

Minutes from the February 22nd, 2023, Bolinas Fire Protection District Board Meeting, Via Zoom.

Vice Pres. Torrey called the meeting of the Bolinas Fire Protection District to order at 7:00 P.M. Dir. Pierce, Dir. Martinelli and Dir. Dunne were present. Also present: Chief Krakauer and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor. Pres. Molesworth was absent.

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

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

None.

CHIEF'S REPORT

NERA

Chief Krakauer attended a meeting of the NERA Board of Directors on Wednesday, February 22nd. An updated Next Gen project timeline was shared, with final switchover expected in late 2024 or early 2025. The board also heard a report from the Finance Committee. Steve Marcotte is continuing to work with NERA officials on a potential move of the Bolinas Disaster Council's emergency radio repeater from its current location at Commonweal to the NERA site at Stewart Point, which would provide better coverage for Bolinas and Stinson Beach. The NERA board will meeting in-person once again starting in March 2023.

Chiefs

Chief Krakauer was unable to attend the Chiefs meeting in February.

MWPA

Chief Krakauer attended a meeting of the MWPA Operations Committee on Wednesday, March 8th, where they discussed potential core project proposals, due by the end of March. They also heard a presentation by Sonoma Technology on evacuation roads throughout the county, including strategies for fuel reduction and evacuation traffic management. MWPA and consultants from Panorama Environmental are working with West Marin member agencies to develop a West Marin work plan, in order to streamline environmental review and permitting in the coastal zone for future core project work. The Operations Committee also decided to continue with hybrid meetings. Chief Krakauer reported that work on the current core project for West Marin, evacuation route roadside clearing on county-maintained roads, has begun in Inverness and will proceed to Bolinas in the near future.

Prevention

Chief Krakauer reported that Firesafe Marin and MWPA have announced up to five weeks of Chipper Day pickups in Bolinas. Chief Krakauer is also putting together a schedule of BFPD Chipper Days for this season, with the goal of coordinating some Chipper Days with local defensible space inspections, expected to begin in August.

Roads

No update.

Inspections

Chief Krakauer also shared updates regarding defensible space inspections, state fire hazard severity maps, and new regulations under Assembly Bill 38. Under this law,

sellers of residential property within a High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone in a State Responsibility Area (SRA) are required to obtain an AB 38 defensible space inspection. According to newly updated state fire hazard severity zone maps, all of Bolinas is now classified as a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Dir. Martinelli noted that realtors can arrange for this responsibility to be transferred to the buyer at the time of sale. In order to facilitate these new requirements, Chief Krakauer is coordinating with Marin County Fire Department to train District officials on AB 38 inspections.

Planning

No update.

Grants

Isaac Taylor submitted a revised microgrant proposal for the 2023 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant program, and is exploring two additional small grant opportunities.

Training

Chief Krakauer reported that training has been focused on EMT skills and chainsaws, given the recent frequency of wind events and downed trees.

Volunteers

The BVFA plans to meet next week to form a new Finance Committee, and discuss the purchase of new CPR mannequins and equipment. Firefighter Emily Easom became certified as a CPR trainer, and recently completed a community CPR training with Asst. Chief Marcotte for fourteen community members. The BVFA also voted to purchase four new AEDs for the Bolinas community, to be placed in high-density locations, primarily downtown. Firefighters will train staff at these locations on AED use.

Apparatus

Engine 285 has been repaired and returned to service after being out of service for approximately six weeks while diagnosing an electrical problem, then waiting for delivery of a rare component.

The District purchased a trailer for the department's new UTV, so it can be transported for mutual aid or more remote calls.

Disaster Council

Asst. Chief Marcotte is organizing a meeting of the West Marin Disaster Council area coordinators for March.

Resource Recovery

Chief Krakauer is attempting to organize regular meetings of the four partner agencies (Bolinas FPD, BCPUD, Stinson Water, and Stinson FPD) to discuss site needs and planning. The site serves an important need with regard to local defensible space and fuel reduction, but has lost revenue without drop-offs from Recology, which now includes food waste with residential green waste. Operator Mike Aitken and Chief Krakauer would like to reinstate a program offering reduced fees for residential drop-offs related to hazardous fuel reduction for defensible space, and the group will be exploring potential funding sources.

Buildings and Grounds

The stonework around the station flagpole is nearly complete.

General Operations/Administration

The department fielded ten emergency calls during the extreme wind and rain event on Tuesday, February 21st. These included medical calls, in addition to downed power lines and trees. Power remains out to several areas of town, but is expected to be restored later tonight.

The District is working with IT Manager Ian Johnson to acquire a new computer for the Duty Officer room. Ian is also working with AT&T to switch our internet and phones to an upgraded router.

The District will resume in-person meetings next month. Form 700 conflict of interest statements are due from all board members by April 1.

Personnel

Capt. Pete Smith has returned to full duty. Chief Krakauer gave his appreciation for Capt. Smith.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Action Item #1 – Approve Governing Board Representative and Alternates for the Marin Emergency Radio Authority

MSC Pierce/Martinelli (unan.) to approve Chief George Krakauer as the District representative to the Marin Emergency Radio Authority Governing Board, with Isaac Taylor and Asst. Chief Marcotte as alternates.

AYES: Torrey, Pierce, Martinelli, Dunne.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Molesworth.

Board Secretary Isaac Taylor explained that a form must be approved annually by the board of directors, naming the District's representative to the MERA Board of Directors, along with designated alternates.

Action Item #2 – Reschedule Regular Monthly Board Meeting for March, 2023

MSC Martinelli/Dunne (unan.) to reschedule the March regular monthly board meeting from March 22nd to March 29th, 2023.

Isaac Taylor explained that he would be out of state for the next regular board meeting, and would prefer to be present for the Board's first in-person meeting. Dir. Pierce stated that he would support a move, and Directors suggested March 29th.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

AYES: Torrey, Pierce, Martinelli, Dunne.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Molesworth.

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

No update.

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

Chief Krakauer shared that he expected to reach out to the Finance Advisory Committee in early April to schedule a meeting to discuss the preliminary budget for FY23-24.

Dir. Pierce shared that he would miss remote meetings by Zoom. Vice Pres. Torrey thanked Chief Krakauer and all District staff for their diligent work during extreme weather.

Isaac Taylor and board members wished Chief Krakauer a belated happy birthday.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Pres. Torrey asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor
Administrative Manager

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