

Minutes from the September 22nd, 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 and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor.

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

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

No additional general public expression.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MERA

Chief Krakauer reported no major updates. Generation 2 equipment continues to be installed, and all BFPD radios have already been replaced. We anticipate the switch to the Generation 2 MERA system in approximately 2024. Once the District's Generation 1 radios have been reset and returned to the fire station, the District has tentative plans to convert them to disaster radios.

Chiefs

The Chiefs meeting for September was cancelled.

Prevention

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

Roads

Chief Krakauer is awaiting word from Supervisor Rodoni on when installation of new fire lane signs will begin on Terrace Ave. and Wharf Rd. All permits from the Board of Supervisors and Coastal Commission have been approved, and a work order has been submitted.

Inspections

County Defensible Space Evaluators will be in the area at the end of September to commence defensible space evaluations in Bolinas

Grants

The District's CAL FIRE grant proposal for defensible space work surrounding the Resource Recovery site and the purchase of a new loader was not awarded. Chief Krakauer thanked Vice Pres. Kimball, Asst. Chief Marcotte, Jennifer Blackman, Jeff Creque, and Isaac Taylor for their contributions to this proposal. We continue to await FEMA's decision on our earlier grant proposal for replacement of aging SCBAs in five West Marin fire departments.

Training

Training continues to focus on wildland firefighting, with a recent focus on techniques for hooking up to private water sources like water tanks.

Volunteers

The District and Volunteers Association hosted a lunch celebration in recognition of the service of retiring volunteer Ron Brown, and presented him with an honorary plaque and engraved axe. The event went well despite being interrupted by a call.

Apparatus

Asst. Chief Marcotte is attempting to recalibrate the water tank sensor on Engine 285. All apparatuses have now received healthy annual service reports. Chief Krakauer plans to send Engine 265 for a minor warranty repair to its tank after fire season.

Disaster Council

Chief Krakauer and Asst. Chief Marcotte will soon be onboarding two new Disaster Council area coordinators, for Horseshoe Hill and Terrace Avenue. Asst. Chief Marcotte will be planning a council meeting after the onboarding.

Resource Recovery

The District is once again searching for a suitable loader to purchase with an MWPA core projects grant, to replace the ailing loader at the Resource Recovery green waste composting site. An earlier prospect went cold.

Buildings and Grounds

No update.

General Operations/Administration

Chief Krakauer stated that a follow-up meeting regarding expanding Medic 97 ambulance service has been postponed until after fire season.

The District received a response from Verizon with new proposed terms for an extension of their cell tower lease. Chief Krakauer, President Molesworth, Vice Pres. Kimball, and Ian Johnson plan to meet with representatives next week to discuss the proposal further.

Marin LAFCo continues to request documents from the District as part of their Municipal Services Review.

Isaac Taylor is responding to requests from our bookkeeper and auditor, and a draft annual audit report is anticipated for November, with final approval in December.

BCLT has decided to cancel their mobile office trailer plans, due to concerns over permitting feasibility, and have alternative future office space plans. However, BCLT staff are currently utilizing the District's community meeting room on Mondays.

Personnel

One resident firefighter applicant hopes to be voted in by the volunteers next Tuesday. A second potential applicant from Point Reyes may be starting soon. These additions are helping to meet our staffing needs.

Asst. Chief Marcotte has returned from a successful two-week trip to Philadelphia, where he witnessed heavy rains from Hurricane Ida.

Firefighter Joe Walker plans to return to his night shifts at the District next month, pending release from extended shifts in the hospital.

President Molesworth and Vice Pres. Kimball are compiling notes for Chief Krakauer's upcoming "360" evaluation. Chief Krakauer thanked Dir. Torrey and Vice Pres. Kimball for their work on the HR Committee.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion – GGNRA Parking Fees Proposal with Stinson Beach Chief Jesse Peri

Fire Chief Jessie Peri was unable to attend. Chief Krakauer introduced the subject by detailing the recent NPS proposal for vehicle parking fees of up to \$10 per day at GGNRA lots, including Stinson Beach. Subsequent to discussions with Chief Krakauer and others, Stinson Beach Fire Chief Peri decided to compose a letter of public comment opposing the proposal as it stands.

Primary objections in the letter relate to: 1) the inducement to illegal street parking by visitors unwilling or unable to pay parking fees; and 2) a disparate impact of proposed parking fees on underserved communities.

Chief Krakauer recommended he sign in support of the letter, and noted this item was on the agenda of the BCPUD as well.

Dir. Dunne asked if Chief Krakauer knew where the proposed fee revenue would go, and Chief Krakauer responded that it was his understanding that it would go to services such as cleaning, maintenance, and the construction of a new lifeguard tower.

Chief Krakauer shared his concern that parking fees would generate overflow and illegal street parking that could impact the Bolinas community. Director Torrey shared similar concern.

