

November 11, 2025

Bodega Volunteer Fire Department

Minutes – Regular Meeting of the Board

Board Members Present: Ron Albini, Vice President. David Hamilton, President. Sarah Molica Dougherty, Treasurer, James Piazza, Secretary

Board Members Absent: None

Others in Attendance: 7 Community Members

Meeting Called to order at 7:37 pm

Minutes of the October 11, 2025 meeting approved.

Topics Discussed:

1. Update on Gold Ridge Lease
2. Operational Issues with Gold Ridge
3. By Laws and Board Elections
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Maintenance & Repair
6. Craft Fair & Polenta Feed

Update on Gold Ridge Lease.

- A meeting with DeCarli is expected later this week to reach a general agreement on the Gold Ridge lease.
- The primary sticking point is ensuring Gold Ridge assumes responsibility for the septic system, especially with the additional load from people housed on-site.
- A board member declined to share the proposed terms, stating they are part of an active negotiation. This prompted disagreement about the need for transparency within the community organization.
- Once a general agreement is reached, it will be brought back to the board and members for approval at a future meeting, targeted for the second Tuesday of December.

Once the lease is written up, it will come to a community meeting for a vote.

Operational Issues with Gold Ridge

- Significant operational problems persist despite a one-year lease assigning maintenance responsibility to Gold Ridge.
- Reported issues include a broken ice machine, non-working computers used for mapping, and radio problems, with no response or support from Gold Ridge.
- Gold Ridge received a federal grant to staff the Bodega station, but there is skepticism about how this grant will be used since it can be applied anywhere in the district.
- Board members' emails for Gold Ridge are reportedly not working, hindering communication and transparency.

By Laws and Board Elections

- The organization's lawyer is on vacation and will review the bylaws upon return around the 24th; the lawyer's rate is \$525 per hour.
- After state approval of the reviewed bylaws, the organization will officially be a new entity.
- An election for a new board member will be planned following state approval of the new bylaws.

Treasurer's Report

- As of December 1st, the Exchange Bank account had \$77,471 and the Morgan Stanley account had \$437,849.70
- The property tax bill was paid and sent to Gold Ridge for reimbursement; no response has been received.
- An invoice for the \$1 rent was also sent and remains unpaid.

Maintenance and Repair

- Post Office Railing: The rotted railing at the post office needs repair. The group will obtain bids from contractors to fix it.
- Flooring: The need to repair the floor was raised again. A member will contact Murphy and others for recommendations and bids for an epoxy solution.
- Ice Machine: The station's ice machine is broken and has not been fixed by Gold Ridge. The group decided to move it to their current location, service it themselves, and use it for fundraising events.

Craft Fair & Polenta Feed: Craft Fair is scheduled for November 28th-29th, 2025 Jen Fox oversees the event. The annual Polenta Feed is scheduled for March 28, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.