

Minutes from the April 28th, 2021, Bolinas Fire Protection District Board Meeting, Via Zoom.

Pres. Molesworth called the meeting of the Bolinas Fire Protection District to order at 7:02 P.M. Vice Pres. Kimball, Dir. Dunne, and Dir. Martinelli were present. Also present: Chief Krakauer, Asst. Chief Steve Marcotte and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor. Dir. Torrey was absent.

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

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

No public expression.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MERA

Chief Krakauer attended the MERA meeting on Wednesday, April 28th. Mobile radio installations and delivery of portable radios is expected soon. The Executive Officer will be stepping down as of May 1 after 13 years of service. There have also been some major role changes at Motorola. An action item for setting up a replacement fund for the new generation system was tabled after discussion, pending consultation between the governing board, executive directors and their boards.

Chiefs

Chief Krakauer was unable to attend the Chiefs meeting this month.

Prevention

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

Roads

Chief Krakauer met with Supervisor Rodoni and BCPUD staff to look at road failure issues on Wharf Road and Terrace Avenue, as well as on Hillside Avenue where a repair is already planned.

Chief Krakauer had a Zoom meeting with County DPW Traffic and parking enforcement officer Cushman to review community input on the parking restrictions proposal. The meeting and community input was largely positive.

Al Minvielle forwarded some new recommendations put together by the Bolinas Community Coastal Alliance group, which have been submitted to County DPW for their consideration. These include striping of parking spaces, new speed limit signs, the addition of speed humps on Brighton Avenue, and a new stop sign at the hardware store. Chief Krakauer is generally supportive of these recommendations.

Grants

Isaac Taylor is working on a Cal Fire grant proposal, due in late May, for a new loader and completion of fuel reduction work at the Resource Recovery Project site. We also hope to be awarded a FEMA grant for new SCBAs for the West Marin volunteer departments. This award would replace expired cylinders and make our departments compatible with the County standard.

Training

Training has been focused on ropes, including our recently-inherited MPD devices and newly-purchased dog rescue harnesses. These devices greatly simplify rescue evolutions in high risk, low frequency calls. Training has also focused on EMT and a review of our two recent fires for lessons learned.

Asst. Chief Marcotte is working with prospective operators, two of whom are almost ready for their driving test. These additional volunteer operators will be very helpful to operations.

Chief Krakauer and Isaac Taylor attended a two half-day Human Resources Boot Camp put on by the California Special Districts Association, covering hiring and performance evaluation.

College of Marin is offering an accelerated hybrid EMT course which will be conducted online and at the Indian Valley Campus. We intend to sponsor two volunteers who are interested, but they will need to complete a prerequisite EMR class first.

Volunteers

New volunteer t-shirts and sweatshirts are available for purchase.

Apparatus

Firefighter Joe Walker repaired the broken primer pump motor on engine 285. Now, the pressure relief valve is malfunctioning and needs repair.

Duty Officer vehicle U219 went to the Ford dealership for a recall repair. Wildland engine 265 will go for its annual service in May.

Disaster Council

Asst. Chief Marcotte reported that West Marin Disaster Council's quarterly meeting went well. Along with the Rotary Club, the WMDC will be purchasing supplies for the Bolinas Community Center.

Marcotte has been preparing for a new hybrid Community Emergency Response Team class.

Rob Roland will be installing a HAM radio at the Bolinas fire station, to be a redundant radio in case all other communications are interrupted in an emergency. Ian Johnson will assist with the installation. Vice Pres. Kimball asked if the District would need to train a new HAM radio operator. Asst. Chief Marcotte responded that the RACES group has qualified operators, but would like to identify more individuals to train as operators in West Marin.

Resource Recovery

Chief Krakauer, Asst. Chief Marcotte, and Vice Pres. Kimball met twice with Jennifer Blackmon and Jeff Creque to further discuss operational concerns at the Resource Recovery site. Don Murch has been filling in during Mike Aitken's absence. Repairs were made to the ailing loader. Stinson Beach Fire Protection District joined Bolinas Fire Protection District in a proposal for MWPA core project funding, to replace the current front loader. Asst. Chief Marcotte, Jennifer Blackman and Jeff Creque assisted with the proposal, which was submitted Friday, April 23rd.

Resource Recovery has hired a new employee to replace a recent departure. President Molesworth asked whether Recology residential green waste would be prohibited from disposal at Resource Recovery, and whether this would help with capacity issues. Chief Krakauer responded that it would be prohibited starting in June, and the capacity impacts remain to be seen, but one effect would be improved compost quality. Vice Pres. Kimball noted that Jennifer Blackman will be drafting a Memorandum of Understanding for consideration between the four member agencies (Stinson Beach County Water District, BCPUD, SBFPD, and BFPD). The for member agencies will be reviewing a budget which would likely include a rate increase.

Buildings and Grounds

Chief Krakauer reported on recent defensible space operations at the fire station, removing brush around the fuel tank. Flagstone is on site for a hardscaping project around the station flagpole, and we are awaiting Rick and Hector to have a break in their schedule allowing the work to begin.

General Operations/Administration

Chief Krakauer reported on two relatively large incidents this month on Aspen Road and Schipper Lane, which went well despite limited staffing. Both fires were fully extinguished quickly, and we were assisted by Stinson Beach Fire Protection District and Marin County Fire out of Point Reyes Station. A training was devoted to after-action reviews of both incidents. President Molesworth commended the firefighters as a board member and resident for their quick and effective response, and the value of recent live-fire trainings in the new burn container. Vice Pres. Kimball recommended a communication to the community about the dangers of such incidents, especially as we approach the traditional fire season. Dir. Dunne and Pres. Molesworth agreed.

