

Minutes from the March 25th, 2021, Bolinas Fire Protection District Board Meeting, Via Zoom.

Pres. Molesworth called the meeting of the Bolinas Fire Protection District to order at 7:03 P.M. Vice Pres. Kimball, Dir. Torrey, Dir. Dunne, and Dir. Martinelli were present. Also present: Chief Krakauer, Asst. Chief Steve Marcotte and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor.

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

Discussion – County of Marin Parking Restriction Proposal (Reuel Brady, Stuart Hayre, & Emily Cushman)

Chief Krakauer introduced Reuel Brady and Stuart Hayre from the County of Marin Department of Public Works (DPW) Traffic division, as well as Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Parking Enforcement Officer Emily Cushman. Chief Krakauer and Reuel Brady gave background on the proposal, which has been a collaboration between County DPW, Bolinas Fire, MCSO, and local residents. The recent increase in coastal visitation related to the coronavirus pandemic prompted the County Director of Transportation to ask for a reassessment of coastal parking restrictions. DPW then reached out to Bolinas Fire regarding access and safety, as well as MCSO regarding ticketing and enforcement concerns. Reuel Brady considers the proposal a safety request.

Stuart Hayre noted that DPW is attempting a balanced approach which considers community parking needs in addition to public safety, including a public comment period closing Friday, March 26. He explained that the inquiry began with Terrace Avenue, and grew to include Olema-Bolinas road on advice of Officer Cushman. The scope of the proposal extends from Mesa Rd. to the lumber yard on Olema-Bolinas Rd., and from Park to Overlook on Terrace Avenue.

An existing parking restriction, approved in 1989, covers the east side of Olema-Bolinas Rd. from Mesa Rd. through the end of the intersection with Brighton Ave. However, signs at the intersection of Olema-Bolinas and Brighton were removed at some time, and parking has been normalized in that small section. This proposal would formalize the allowance for two parking spaces in the section directly across from Brighton Ave. At the recommendation of Officer Cushman, an additional restriction is proposed on the west side of Olema-Bolinas Rd. from Mesa Rd. to the lumber yard (approximately 300 ft. from the Brighton Ave. intersection). Stuart noted the lack of a shoulder and presence of a drainage ditch along most of this section, making parking inappropriate and obstructive to inbound traffic. Emily Cushman also advised that cars parked in dry grass can be a fire hazard.

Stuart Hayre explained that DPW's investigation of parking restrictions along Terrace Avenue was prompted by the requests of residents, and is focused on fire access and safety. The proposal is for an extended no-parking restriction on both sides of lower Terrace Avenue, to the intersection with Park Avenue. An exception would be made for two to three spaces in front of 18 Terrace Avenue, and a possible exception for off-pavement parking at 5 Terrace. At 44 Terrace, after consultation with residents, BFPD, and the Sheriff's office, it is proposed that recently-delineated parking be retained. It is further proposed that parking in front of 104 Terrace be delineated by striping.

For all Terrace Avenue restrictions, a new fire lane designation is proposed. With such a designation, existing no-parking signs would be replaced by fire lane no-parking signs, which would carry a higher fine for illegal parking. The new fire lane signs are also intended to increase awareness and more effectively get the attention of irresponsible beachgoers, who may be blocking emergency access without knowing it.

Stuart summarized DPW's request for a letter of support for these proposed changes from the BFPD Board of Directors. Chief Krakauer noted that tonight was limited to discussion, but that the Board would be asked to vote on approval of a letter of support in the April regular board meeting.

Reuel Brady explained that after public comments close at the end of the week, DPW would await BFPD's letter of support, then go to the BCPUD Board of Directors in May seeking similar support. Finally, DPW would seek approval by the County of Marin Board of Supervisors prior to beginning work in mid-July, if all goes smoothly.

Vice Pres. Kimball asked Officer Cushman about the feasibility of enforcement and towing. Officer Cushman acknowledged difficulties of towing, but explained that fire lane restrictions carry higher fines, and associated signs typically are a more effective deterrent. Vice Pres. Kimball also inquired about whether the existing restriction on the east side of Olema-Bolinas Road had the potential to impact resident parking. Officer Cushman clarified that the restriction does not pertain to driveways.

Reuel Brady asked Officer Cushman if the fire department could ticket cars parked within a fire lane. Officer Cushman stated that MCSO could work with County counsel to authorize specific fire officials to ticket cars parked in the fire lane, but that the decision would ultimately be up to BFPD.

Director Torrey asked whether restrictions on Wharf Road had been investigated during this process. Chief Krakauer stated that the fire department has looked at it with this team, and noted that the County has recently installed two new large signs, adding that he and Officer Cushman are exploring the possible addition of striping to delineate the travel lane. Chief Krakauer noted that the County had also recently re-striped the red fire lane on the wall at the end of Wharf Road, where people sometimes park illegally and block the turnaround. However, Chief Krakauer noted that Wharf Road is not part of the current County proposal.

