taylor for his work on the budget, and noted the change from budgeting reserve contributions in previous years to devoting more budget to personnel. In spite of this recent change, the District has been able to make unbudgeted reserve contributions for the past two fiscal years. Dir. Martinelli noted these contributions are important, especially due to the increasing costs of equipment.

Discussion Item #1 – District Wildfire Preparedness and Response

Chief Krakauer reported that remaining District Chipper Days are full, though events remain available through the County with online signups at chipperday.com/marin

Chief Krakauer reported hazardous tree work in the eucalyptus grove near Mesa Road and Olema-Bolinas Road was completed last week, with 31 full tree removals and 8 trims. Chief Krakauer attended a BCPUD meeting last week where some residents expressed concerns about the targeted application of Garlon-4 herbicide to cut eucalyptus stumps. Representatives of MWPA and Panorama Environmental provided explanation of the targeted application and reasons for its use. The application was performed by sponge directly to the cut stumps' cambium layer to prevent re-sprouting.

Chief Krakauer also reported completion of the North Wharf Road fuel reduction project, creating 30-50 feet of defensible space behind residences and businesses on the north side of Wharf Road. Isaac Taylor reported that 91 yards of green waste were deposited at the Resource Recovery Project site from this work.

Chief Krakauer reported that Isaac Taylor sent out a summer wildfire and emergency preparedness postcard to all Bolinas postal customers. Some directors reported not receiving a postcard. Isaac noted that additional postcards are available at the fire station.

Chief Krakauer reported working with NPS Battalion Chief Tom Edwards to plan additional fuel reduction and maintenance work along the border of parkland at Schipper Lane.

Chief Krakauer reported that PG&E vegetation management crews have completed some tree removals in Bolinas, and plan additional work next week and in July.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources Advisory Committee – No update.

Finance Advisory Committee – No update.

Operations Working Group – Dir. Martinelli reported a new possibility that Hi-Tech Emergency Vehicle Service may be able to request the previous engine model for the District's recently-ordered fire engine, as the group originally requested.

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 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor
Administrative Manager

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