Dir. Martinelli shared his opinion that Stinson Beach would face the greatest potential impacts, but agreed Bolinas could be adversely impacted.

Vice Pres. Kimball shared similar concerns around overflow and illegal parking, but also stressed his concern that parking fees could represent a significant barrier for visitors who wish access our public natural resources. Kimball expressed support for the letter and willingness to sign himself. He suggested slight revisions to highlight that illegal and improper street parking is already an existing problem. Kimball thanked Chief Peri, Stinson Beach Board President Walsh, and the SBFPD Board of Directors for taking the lead on this letter of public comment.

Action Item #1 – Approve Letter of Public Comment on GGNRA Parking Fees Proposal

MSC Torrey/Martinelli (unan.) to approve the Letter of Public Comment on GGNRA Parking Fees Proposal. President Molesworth asked Chief Krakauer to extend our support to Chief Peri, the SBFPD Board of Directors, and everyone involved in preparing the letter.

Discussion – Alert Alarms for Bolinas, presented by Judith Shaw

Judith Shaw was unable to attend. President Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to table the discussion to next month and proceed to the next item. Seeing no objections, the discussion is tabled.

Discussion – District Wildfire Preparedness and Response

Chief Krakauer reported 0.7 inches of rain over Saturday night. He stated that “although it wouldn’t put an end to the fire season, it was greatly welcomed.”

Marin County Sheriff’s Office and the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority announced the “Know Your Zone” campaign, featuring the new Zonehaven platform. Residents can find their evacuation zone and access essential emergency information by visiting emergency.marincounty.org.

The Bolinas Eucalyptus Project has requested a meeting with Supervisor Rodoni and invited Chief Krakauer to attend. The topic will be eucalyptus along major evacuation routes around Bolinas.

The final FireSAFE Marin Chipper Day on August 30th was mostly a success. Two missed piles were added to the District’s Chipper Day coming up this Saturday. Chief Krakauer anticipates the October 23rd Chipper Day will fill soon, especially with County defensible space inspections starting next week. Therefore, the District is planning to add one additional Chipper Day.

Defensible space evaluators will be conducting inspections next week, which Chief Krakauer stated would be a great opportunity for residents to ask questions. Residents can also request an evaluation from District firefighters at any time. Residents will be able to access their property inspection reports online.

Dir. Torrey requested an update on the District’s letter to owners of vacant lots in need of defensible space work. Chief Krakauer reported significant response and ongoing work from approximately thirty owners. The District will continue to seek wider compliance from both home and vacant lot owners. Dir. Dunne asked when citations might be considered. Chief Krakauer responded with some uncertainty, and Dir. Martinelli shared that several factors and approaches are being considered throughout the county and state, including mounting issues with homeowner’s insurance and the potential use of tax liens. For now, Martinelli stated that educating residents continues to be Marin County Fire’s overarching strategy.

Don Murch has completed the District’s annual roadside mowing program along unincorporated roads, with help from Asst. Chief Marcotte. Marcotte shared that most residents understand the importance of mowing, and expect it every year. Overall, there were very few issues or complaints. This year, in addition to major egress routes, the district identified particularly narrow roads for mowing. Chief Krakauer noted the District’s matching grant program for residents who wish to complete additional mowing in their neighborhood. For approved projects, the District is prepared to match up to 50% of cost to a maximum of approximately \$500 per project.

Chief Krakauer shared that the BCPUD has asked for additional mowing around the sewer ponds and eucalyptus groves, and the District is planning to assist using local MWPA funds

The District sent out an evacuation postcard last week, and Chief Krakauer thanked Isaac Taylor and others for the group work to put the card together.

The District continues to offer NOAA Emergency Alert Weather Radios for discounted sale at the fire station, and they continue to sell. The District is also still offering MCSO Evacuated tags for residents.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Vice Pres. Kimball attended the MWPA board meeting last Thursday, where the record-setting vegetation dryness and associated fire risk was highlighted. In addition, there was an announcement regarding a new program at Marin County Fire to create career pathways to the fire service for historically underserved communities. Dir. Martinelli explained that the yearlong program will be largely funded by the MWPA, and include fuel reduction work alongside education, mentoring, and housing, with the goal of recruiting diverse talent into the fire service and associated environmental fields. Vice Pres. Kimball also shared a reminder that MWPA funds exist for low-income residents who need to complete home hardening and/or defensible space work. Kimball also shared a concern raised at the meeting regarding Alert Marin, which is currently an opt-in model rather than an opt-out model. Kimball plans to request statistics on Alert Marin enrollment for each area of the county.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources Committee – Vice Pres. Kimball thanked Dir. Torrey for organizing the “360” evaluation for Chief Krakauer, which will be formally completed soon. Kimball hopes this will lead to annual reviews for all District employees.

Finance 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 8:15 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.