The District continues bimonthly testing for volunteers and staff, as well as limited community testing on a bimonthly schedule.

Chief Krakauer and Isaac Taylor have been developing a preliminary budget for fiscal year 2021-2022, and have scheduled a meeting of the Finance Committee for May 6 to seek further input.

The District received a \$10,000 gift from an anonymous resident, which has been earmarked for purchasing needed turnouts for firefighters.

Chief Krakauer expects to receive a new lease proposal for the Verizon cell tower. We hope to bring this to the board for review next month.

Chief Krakauer and Isaac Taylor completed a LAFCo Fire Study Information Request, and will be attending a LAFCo Shared Services Workshop on Thursday, April 29th.

Personnel

Chief Krakauer noted that staffing has been stretched thin with two operators currently away. Asst. Chief Marcotte's efforts in driver training for both Stinson Beach and Bolinas firefighters is expected to help alleviate this temporary shortage.

Shanna Young has been accepted as a new Resident Firefighter by the Bolinas Volunteer Firefighters Association, and is expected to do her initial shift this weekend. Chief Krakauer reminded the Board that this position consists of a minimum of one (1) 24-hour volunteer shift per week.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Action Item #1 – Approve Letter of Support for County Parking Restrictions Proposal

Chief Krakauer described the Letter of Support as encompassing all of the items presented at the March Board Meeting, with the addition of a proposal for a fire lane designation in the existing no-parking zone at the last 1,000 feet of Wharf Road.

MSC Dunne/Kimball (4 yeas, 1 absent) to approve the Letter of Support for County Parking Restrictions Proposal.

Action Item #2 – Approve Resolution #192-2021, a Resolution of the Bolinas Fire Protection District Authorizing an Application to the CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grant Program

Isaac Taylor introduced the resolution, which authorizes the District to apply for the CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grant Program.

MSC Kimball/Dunne (4 yeas, 1 absent) to approve Resolution #192-2021.

Discussion – District Wildfire Preparedness and Response

Chief Krakauer gave an update on the UC Davis/Berkeley fire safety study, following a meeting on April 20th. The simulation game is expected to be made available to the public by late June. The researchers are applying for a grant to continue and refine their project, with the assistance of fire departments in Oakland and Bolinas. Part of the grant would designate funds for the District to hire a community liaison for the duration of the project, to coordinate efforts of the researchers, fire department, and Bolinas community. The District plans to proceed with a Statement of Work to participate in the grant application as a sub-awardee. If awarded, the grant would fund the project through June 2022.

Vice Pres. Kimball added that a final report will be published in June, along with the first iteration of a simulation game developed by Thomas Maiorana's team. If awarded, the grant would fund additional work to refine the simulation and game with input from the Bolinas community and firefighters, with the ultimate goal of producing an educational, instructive tool that could help save lives.

Dir. Martinelli expressed his gratitude for Chief Krakauer's willingness to take the time to participate in this project, and noted the potential benefit to the Bolinas community from such a tool. Vice Pres. Kimball also thanked Chief Krakauer and Asst. Chief Marcotte for their critical questions to the research team, which he believes helped to push the project in a more constructive and collaborative direction.

Chief Krakauer shared that two FIRESafe Marin Chipper Days, June 1 and August 30, have been announced and disseminated to the Bolinas community. At least two additional Chipper Days will be sponsored by the District, and those dates will be shared widely when available.

MWPA local funds will pay for roadside mowing projects and the District chipper day program. Asst. Chief Marcotte submitted a final proposal for MWPA core funding, on behalf of Bolinas FPD and Stinson Beach FPD, to support the replacement of the ailing front loader at the Bolinas Resource Recovery Project. Asst. Chief Marcotte also

submitted requests for local funding and defensible space funding, although those are automatic disbursements.

Vice Pres. Kimball attended an MWPA Board Meeting on Thursday, April 22nd. Executive Officer Mark Brown has hired a Planning and Program Manager with extensive land management and CEQA experience. FIRESafe Marin will be putting on a series of community outreach programs for wildfire preparedness. MWPA is also exploring the potential development of a core of defensible space work crews to assist residents who would otherwise be unable to perform such tasks. Asst. Chief Marcotte attended a meeting of the MWPA Technical Advisory Committee, which was a general introductory meeting covering priorities in each area of the County.

Chief Krakauer was interviewed by students from the Tamalpais High School Academy of Integrated Media (AIM) program for a documentary they are producing on fire danger in Bolinas. The film is expected to be released in approximately four months. Chief Krakauer is also continuing to receive updates on Wildfire Safe Bolinas's efforts from John Cozzi.

Bolinas Fire Protection District has published notices in print and social media about FIRESafe Marin's upcoming virtual workshops on wildfire preparedness.

The District has received new shipments of NOAA Emergency Alert Weather Radios for discounted sale to Bolinas residents. We have sold approximately 70 radios so far. We are also gathering information on a small number of reports of technical difficulties, and plan to discuss these issues with Midland to ensure full alert coverage.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MSC Kimball/Dunne (4 yeas, 1 absent) to approve the Consent Calendar.

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

No update.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – No update.

Personnel Committee – The Personnel Committee met on Tuesday, April 20th to review a personnel worksheet as part of the budgeting process for upcoming fiscal year 2021-2022. Items discussed included cost-of-living adjustments and recommended wage increases. The approved recommendations will be submitted to the Finance Committee in a meeting scheduled for May 6.

Buildings and Grounds – No Update.

Operations Working Group –No Update.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Pres. Molesworth commended the Board for keeping the meeting to an hour and thirteen minutes. Dir. Dunne commended the firefighters for their incredible reaction time to two recent fires.

ADJOURNMENT

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to adjourn. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

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.