

Minutes from the June 22nd, 2022, Bolinas Fire Protection District Board Meeting, Via Zoom.

Pres. Molesworth called the meeting of the Bolinas Fire Protection District to order at 7:08 P.M. Vice Pres. Torrey, and Dir. Dunne were present. Also present: Chief Krakauer and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor. Dir. Martinelli joined at 7:15 P.M., and Dir. Pierce was absent.

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to approve the Agenda, with the amendment to remove item 5b, as Advisory Committees were approved in the January regular meeting. Seeing no objections, the Agenda is approved as amended.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

None.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MERA

Chief Krakauer attended the MERA meeting on Wednesday, June 22nd. Members voted to keep existing President Richard Pearce and Vice President Todd Cusimano. Bid package #3 was approved, covering sites at Mill Valley, Skyview, Tomales, and Wolfback Ridge. Members also approved a new lease for the Next Gen site at Mount Burdell.

Chiefs

Chief Krakauer was unable to attend the Chiefs Meeting in May, due to onboarding new Bolinas firefighter Emily Easom.

MWPA

There was no MWPA meeting in May.

Prevention

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

Roads

Chief Krakauer, Pres. Molesworth and Isaac Taylor met with Stinson Beach Fire Protection District board members Jeff Walsh and Mark White to discuss parking issues in each town and potential coordination efforts to expand enforcement of fire lanes and public safety issues. Chief Krakauer reported that enforcement officers have been conducting regular patrols of our area, and he has been working directly with Officer Emily Cushman to install new signage on upper Park Avenue and at the end of Wharf Road.

Pres. Molesworth added that she indicated the District's support for the concerns and initiatives of SBFPD, but that BFPD will likely keep our efforts confined to ongoing safety and enforcement efforts within District boundaries. The District did agree to coordinate on any efforts affecting emergency access in both communities.

Inspections

No update.

Planning

Chief Krakauer met with the Planning Division of the Marin County Community Development Agency to look over a proposed variance for a driveway at the new BCLT project at 31 Wharf Road. The group approved a variance for the driveway, and Chief Krakauer determined there will be ample room for emergency access, despite it being slightly narrower than called for by codes.

Grants

No update.

Training

Training has been focused on wildland firefighting. Although today's scheduled wildland live burn training was cancelled due to high fire danger, the District plans to send a crew tomorrow. This valuable training is taking place at the H Ranch in Novato, and is offered by Marin County Fire.

Volunteers

The Bolinas Volunteer Firefighters Association continues to make progress toward updating its bylaws.

Apparatus

A mobile mechanic has replaced a frozen air dryer on Engine 285.

Disaster Council

No update.

Resource Recovery

Firefighter Aaron Pendergraft picked up a new seat and some paint to touch up the new front loader.

Buildings and Grounds

A new stonework installation around the fire station flagpole is now complete. Project manager Hector Mora donated all of his time, and his crew were paid with a generous donation from Bolinas resident Jennifer Brahm. Chief Krakauer and Pres. Molesworth expressed their intention to issue formal notes of gratitude to both Mr. Mora and Mrs. Brahm.

General Operations/Administration

The District welcomed and onboarded new full-time firefighter Emily Easom. Schedules have been adjusted to allow more training opportunities for Firefighter Easom.

The Lions Club have once again cancelled the annual 4th of July tug and parade. Nevertheless, in anticipation of a busy weekend, Chief Krakauer is working with the Bolinas Community Center, Mesa Park, and downtown businesses to acquire extra portable toilets for busy downtown areas.

Medic 97, the seasonal Marin County Fire ambulance, has extended their staffing to 10-hour shifts Monday-Thursday, 24-hour shifts Friday and Saturday, and 12-hour shifts on Sunday. The Medic 97 crew will be staying overnight at the Bolinas fire station on Friday and Saturday nights through the season.

Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor shared a correction to the election resolution approved at the previous monthly meeting in May (Resolution 203-2022). One of the three open board member seats is actually a two-year short-term position, to complete

what would have been former board member David Kimball's full term. The remaining two seats are for regular, 4-year terms of office. The corrected resolution will be submitted to the Elections Department following this meeting.

Isaac also shared that the District was contacted about a potential refinancing opportunity by Wulff Hansen, a brokerage who previously worked with the District in 2016 to refinance the fire station construction bond. After reviewing their proposal, Isaac and Chief Krakauer plan to reach out to the Finance Advisory Committee for further discussion.

Personnel

The District is focused on wildland training, with newer volunteers, a new resident firefighter, as well as our new full-time firefighter Emily Easom. Pres. Molesworth asked for a definition of progressive hose lays. Chief Krakauer explained that firefighters carry rolls of hose approximately 100 feet long, progressing the hose 100 feet at a time to extinguish the edge of a wildland fire.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Action Item #1 – Approve Final Budget for FY 2022-2023

MSC Dunne/Torrey (unan.) to approve the Final Budget for FY 2022-2023.

AYES: Molesworth, Torrey, Martinelli, Dunne.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Pierce.

Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor summarized two adjustments from the recently-approved draft budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. First, the payroll line item for Administrative Manager has been increased, pursuant to a discussion in last month's regular meeting. A corresponding decrease was applied to our reserve contribution for the vehicle replacement fund. The remaining net operating profit is still allocated to the District's expected purchase of a UTV with MWPA grant funds.

Discussion Item #1 – District Wildfire Preparedness and Response

Chief Krakauer shared that Defensible Space Inspectors will be in Bolinas by early July, focusing first on homes in downtown and north to Horseshoe Hill and Dogtown. If time and allotted funds remain, the evaluators will then return to the Big Mesa.

The first MWPA Chipper Day was successful. The first District-sponsored Chipper Day will be this Saturday, June 25th. With most Chipper Days already filled, Chief Krakauer proposed an additional Chipper Day for late July. The additional day is within our budget for prevention projects, and can be coordinated with the defensible space evaluations beginning soon.

Meadow Mowing will be completing the District's annual roadside mowing this year. Chief Krakauer is still coordinating with the National Park Service to ensure complete mowing of the roadside and part of the field adjacent to Poplar Road.

The District sent a fire season mailer to Bolinas residents last week. Chief Krakauer thanked Dir. Dunne and Isaac Taylor for their work on this community education project.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Pres. Molesworth asked Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor if all expected FY21-22 disbursements were reflected in this month's financial reports. Isaac responded that some disbursements expected in June had not yet been reported. Vice Pres. Torrey asked about an apparently low percentage of budgeted revenue from interest on county accounts. Isaac responded that this item had in fact come in well under budget, and based on discussion with our auditor, we adjusted next year's budget to reflect the very low projections for revenue from interest.

AYES: Molesworth, Torrey, Martinelli, Dunne.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Pierce.

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Pres. Molesworth attended the monthly MWPA Board Meeting on Thursday, June 16th. MWPA sponsored a music festival where they set up a table. From that single event, MWPA was able to double applications for their defensible space and home hardening grants. Pres. Molesworth urged everyone to get the word out in Bolinas about these grant opportunities.

MWPA is making some progress with Marin County to submit an application to the Coastal Commission for a road clearing exemption in the Coastal Zone.

The MWPA Board of Directors approved the Greater Ross Valley Fuel Break, a massive 38-mile fuel break project surrounding the Ross Valley communities.

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 Chief Krakauer and Isaac Taylor for wrapping up the 2022-2023 budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor
Administrative Manager

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