Director Martinelli asked whether anyone had explored the possibility of adding parking spaces on the upper east side of Olema-Bolinas Road by adding improvements. Chief Krakauer and Reuel Brady responded that road improvements had not been explored, but Stuart Hayre encouraged exploring those opportunities further during this time. Pres. Molesworth asked if the current proposal would eliminate any existing legal spaces, and Officer Cushman confirmed that it does not. Expanded restrictions in this proposal would simply affirm no-parking in areas where vehicles would otherwise illegally obstruct the roadway. Chief Krakauer thanked Emily, Reuel, and Stuart for their time and careful attention to matters in this proposal. Pres. Molesworth agreed, and indicated BFPD would begin working on a draft letter, to be approved at the next regular meeting.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

No additional general public expression.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MERA

Chief Krakauer attended the MERA meeting on Wednesday, March 24th. The governing board approved the audited financials for fiscal year 2019-2020. The board also approved bid packages for Big Rock, San Pedro and Sonoma Mountain. The board approved a 10-year lease for a new site on Wolfback Ridge in Sausalito. A 20-year-old generator at the Bolinas site will be replaced soon.

Chiefs

Chief Krakauer attended a Chiefs meeting on Thursday, March 18th. FIRESafe Marin, MERA and dispatch services provided updates. There was discussion about a new Home Hardening Disclosure and Advisory Form established by the Association of California Realtors that went into effect January 1, which is intended to notify home buyers of vulnerabilities to home hardening criteria in high and very high fire hazard areas. Chief Krakauer noted that Horseshoe Hill Road and Dogtown qualify as high hazard areas, which means the District may be asked for 4291 inspections when homes there are sold.

Prevention

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

Roads

Pres. Molesworth thanked Chief Krakauer for his work with residents and County officials on the proposal for updated parking restrictions.

Chief Krakauer spoke with Supervisor Rodoni about an idea brought to him by downtown Bolinas residents regarding the possibility of adding speed humps to Brighton Avenue. Chief Krakauer was supportive of the addition of speed humps as a safety measure, and does not believe they would impede emergency access. This may be presented to the board in a future meeting if a formal request is made.

Grants

Isaac Taylor is working on a potential Cal Fire grant proposal involving the Resource Recovery site with assistance from Jennifer Blackmon from BCPUD.

Training

Chief Krakauer reported a successful live fire exercise at training on Tuesday, March 23rd. Chief Krakauer thanked Asst. Chief Marcotte for all his thorough work on the burn trailer, coordinating with the County and Air District, creating an incident action plan, and working closely with volunteers. This was a first live fire exercise for several volunteers. Asst. Chief Marcotte applauded the entire team effort, and thanked Bolinas Volunteer Colin Jackson from Tiburon Fire for lending his expertise, as well as the BFPD for their investment in the training container. He encouraged further District investment in this area.

Volunteers

Chief Krakauer reported that the return to in-person training is going well. Meg Gould has been working on a very cool new t-shirt design for the Bolinas Volunteer Firefighters Association, with Ron Brown's son Oliver Whitcroft. The volunteers expect to receive their first shipment soon, and will make it available to the public with proceeds going to the Bolinas Volunteer Firefighters Association, a local 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Apparatus

Engine 285 has developed a problem with the primer pump similar to 283, but Joe Walker and Ian Johnson plan to address it this weekend, and the prognosis is good.

Disaster Council

Asst. Chief Marcotte reported that Marin County RACES has offered to place one of their HAM radios in the Bolinas Fire station, which could act as a backup in case of outages in a disaster. Chief Krakauer reported that the old fire station once had a HAM radio, and Vice Pres. Kimball stated that it should be considered a necessary instead of optional.

Asst. Chief Marcotte also shared that the Bolinas Community Center is requesting assistance from Disaster Council to purchase some emergency supplies.

Resource Recovery

Chief Krakauer reported that the District has been working with Jennifer Blackmon and Jeff Creque on some staffing and equipment items for the Resource Recovery site. Don Murch is filling in for Mike Aitken during his temporary absence.

Buildings and Grounds

Chief Krakauer shared that the County painted a stripe at the road in front of the apparatus bay, and stones were dropped off by Hector and Rick for planned work around the station flag pole.

General Operations/Administration

Chief Krakauer reported that Lt. Collins from MCSO reached out to him about department needs, and informed him that 24-hour Sherriff's Office coverage will resume in West Marin on Sunday night, March 28th.

Firefighter coronavirus testing continues every other week, and community testing continues each Monday through April 5th. The BFPD is currently requesting permission from the County for BFPD staff to continue community testing after April 5th, to coincide with its biweekly firefighter testing.

The Marin HHS vaccination clinic hosted at Bolinas Fire on Friday, March 19 went well, and we hope to host a similar event in the near future.

Chief Krakauer shared that he, Asst. Chief Marcotte, and Isaac will begin preliminary budgeting for fiscal year 2021-2022 in the next week. We have reached out to Nigro & Nigro about continuing our agreement for auditing, and we also intend to continue our agreement with Michael O'Connor for bookkeeping services.

