

Bodega Volunteer Fire Department Minutes – Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: February 10, 2026

Meeting Called to Order: 7:35 PM

Board Members Present: David Hamilton, Ron Albin, James Piazza

Board Members Absent: Sarah Molica Dougherty (unexpected absence noted)

Others in Attendance: 11 Community members present

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were presented and approved by the Board.

Topics Discussed

1. Gold Ridge Agreement and Septic System Update

The Board discussed ongoing coordination with Gold Ridge regarding the firehouse septic system and related site improvements.

David Hamilton and James met with Darrin and engineer Lee Erickson to review the site. The current plan is for Gold Ridge to install a stand-alone septic system for the firehouse. As an interim solution, a temporary holding tank will be installed adjacent to the post office near the fire department.

Gold Ridge has also brought Richard Murphy to Cameron to evaluate the possibility of creating two bedrooms in the new fire hall. An architect has been engaged to prepare drawings for submission to the county. These drawings will allow the county to determine the requirements for the septic system.

The Board agreed that a holding tank should not be formally proposed until county septic requirements are confirmed. The current approach is for Gold Ridge to apply to the county using the existing system. It is anticipated that the county may determine the existing system is inadequate, which would justify installation of the holding tank.

The proposed holding tank would likely be approximately 4,000 gallons, allowing the firehouse to operate independently until a permanent septic system location is identified.

Under the current plan:

- The firehouse would operate on the holding tank system.

- The post office would remain connected to the existing septic system.
- The two systems would be separated.

James and David have met with Eric twice to develop a term sheet outlining the agreement with Gold Ridge. The document is expected to be sent to Gold Ridge this week. At present, the parties have a general verbal agreement, and Eric is drafting the written summary so all parties can review the terms.

2. Legal Counsel – Corporate and Bylaw Review

The organization has retained attorney Jeremy Olson to review the corporation structure and bylaws.

Sarah and David believed an agreement had already been signed with him. However, communication has been delayed due to difficulty coordinating schedules. Over the past few weeks there has been email correspondence and phone attempts, but direct contact has not yet been reestablished.

The Board noted that Jeremy Olson was previously very helpful, and follow-up will continue.

3. Treasurer’s Report

Sarah was unable to attend the meeting and reported earlier that she did not have access to the Exchange Bank account that day.

Current balances are approximately: Morgan Stanley Account: \$481,033

- Exchange Bank Account: approximately \$92,000

Balances are largely unchanged from the previous meeting.

Building and Property Management

4. Post Office Railing

The new railing at the post office was discussed. Several members suggested installing bollards in front of the railing to prevent vehicles from accidentally hitting the structure.

It was noted that materials for bollards may already be available.

Discussion also included finishing options for the railing: Leaving the redwood natural, staining the wood, or painting the railing.

The Board noted there is time over the next couple of months to consider these options. It was suggested that the contractor be asked whether staining would cost more or less than painting. Some members also suggested keeping certain decorative Victorian details painted white.

5. McCaughey Hall Floor

Work on the McCaughey Hall floor has been completed. Additional work included:

- Replacement of baseboards
 - Reinstallation of bathroom accessories
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Community Events and Programs

6. Polenta Feed Fundraiser

The annual Polenta Feed is scheduled for March 28.

Proposed ticket prices: Adults: \$25, Children: \$15

7. Scholarship Program

Collette prepared draft scholarship guidelines. It was suggested that a committee be formed to review applications and manage the program.

8. Local Artists Event

Local artists have expressed interest in renting the hall for a community event. The proposal includes: Tables inside the hall, tents outside for additional vendors.

The group will submit a layout plan showing: Vendor locations, portable toilets, garbage cans, signage to slow traffic, access to the post office.

The tentative proposed event date is May 24, 2026.

9. Hall Rental – St. Teresa Church

St. Teresa Church has reserved the hall for a breakfast event scheduled for April 19.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:34 PM