

Minutes from the February 26th, 2025, Bolinas Fire Protection District 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. Dir. Pierce, Dir. Martinelli and Dir. Dunne were present. Also present: Chief Krakauer and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor. Vice Pres. Torrey was absent.

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 Agenda was approved as amended.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Members of the Board responded to public comment in item 5a.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MERA/Chiefs

Chief Krakauer attended the monthly MERA meeting, and reported no major updates affecting Bolinas.

MWPA

Chief Krakauer reported that MWPA will be sponsoring six Chipper Day events this year in Bolinas.

Chief Krakauer reported that he is looking into having vacant lots added to the schedule of MWPA Defensible Space inspections. While the expansion to vacant lots does not appear to be feasible this year, it may be possible to include vacant lot inspections in the future. Pres. Molesworth and Dir. Dunne asked whether the District would be pursuing abatement on noncompliant vacant lots, and Chief Krakauer responded that it is a possibility, and that he is exploring funding opportunities through MWPA and looking at enforcement options being implemented by the few local municipalities currently pursuing this model. Dir. Martinelli noted that insurance providers are also applying pressure on owners to remove hazardous vegetation.

Chief Krakauer reported working with MWPA to develop a Project Work Plan for fiscal year 25-26, including the distribution of Core Project funding. Bolinas hopes to propose a fuel reduction project downtown behind businesses along Wharf Road, combining a small amount of Core Project funding with the District's MWPA local funds.

Prevention

Chief Krakauer reported that the District will sponsor four additional Chipper Days this year, beginning April 4th.

Roads

Chief Krakauer reported that Marin County Fire crews completed evacuation route roadside clearance last week on the Little Mesa. The District will complete its own evacuation road clearance later this year, typically after bird nesting season.

Inspections

No update.

Planning

No update.

Grants

No update.

Training

Chief Krakauer reported that training has been focused on continuing to develop new engine drivers. Four District volunteers attended the recent driver training class, and must complete additional supervised driving hours before they are eligible to take the exam.

Chief Krakauer reported that he attended another Company Officer training series last month in Monterey. This class focused on wildfire response, and consisted of lecture and scenario trainings. Chief Krakauer's group analyzed the Berkeley Hills fire and gave a presentation to the group. There is one remaining class in this series, which Chief Krakauer hopes to take before summer.

Chief Krakauer reported that the department is continuing to upstaff with extra-hire volunteers, who are working 3-4 shifts per month with a focus on skills training. This extra-hire program was budgeted for this year.

Chief Krakauer reported that Asst. Chief Marcotte led a live fire training yesterday, which was attended by approximately 25 volunteers from Bolinas, Inverness, Stinson Beach and Nicasio.

Volunteers

Chief Krakauer reported one new volunteer, Val Kostelnik. Chief Krakauer is grateful to welcome Val and his sister Cass Kostelnik to the department.

Chief Krakauer reported that the Association met last month, where they voted to purchase some new gym equipment, and to study Association finances.

Apparatus

Chief Krakauer reported that Engine 285 is back from the shop with a replaced turbo actuator. Unfortunately, the part was not under warranty as originally believed.

Chief Krakauer also reported that Engine 283 was in the shop for all of last week, in attempt to diagnose a faulty voltage regulator. Staff are continuing to look for solutions to replace and rewire the unusual and out-of-production regulator to the engine's alternator.

Chief Krakauer that all three utility pickups have had their annual service completed.

Chief Krakauer reported that he has initiated an ad hoc Engine Replacement Committee with Dir. Martinelli, and they hope to set up a meeting with Hi-Tech Emergency Vehicle Services soon to discuss engine specifications. Pres. Molesworth and Dir. Martinelli shared reporting from the New York Times on consolidation and delays in the fire engine manufacturing industry affecting departments nationwide.

Disaster Council

Chief Krakauer reported that Asst. Chief Marcotte met yesterday with Marin County's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Elaine Wilkinson to discuss disaster coordination.

Resource Recovery

Chief Krakauer reported that fees will be increasing for green waste drop-offs starting March 1st. The price will go from \$20 to \$30 per yard. Amended hours are 9am to 5pm,

with the site closed each Sunday and Tuesday. The price change will help the site to achieve financial sustainability.

Buildings and Grounds

Chief Krakauer reported that the department shredded fourteen boxes of old and unneeded files, pursuant to records management policy. Chief Krakauer thanked Isaac Taylor for sorting through the files in accordance with the District's recently-adopted records retention schedule.

Chief Krakauer reported he is researching options and costs for an eventual replacement of the District's aboveground fuel tank.

General Operations/Administration

Chief Krakauer reported a busy start to February, with 14 emergency calls in 24 hours. Many areas of West Marin experienced flooding, including Bolinas.

Isaac Taylor reported continuing negotiations with Octagon Towers LLC regarding a potential new cellular tower lease agreement with the possible addition of T-Mobile. The existing lease expires after September 2027.

Isaac Taylor reported finalizing all documents for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 annual audit.

Isaac Taylor reminded directors to submit their annual Form 700 Statement of Economic Interest forms for 2025.

Personnel

Chief Krakauer reported that the department will begin a new schedule as of March 1st.

Chief Krakauer reported that the District continues to work with CalPERS to resolve findings resulting from an audit of CalPERS retired annuitants.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion Item #1 – Local Wildfire Risk, Evacuation and the L.A. Fires

MWPA Executive Officer Mark Brown joined via remote connection to address the Board about countywide MWPA initiatives addressing wildfire preparedness, risk reduction, evacuation and public education.

Chief Krakauer gave statistics on the recent L.A. fires, and then reported on local risk and prevention activities. He noted that extreme weather events mean that no location is exempt from catastrophic wildfire, as evidenced by historical fires in our region as well as southern California. Chief Krakauer pointed out that structures themselves often become the primary fuel source in urban conflagrations, and emphasized the "house-out" approach, focusing on "Zone Zero," the space from 0-5 feet from a structure, to reduce the risk of ignition. Chief Krakauer noted that no system is capable of delivering the quantity of water needed to fight an urban conflagration such as the recent L.A. fires, and stressed that remaining in a car is always safer than attempting to flee a fire on foot.

Directors asked Mark Brown about coordination with the state, enforcement and citations, the home insurance industry, and benefits to the Bolinas community from MWPA programs and initiatives.

Pres. Molesworth and Chief Krakauer thanked Mark Brown for joining the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Pres. Molesworth attended a meeting of the MWPA Board of Directors last week, and discussed Zone Zero initiatives, new maps and draft ordinances.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources Advisory Committee – Dir. Pierce reported the committee met to discuss the CalPERS audit, expected scheduling issues, and seeking additional legal advice.

Finance Advisory Committee – No update.

Operations Working Group – No update.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor
Administrative Manager

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