Chief Krakauer and Isaac Taylor met last week with our new County counsel, Sarah Anker to introduce ourselves and District legal needs. Sarah also works with Stinson Beach Fire Protection District.

Chief Krakauer and Isaac Taylor met with County officials to discuss Measure W transient occupancy tax revenues. Based on this meeting, we believe revenues are on track to meet or exceed our budget for this fiscal year.

Chief Krakauer spoke to representatives from Verizon about renewing our cellular tower lease, which is set to expire in early 2022. We expect to continue the lease under similar terms, and we expect to hear from AT&T about similar matters in the near future for their lease ending in October 2022. We expect to receive new lease language from Verizon soon for the Board to review and approve.

Chief Krakauer and Isaac Taylor have registered for a LAFCO online workshop scheduled for Thursday, April 29th on the topic of sharing services between special districts, and Directors are invited to attend.

President Molesworth brought up the idea of requesting a primer on the Brown Act from new County counsel Sarah Anker, and Directors voiced support for a separate meeting for this purpose sometime in the late spring or early summer.

Personnel

Chief Krakauer reported that the new weekly schedule is working out well. He also shared that we expect to have a new resident firefighter beginning soon. The resident position is a weekly 24-hour volunteer position for candidates wishing to gain experience in the fire service. This new addition will balance the recent loss of another resident firefighter.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Action Item #1 – Approve Amended Regular Board Meeting Schedule for 2021
MSC Torrey/Martinelli (unan.) to approve Amended Regular Board Meeting Schedule for 2021.

President Molesworth clarified that, while regular meeting dates are now moved to the fourth Wednesday of each month, meetings during the November-December holiday season have been moved to the *third* Thursday to avoid conflicts with the BCPUD.

Discussion – District Wildfire Preparedness and Response

Chief Krakauer, Asst. Chief Marcotte, Vice Pres. Kimball and Director Martinelli met on Monday, March 22nd with the UC Berkeley team conducting an evacuation study on Bolinas regarding issues of fire, communication, and traffic. Items discussed included specific areas vehicles may gather in a shelter-in-place emergency, various communications scenarios, and updates on the group's modeling of various fire scenarios. Thomas Maiorana provided a brief update on an emergency simulation game which will be introduced to Bolinas students as an educational tool. The group plan to meet again on April 12th for further introduction to the simulation. Vice Pres. Kimball noted that the group presented a draft report of their study, which will be undergoing peer review in the near future. He also pointed out that the youth-oriented simulation is based on the same modeling scenarios used in the study. Chief Krakauer noted that an executive summary is available for the Board to review at its discretion.

Chief Krakauer received an email from FireSAFE Marin's Kathleen Cutter regarding planned Chipper Days on June 1 and August 30 for Bolinas-Stinson. They asked for BFPD to begin publicizing the events, and Chief Krakauer recommended BFPD augment these efforts with additional Chipper Days using MWPA local funding. The District will begin advertising all chipper days sometime in May.

Chief Krakauer and Jordan Reeser met with West Marin Chiefs to discuss MWPA core projects for this year. Items discussed included a possible new MWPA project coordinator position, and utilization of an environmental consultant to streamline core project implementation and Environmental Impact Reports. Chief Krakauer introduced BFPD's proposal for this year's core project, which would be a continuation of a BCPUD eucalyptus grove maintenance project around the Resource Recovery site.

Chief Krakauer will be meeting with a PG&E field representative on April 12th to look at a small number of hazard trees slated for removal on Mesa Road.

BFPD staff have been selling NOAA emergency alert weather radios, and Chief Krakauer asked everyone to continue spreading the word. They are being sold at a reduced cost of \$20, and Chief Krakauer asks that all residents call before they come to purchase a radio in order to ensure staff are available and radios are programmed.

Chief Krakauer shared that President Molesworth, Vice Pres. Kimball, Isaac Taylor and he have discussed the idea of forming a strategic communications plan for BFPD, to include safety information, education, and community outreach. The District currently uses Nextdoor, Twitter, its website and the local papers to disseminate information to the public.

Vice Pres. Kimball attended the March board meeting of MWPA, representing the one-year anniversary of the passage of Measure C. The group have completed vision and mission statements, established committees, passed bylaws, conducted legal and environmental analyses, and plan to complete values, goals, and objectives in April and May. Kimball credited recently-elected Board President Bruce Goins, and all of the Board Members, for their diligence and efforts. He noted a budget would be forthcoming, based on the reports of the MWPA Operations Committee and vetting of core projects throughout the county.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

No update.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – No update.

Personnel Committee – No update.

Buildings and Grounds – No Update.

Operations Working Group –No Update.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Vice Pres. Kimball acknowledged Chief Krakauer, Asst. Chief Marcotte, and Isaac Taylor for their collaborative efforts on behalf of the District.

ADJOURNMENT

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to adjourn. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor
Administrative Manager

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