Minutes from the August 26th, 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. Dunne, Dir. Pierce and Dir. Martinelli were present. Also present: Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor, Ian Johnson and Fire Chief George Krakauer.

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to approve the Agenda, with the amendment to move item 5a to the top of the agenda. Seeing no objections, the amended Agenda was approved.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION
None.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MERA/Chiefs
No updates.

MWPA
Chief Krakauer discussed MWPA meetings in item 5b.

Prevention
District wildfire preparedness and response was discussed in item 5b.

Roads
Chief Krakauer reported that PG&E are conducting hazardous tree removals today and possibly later this week. They are providing traffic control.

Chief Krakauer also reported a few requests for the fire department to utilize its engines to blow out clogged culverts. While the fire department has occasionally assisted with blocked culverts when requested by the BCPUD, Chief Krakauer asked that residents first contact BCPUD. In the case of County-maintained roads, BCPUD can help connect residents with the Department of Public Works.

Inspections
Chief Krakauer reported that staff continue to complete annual business inspections.

Residential Defensible Space Inspections concluded last month. Chief Krakauer urged residents to open their report. Pres. Molesworth suggested Chief Krakauer brief the board in a future meeting regarding developments in regulations pertaining to Zone Zero.

Planning
Chief Krakauer is reviewing a small number of plans for remodels and new private water supplies.

Grants
No updates.

Training

Chief Krakauer reported that Firefighters Tom and Vaccaro are doing well in their Firefighter I academy, bringing those skills and a good energy back to the department and our staff.

Chief Krakauer reported that Engine 265 and a crew of five Bolinas firefighters participated in a controlled burn with Marin County Fire Department near Bon Tempe Lake.

The department continues to train on wildland firefighting and EMT skills. Asst. Chief Marcotte is assisting a few firefighters with continuing education in order to renew their EMT certification.

Chief Krakauer reported that staff are developing a new engineering task book for firefighters already certified as apparatus drivers.

Asst. Chief Marcotte is also assisting with training on our new high-band emergency radios.

Volunteers
Chief Krakauer reported additional interest in volunteering, with three new potential volunteers attending their initial weekly trainings.

Volunteers are beginning to plan our annual Fire Safety Day. The tentative date is Saturday, October 25th.

Apparatus
Chief Krakauer reported that Engine 283 returned today following repairs to a few leaks, a faulty air horn, and replaced pump anodes. This Engine will be replaced by our new Engine 283 in approximately late 2027.

Chief Krakauer reported that we recently learned we would be able to get the desired prior model Cummins motor in the new Engine 283. We believe this should represent greater reliability and a lower cost. Additionally, Chief Krakauer reported that the cab and chassis is due to be delivered to the manufacturer earlier than previously expected.

Disaster Council
Asst. Chief Marcotte attended a large West Marin Disaster Council meeting last week.

Resource Recovery
Chief Krakauer reported that BCPUD has made an offer for a new heavy equipment operator, and has also hired a new part-time site attendant.

Buildings and Grounds
Chief Krakauer reported that he is soliciting estimates for a new aboveground fuel tank and exploring the required procurement process. He is also reaching out to the BCPUD and BSUSD to begin discussions around the cost share for this project.

Chief Krakauer reported a major generator service last week, with a complete service of the cooling system. The cost will be shared between the District and Bolinas Clinic.

General Operations/Administration

Chief Krakauer reported a busy call volume, including a structure fire on Horseshoe Hill Road. Stinson Beach Fire assisted, and the fire was contained to a single accessory structure without threat to surrounding vegetation or structures.

Chief Krakauer reported that annual ladder testing was completed this Tuesday.

Isaac Taylor reported that Parent Services Project informed us that they would not be returning to Bolinas for their weekly Baby Gym early childhood education program this year. The program has been hosted in the fire station community room since the 2023-24 school year.

Isaac also shared that the State of California Department of General Services Real Estate Division has contacted the District about entering a new lease for the California State Parks radio repeater hosted in our facility. Due to the age of the existing lease and its escalator, the rent we currently receive is significantly higher than the anticipated rent for the new lease, however, this is a cooperative arrangement between public agencies and the expected decrease would not meaningfully impact District operating revenues.

