

Minutes from the February 25th, 2026, Bolinas Fire Protection District Special Board Meeting at the Bolinas Fire Station.

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

Vice Pres. Torrey asked for unanimous consent to approve the Agenda, with an amendment to change item 5a to a discussion item only. Seeing no objections, the amended Agenda was approved.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

The board received one public comment seeking updates on a proposal to add T-Mobile to a cell tower on the District's property.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MERA/Chiefs

No update.

MWPA

Chief Krakauer reported several Marin Wildfire meetings related to planned and ongoing fuel reduction and hazardous roadside tree projects in the area.

Prevention

Chief Krakauer reported that Marin Wildfire is planning six Chipper events for the West Marin area in 2026, and Bolinas Fire is currently planning an additional four Chipper Days.

Roads

Chief Krakauer reported that Marin County DPW has been in Bolinas retrenching ditches along county-maintained roads.

Chief Krakauer also reported having multiple meetings with Marin Wildfire staff in the eucalyptus grove at Mesa Rd. and Olema-Bolinas Rd., where Bolinas Fire has identified 34 hazardous roadside trees for removal, based on prior arborist reports compiled into a hazards report by BCPUD and BFPD. Chief Krakauer met The Tree Man, a Marin Wildfire-vetted vendor, to look at the hazard trees and prepare an estimate. Bolinas staff continue to coordinate with Marin Wildfire for environmental compliance and biological surveys, and recently met with monarch butterfly experts Stu Weiss and Mia Monroe. Stu is planning a follow-up visit to survey the recently-marked hazard trees and prepare a memo for Marin Wildfire environmental compliance. Chief Krakauer is also coordinating with BCPUD staff to identify sewer lines in the project area and ensure they are not impacted by the planned tree work. Chief Krakauer also reported he is setting up a meeting with Marin County DPW to address any identified hazardous trees which are within the County's right-of-way. The next steps are permitting and executing vendor contracts, and we expect tree work to begin sometime in April.

PG&E has also identified several trees in close proximity to their power transmission lines within the project, which they have scheduled for maintenance or removal.

Inspections

No update.

Planning

No update.

Grants

Chief Krakauer shared that Bolinas Fire has joined a joint proposal by Fire Safe Marin for a PG&E grant opportunity.

Chief Krakauer also shared that Isaac Taylor recently submitted a grant proposal to the California Office of Traffic Safety for a new set of battery-powered extrication tools.

Training

Chief Krakauer reported that training has been focused on EMT skills and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

Chief Krakauer reported that a training is being scheduled with our helicopter evacuation partners at REACH.

Chief Krakauer reported several volunteers and part-time staff are advancing in their driving and engineering training.

Volunteers

Chief Krakauer reported updating some volunteer banking information with newly-elected BVFA officers. Caleb Norton was elected President, Kelly Green was elected Vice President, and Meg Gould was elected Treasurer.

Apparatus

Chief Krakauer reported that Engine 283 continues to experience issues, but he believes we are close to diagnosing and correcting a final issue causing a rough start. Engine 283 also got all new tires.

Chief Krakauer reported that the Engine Replacement Committee continues to work on refining the new Engine 285 build with Hi-Tech, EVS.

Disaster Council

Chief Krakauer reported that Asst. Chief Marcotte held an in-person meeting of the Disaster Council earlier this month to complete the onboarding of new members.

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 the fire station had to completely run out its propane tank in order to replace an out-of-date pressure release valve, requiring extensive coordination with the Bolinas Clinic, who keep important vaccines and medications under refrigeration with a backup generator tied to the propane.

Chief Krakauer also reported a small leak in the fire station identified during the last rains, which he believes has been repaired.

General Operations/Administration

Chief Krakauer reiterated a focus on Marin Wildfire meetings, upcoming tree work, the Engine 283 new build, and personnel planning and training.

Vice Pres. Torrey asked for an update on the Little Mesa roads. Chief Krakauer responded that he has been coordinating with Marin County civil engineers to offer advice to the neighborhood group dealing with these issues.

Personnel

Chief Krakauer stated that he would be calling a meeting of the HR Committee soon to go over some new employment agreements.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion Item #1 – Approve Resolution 220-2026, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Bolinas Fire Protection District Approving a Sole Source Purchase of one Type 1 Pumper from Hi-Tech Emergency Vehicle Service, Inc., and Authorizing the Use of Vehicle Replacement Reserve Funds

Chief Krakauer reported that he expected to have an updated contract and specification to approve tonight, but due to some needed changes, we will need to await a new price to be determined by the manufacturer. We anticipate a small increase.

Chief Krakauer reported that District staff has been working with County Counsel on a revised purchase agreement, which we sent today to the vendor, Hi-Tech Emergency Vehicle Services. We hope to review the engine specification and agreement together by the end of next week.

Chief Krakauer reminded the board that the Engine Replacement Committee has been working to refine and build out the new specification for a new Engine 285. The current Engine 285 would become our second-out type 1 engine, becoming Engine 283, and our new engine would take the Engine 285 designation. The current Engine 283 is approaching its 30th birthday and nearing its end of service life.

Chief Krakauer explained that the prior Chief and District Board set up the engine replacement reserve fund in 2006, with a 25-year replacement interval in mind. Chief Krakauer noted that he is hoping to initiate the purchase agreement soon, so that we have a chance at securing one of the last 2026 model-year motors as part of our specification. The 2027 motor has different emissions standards, and there is a feeling on the committee that the older model may be more reliable and serviceable.

Chief Krakauer reported that he now intends to bring this item to a vote in the March regular meeting, unless a Special Meeting is required due to time constraints.

The resolution is two parts: 1.) to authorize execution of the purchase order with Hi-Tech EVS for the amount specified; and 2.) to authorize the release of reserve funds, which will be paid upon delivery of the cab and chassis to the manufacturer, and the balance upon delivery of the built Engine to the District. The approximate build time from the agreement to delivery is around two years.

Dir. Martinelli noted that the Hi-Tech build was previously selected by a competitive bidding process by the City of San Jose. However, Isaac Taylor noted that the District's purchase will be through a sole-source procurement.

Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor also shared a staff report comparing prepay and lease-purchase financing options for the apparatus purchase. The option to prepay the engine chassis upon delivery was found to be the lowest cost option.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources Advisory Committee – No update.

Finance Advisory Committee – Dir. Dunne reported a Finance Committee meeting related to purchase options for the new Engine 285.

Operations Working Group – No update.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Pres. Torrey asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor
Administrative Manager

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