

Minutes from the July 24th, 2024, Bolinas Fire Protection District 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., Dir. Martinelli and Dir. Pierce were present. Also present: Chief Krakauer and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor. Vice Pres. Torrey and Dir. Dunne were absent.

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

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

None.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MERA

No update.

Chiefs

Chief Krakauer was unable to attend the July Chiefs Meeting.

MWPA

No update.

Prevention

Chief Krakauer discussed prevention in item 5a.

Roads

Chief Krakauer noted that work has begun on the Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project, and reported that he asked project crews to relocate some equipment parked on the Bolinas-Fairfax Rd. portion of the wye intersection, which was impacting visibility for motorists crossing or turning onto Shoreline Hwy. The equipment was relocated. Chief Krakauer reported that the Bolinas-Fairfax Rd section would be closed during business hours for approximately two weeks while crews adjust the road corner to allow for easier vehicle egress onto southbound Shoreline Hwy. Following this period, the Olema-Bolinas Rd. section of the wye will be closed for prolonged drilling and construction to raise that section of roadway.

Chief Krakauer also reported that Marin County DPW came to fill some reported potholes.

Inspections

No update.

Planning

No update.

Grants

Chief Krakauer discussed a fuel reduction project funded by a PG&E grant in item 5a.

Training

Chief Krakauer reported that weekly training is focused wildland firefighting. Firefighters reviewed a call and cleaned equipment at this week's training, after responding to a structure fire involving roofing tar. The fire was contained to the roof.

Asst. Chief Marcotte began his West Marin volunteer firefighter workshop at Commodore Webster in Point Reyes, which will continue for four consecutive Saturdays.

Chief Krakauer also reported that Marin County Fire Department is still considering a wildland firefighter training, potentially in September.

Volunteers

No update.

Apparatus

Chief Krakauer reported that staff are working to address some minor electrical problems affecting Utility 219's lighting.

Disaster Council

No update.

Resource Recovery

Chief Krakauer reported the site continues to be busy with drop offs from District and MWPA Chipper events. MWPA will be hosting a free green waste drop off at the site on August 1st. Chief Krakauer also reported additional preventative maintenance on the site's John Deere loader.

Chief Krakauer reported that the site was temporarily closed due to capacity, and because the grinder truck was delayed due to construction on Shoreline Highway. The truck arrived today, and the site plans to reopen as soon as the grind is complete.

Buildings and Grounds

Chief Krakauer reported that the station's overhead bay doors have been serviced. The new UTV trailer shed is scheduled to receive a weatherproof cover prior to the winter. A new tamper switch has been installed on the OS&Y valve on the station's fire suppression backflow prevention system.

General Operations/Administration

Chief Krakauer reported a high call volume, with fifteen calls over the past eight days. Pres. Molesworth inquired about a relatively low number of eleven calls for June. Chief Krakauer noted that call volume ebbs and flows. Chief Krakauer reported notable recent calls such as a ruptured propane tank and the aforementioned structure fire related to roofing tar. He credited the workers for helping to quickly extinguish this fire.

Chief Krakauer reported that the department continues to purchase new PPE, including two sets of firefighter turnouts, and has recently received a complete set of new wildland firefighting jackets, which are receiving name plates at Emergency Equipment Management in Petaluma.

Chief Krakauer reported the District is still awaiting delivery of its new air compressor, which will allow the department to fill its own SCBA cylinders.

Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor reported he has begun fulfilling requests for Nigro & Nigro PC's annual audit, and is working with the District's bookkeeper to complete end-of-year entries.

Isaac Taylor also reported that IT volunteer Ian Johnson has recently installed new televisions in the firefighter dormitories, as well as a new internet-connected weather station at the fire house.

Isaac Taylor reported he is working to resolve a banking issue that resulted in missing deposits.

Isaac Taylor also reported that the BCPUD Board of Directors will be holding their regular monthly meetings at the fire station Community Meeting Room beginning in August.

Personnel

Chief Krakauer reported that staff have been filling in for one another to cover recent vacation time.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion Item #1 – Wildfire Preparedness and Response

Chief Krakauer reported a very active fire season, with multiple new fires statewide, several of which are associated with recent lightning events.

Chief Krakauer reported that work is temporarily delayed on the District's PG&E grant-funded fuel reduction project on BCPUD property at the corner of Mesa Rd. and Olema-Bolinas Rd. Tamaplais Fire Crews are currently out-of-county assisting with active wildfire response, and plan to begin work as soon as they return. Work will begin with an environmental training provided through MWPA.

Chief Krakauer reported that he hopes to continue a fuel reduction project started last year along Schipper Lane with assistance from the Tamalpais Fire Crew.

Chief Krakauer reported mowing has been completed on both sides of the Poplar Field fuel break. Chief Krakauer thanked Diana Humple of Point Blue Conservation Science for assisting with a nesting bird survey prior to the work.

Chief Krakauer noted that the next District Chipper Day is full with a wait list, but two additional events remain open in August and September, along with additional MWPA chipper events and the August 1st green waste drop-off event at the Bolinas Resource Recovery Project site. Chief Krakauer reported that Chipper Days have shown a positive cumulative effect on fuel reduction in the District, although the rapid growth of vegetation presents a challenge each year.

Chief Krakauer reported that Defensible Space evaluators will begin work on Monday, July 29th, and will focus on downtown Bolinas and areas around Shoreline Highway.

Chief Krakauer reported that residential grants for defensible space and home hardening are now available, and applications can be submitted at marinwildfire.org.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

No update.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources Advisory Committee – Dir. Pierce reported a meeting of the HR Advisory Committee to discuss Chief Krakauer’s annual performance evaluation, which is now underway.

Finance Advisory Committee – Pres. Molesworth reported a meeting of the Finance Advisory Committee to discuss the recent presentation by Octagon Towers LLC. Chief Krakauer reported a more recent email from the Octagon team, stating that they expect to draft a full new agreement for the District’s consideration.

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 7:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor
Administrative Manager

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