Pres. Molesworth inquired whether there would be an election in the District due to additional candidate filings, and Isaac Taylor reported that no other candidates aside from incumbents had filed, so the positions would not appear on the ballot, and the District would not be subject to additional fees from the County of Marin Elections Department.

Personnel
Chief Krakauer commended Asst. Chief Marcotte and on-duty staff for their extra efforts at training and skills development for junior personnel.

Asst. Chief Marcotte will be holding an EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) class in November for all West Marin agencies. Five Bolinas volunteers plan to attend. The EMR is a prerequisite for EMT certification.

Chief Krakauer mentioned AB1383, pending legislation that may impact the retirement age and formula for CalPERS Safety members. If adopted, these changes could impact the District's recruitment and retention efforts.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion Item #1 – Potential Adoption of Octagon Towers, LLC Proposed Cellular Site Lease Amendment Adding T-Mobile to Expanded Tower

Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor provided background on the proposed lease amendment, initially brought to the District in April 2024 by Octagon Towers LLC, who acquired the tower from AT&T. The amendment would extend the original lease with a new 30-year lease term, and authorize the addition of T-Mobile to an expanded tower.

The District convened an ad hoc Cellular Lease Committee to study the proposal, and this committee has had extensive meetings and discussions with Octagon regarding Radio Frequency emissions and tower design. Most recently, the District has been negotiating terms regarding potential future subtenants, and Octagon has agreed to revised language.

Isaac Taylor confirmed to Pres. Molesworth that the latest version includes the District's proposed language regarding potential future subtenants and the District's public safety commitments. Isaac also noted that all revisions have been reviewed by counsel.

Pres. Molesworth asked Isaac Taylor to summarize next steps. Isaac explained that the board would next vote to approve the final lease amendment. Octagon would then enter the construction permitting process, and submit final design plans to the District for approval. Isaac shared a simulated photo of the preliminary design, showing an extension to the existing tower of approximately 20 vertical feet, with concentric arms to mount the T-Mobile antennas.

Vice Pres. Torrey asked whether there were safety concerns regarding emergency helicopter landings, and Ian Johnson replied that there have been discussions with Octagon to have a switchable warning light and windsock installed on top of the tower. Vice Pres. Torrey also asked about the change in lease revenue for the District, and Chief Krakauer stated that rent would essentially stay the same, although with a 2% annual escalator. Isaac Taylor calculated current terms with proposed terms, and they are comparable over the next fifteen years. Pres. Molesworth noted that the new lease term creates long-term stability for the District, and Isaac Taylor also noted the safety benefit of an additional carrier for 911 emergency calls.

Vice Pres. Torrey commented that the RF emissions report appears to show little increase to exposure, but asked whether the previous lease amendment requiring periodic RF measurements would still apply to the new lease term. Pres. Molesworth noted that the amendment includes a provision that all previous lease terms not expressly amended would remain in full force and effect. Isaac Taylor stated that he would follow up on this point with Octagon.

Dir. Martinelli and Ian Johnson noted the benefit that anyone with a cell phone who travels to Bolinas will be able to call 911.

Dir. Dunne and Pres. Molesworth commended the ad hoc Committee for their work with Octagon on the proposal. Chief Krakauer thanked Isaac Taylor for his work as well.

The board received public comment from two individuals.

Discussion Item #2 – District Wildfire Preparedness and Response

Chief Krakauer reported one additional District Chipper Day that was completely filled.

Isaac Taylor reported that Marin County has additional Chipper Days in Bolinas this September and October, and residents must register online at chipperday.com/marin

California Conservation Corps is still expected to begin understory fuel work in Bolinas in the eucalyptus grove at Mesa and Olema-Bolinas Road, but their schedule has been delayed after a deployment to the Hawk Fire in El Dorado County.

Chief Krakauer reported that he is looking at some additional Marin Wildfire coastal fuel reduction project work in the downtown area behind Park Avenue, as well as the Alder Creek area near Ocean Parkway and Yucca.

Dir. Pierce asked if there were any updates to the work on Little Mesa following last winter's landslide and road closure. Chief Krakauer reported that the neighborhood is working with the County of Marin on potential funding mechanisms, but he had no major update to provide.

Vice Pres. Torrey asked about updates to the Brighton sea wall project. Chief Krakauer described the process as he understands it, but noted potential challenges with anticipated El Niño coastal impacts.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MSC Torrey/Dunne (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 – 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 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor
Administrative Manager

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