

Minutes from the January 28th, 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. Pierce, and Dir. Martinelli were present. Also present: Chief George Krakauer and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor.

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

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

The board received one public comment seeking support for a grant proposal to study opportunities for additional social services in the local community.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MERA/Chiefs

Chief Krakauer attended the annual West Marin TOT tax meeting at Woodacre in early December. Chiefs went over the respective tax distribution amounts and how each agency is using funds. Attendees were formally introduced to Marin County Fire Department Interim Fire Chief Mike Marcucci.

MWPA

Chief Krakauer reported that he and Isaac Taylor would be meeting with representatives of the Regional Water Quality Control Board and Marin Wildfire to inspect recently completed fuel reduction work on the Little Mesa. We do not anticipate any water quality impacts from this recent project.

Prevention

Chief Krakauer reported participating in an evacuation drill at the Bolinas school on January 14th. The drill went well and all kids were safely evacuated to Mesa Park. Pres. Molesworth reported witnessing smooth operations at pickup. Dir. Pierce asked about the two "unaccounted" students, and Chief Krakauer responded that it was a planned challenge for this year's drill.

Roads

Chief Krakauer reported that a two-way traffic light has been placed on Altura Ave, as residents work to assess damages and repair work on Cliff Ave. Chief Krakauer has asked that all unnecessary vehicle traffic cease until engineers assess large cracks on Altura Ave. Should Altura Ave. become compromised, all vehicle access would be lost. Currently there is no time frame on repairs.

Dir. Pierce asked whether Recology is still sending large garbage trucks onto the Little Mesa, and Chief Krakauer responded that there is plan, in coordination with Mesa Park, to install dumpsters at Mesa Park for waste from the Little Mesa. Chief Krakauer's understanding is that, once dumpsters are in place, no garbage trucks would be going onto the Little Mesa.

Chief Krakauer shared news of a recent significant collapse of the sea wall at the end of Brighton Ave. At the direction of the Coastal Commission, owners at 100 Brighton have been asked to restrict all access to the vulnerable sea wall, and a chain fence has been placed around it. Discussion of repairing the entire sea wall are expected to begin as early

as March, and repairs are expected to take at least six months. The situation does pose difficulty for emergency access, especially for patients that may need to be extricated by responders over the sea wall at high tide. The fire department does have access into the enclosure, and will have to make do with traversing the collapsed area in such an emergency.

Inspections

No update.

Planning

Chief Krakauer reported working with MCFD fire inspectors on three different properties in regards to driveway specifications for emergency access and private water supply standards.

Grants

No update.

Training

Chief Krakauer reported that Caleb Norton completed his driving test with Asst. Chief Marcotte on Sunday, and will become the department's newest driver once he is certified by the DMV. We are working on additional driver training to increase the number of engine drivers-operators.

Asst. Chief Marcotte is looking into hosting a first responder class, a prerequisite for EMT certification. The class would be open to West Marin volunteers.

Volunteers

Chief Krakauer reported that the Volunteer Association voted to purchase and maintain an additional community AED, which will be placed at Mesa Park.

Apparatus

Chief Krakauer reported that Engine 283 has been experiencing power loss, which we believe we have fixed by replacing a main battery shutoff switch.

Chief Krakauer reported that the ad hoc Engine Replacement Committee met again to discuss details around the front bumper and additional compartments. The committee plans to discuss next steps tomorrow, including a purchase agreement. Chief Krakauer showed portions of the most recent engine schematics to the board, and described considerations specific to our District.

Disaster Council

No update.

Resource Recovery

Chief Krakauer reported that he is working with BCPUD to clear the site of some old equipment.

Buildings and Grounds

Chief Krakauer reported that annual fire sprinkler and extinguisher checks were completed yesterday.

General Operations/Administration

Chief Krakauer reported that annual Self-contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) testing was completed today.

Chief Krakauer reported that PG&E informed us that their legal team decided they could not complete scheduled tree work along Mesa Road and Olema-Bolinas Road under the MWPA permit. The permitting collaboration was intended to expedite scheduled PG&E work, but instead they will proceed under their own permitting process.

Chief Krakauer reported that he and Isaac Taylor plan to meet with BCPUD staff next Wednesday to walk the project area and mark specific non-PG&E roadside hazard trees identified in the combined arborist report. MWPA will be working on the biological and environmental surveying, and will also coordinate a meeting with monarch butterfly experts Stu Weiss and Mia Monroe.

Personnel

Chief Krakauer reported that Firefighter Pawel Kruk will be leaving the department next week and returning to Poland. Pawel started as a volunteer 9 years ago, and has filled the position of full-time firefighter/driver for the last year. As an employee and volunteer, Pawel responded to a majority of emergency calls, and his assistance will be missed. The department is planning an appreciation lunch for Pawel this Friday, and any board members are welcome to attend.

Firefighters Walter Tom and Italo Vaccaro are on the schedule and filling part-time shift work. Firefighter Sydney Knudsen will also be moving to three days per week starting in February.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Action Item #1 – Approve Draft Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Paul Kaymark of Nigro & Nigro, PC will join by remote connection.

MSC Martinelli/Torrey (unan.) to Approve Draft Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Pres. Molesworth welcomed Paul Kaymark. Paul shared a summary presentation of annual audited financial statements with the board. Highlights include a net position decrease of 0.92%, or \$41,180 from the prior year, with an increase in total revenues of 7.39% and an increase in operating expenses of 16.91%, primarily due to an increase in salary and wages of \$117,543.

Action Item #2 – Authorize Fire Chief to Sign Non-Binding Letter of Intent with Octagon Towers, LLC

MSC Pierce/Torrey (unan.) to Authorize Fire Chief to Sign Non-Binding Letter of Intent with Octagon Towers, LLC

Isaac Taylor reported that the ad hoc Communication Lease Committee met earlier this month to discuss the Letter of Intent request from Octagon Towers, originally received in May 2024. County counsel also reviewed the letter, which is a non-binding expression of intent to agree. Octagon requires the letter in order to pursue their permitting and due diligence process.

Chief Krakauer summarized the proposal, which is for a new tower lease including an additional carrier, T-Mobile. Dir. Pierce added that the ad hoc committee concluded that the non-binding Letter of Intent was a reasonable step toward eventual negotiation of a new lease for the cellular tower. Chief Krakauer added that there has been significant engagement with Octagon regarding design and RF emissions.

Vice Pres. Torrey asked whether there would be outreach to the community on this issue. Dir. Pierce responded that the District would bring the issue to the public once there is an actual lease proposal.

Action Item #3 – Election of Officers and Formation of Committees

MSC Pierce/Martinelli (unan.) to Maintain Current Roster of Officers and Committees.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Pres. Molesworth asked a question about budgeted vs. actual monthly income on the financial reports. Isaac Taylor responded that final statements for December are still pending, and the gap should be filled by interest allocations, which are typically entered on December 31st.

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

Vice Pres. Torrey thanked staff for their work on the annual audit.

ADJOURNMENT

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor
Administrative Manager

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