Bodega Volunteer Fire Department

Minutes – Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: 05/12/2026
Meeting Called to Order: 7:34 PM

Board Members Present: Dave, Ron, Sarah, James

Board Members Absent: None

Others in Attendance: 28 Community Members Present

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Gold Ridge Lease and Station Staffing

Members discussed ongoing concerns regarding Gold Ridge Fire Protection District's plans for staffing the Bodega Fire Station. Concerns were raised about the lack of submitted plans, uncertainty regarding staffing commitments, possible lease compliance issues, and the continued decline in volunteer participation. The group agreed to seek clarification from the Gold Ridge Board regarding station staffing, lease obligations, and long-term plans for the facility.

Septic System Update

New information regarding the Fire Hall/Post Office septic system indicates that the existing system may support limited firefighter occupancy without requiring a costly redesign if certain partition configurations are used. Members discussed obtaining written county confirmation and sharing the information with Gold Ridge.

Communications and Radio Issues

Concerns were expressed regarding difficulty hearing dispatch traffic at the station. Possible impacts from radio matrix changes were discussed, and further investigation was recommended to improve communication reliability.

Legal and Governance Update

Attorney Jeremy provided an update on the organization's proposed name change, which remains delayed at the California Attorney General's Office. The attorney recommended

developing a mission statement and comprehensively updating the bylaws and governing documents before proceeding further.

Financial Report

The Treasurer reported the following:

- First Exchange Bank Balance: $101,584.42
- Morgan Stanley Balance: $444,681.32
- Polenta Fundraiser Profit: $6,506.99

The Post Office staining project has been completed, while railing installation remains pending. Legal expenses are expected to remain minimal at this time.

Events and Community Outreach

Planning continues for upcoming community events, entertainment, beer donations, and craft fair activities. Members also discussed improving community outreach and public notification of meetings and events.

Mission Statement and Community Projects

Members discussed developing a mission statement focused on community service, education, public safety, emergency preparedness, volunteer firefighter support, and stewardship of community assets. The importance of maintaining the community generator and responsibly managing organizational resources for future community needs was also emphasized.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50 PM