

Bodega Volunteer Fire Department

Minutes – Regular Meeting of the Board

Date: 04/14/2026

Meeting Called to Order: 7:37 PM

Board Members Present: Dave, Ron, Sarah, James

Board Members Absent: None

Others in Attendance: 12 Community Members Present

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented.

Topics Discussed

1. Gold Ridge Lease Update

Discussion was held regarding ongoing lease negotiations with Gold Ridge Fire Protection District. A letter was sent to Darren following discussions involving Shipley and Darren concerning final lease items.

Board members conducted a site visit at the firehouse to review potential tank placement locations. Darren indicated he would discuss the matter with the Board and stated that a response letter is expected within the next several days.

It was noted that if the response differs substantially from current expectations, a special meeting may be scheduled prior to the next regular meeting.

2. Organizational Transfer and Bylaws Rewrite

Jeremy reported that he contacted the Attorney General regarding the organizational transfer from Bodega Volunteer Fire Department to a community organization structure associated with 501(c) status. No response has yet been received, though one is anticipated within approximately one week.

Jeremy recommended fully rewriting the organization's articles and bylaws using current nonprofit governance standards rather than continuing to amend outdated documents. The intent is to modernize the governing documents while maintaining their original purpose and meaning.

3. Treasurer's Report and Building Maintenance

Treasurer's report as of April 1, 2026:

- Exchange Bank: \$97,396.34
- Morgan Stanley: \$443,778.61

No significant upcoming expenses were identified at this time.

Building maintenance concerns were reviewed, including nails popping, boards loosening, and visible areas of rot. Post Office exterior staining work is anticipated within approximately two weeks, weather permitting.

The annual Polenta Dinner grossed approximately \$9,221. Final receipts and expense totals are still being compiled. Due to increasing food costs, updates to shopping lists and pricing estimates will be necessary for future events.

Year-to-date profit and loss reports were printed and distributed.

4. Local Artist Event Logistics

The Board reviewed logistics for the upcoming Local Artists Community Event. Placement drop-off areas was clarified to avoid traffic congestion near the post office. Placement on concrete areas was considered acceptable.

Electrical needs were discussed, including preferred use of the outdoor electrical outlet near the water tank. Members emphasized avoiding the use of post office circuits and ensuring that electrical service is not routed through closed office spaces. Circuit testing and review will occur prior to the event.

Additional room setup details were reviewed. No food service is planned for the event, though paper towels and general supplies will be provided.

5. August Community Big Event Planning

Planning discussions continued regarding the Big Event currently scheduled for August 2, 2026.

Linda was assigned as lead for shopping coordination, with assistance from James. Music arrangements are expected to be coordinated by Josh, who will also assist with logistical planning and food-related coordination.

Salad preparation and serving logistics remain unresolved and require additional planning.

6. Barbecue Area and Picnic Table Improvements

The Board reviewed preliminary improvement concepts for the barbecue and picnic area. Kenny prepared initial drawings, which will be further refined by his architect son.

Proposed improvements include:

- New concrete apron surrounding the barbecue pit
- Sidewalk connection to existing concrete surfaces
- Regrading and leveling of the picnic area
- Concrete pads beneath benches
- Installation of a low-strength “rat slab” to deter gophers
- Decomposed granite surfacing with redwood edging
- Potential future shade structure
- Addition of a water spigot and electrical outlet near the barbecue area

Drainage concerns and possible culvert extension requirements were discussed. Creek debris removal may also be necessary.

ADA accessibility considerations were reviewed, particularly regarding existing grades and access limitations. Members acknowledged that adjustments may be required if accessibility concerns arise during final planning.

General consensus supported continued refinement of the project plans.

7. Chair Bottom Replacement and Seating Maintenance

The Board discussed ongoing chair maintenance needs. Approximately 40–50 chair bottoms have already been replaced at an estimated cost of \$4 each, and additional folding chairs may require replacement parts.

Members discussed the possibility of purchasing new chairs; however, concerns were raised regarding storage limitations and the practicality of non-folding seating. Existing rubber chair feet have been rotated to extend service life, and replacement parts sourced through Amazon have performed satisfactorily.

The Board expressed preference for continuing replacement of chair bottoms to protect flooring surfaces while also considering the purchase of several more comfortable chairs for senior attendees.

A motion was made and approved to purchase additional chair bottoms and replacement feet as needed.

8. Community Cleanup Initiative

The Board discussed organizing a community cleanup effort focused primarily on Salmon Creek Road, and the community of Bodega, where debris accumulation has become a concern. Reported items include tires, appliances, and miscellaneous refuse.

Suggestions included:

- Posting volunteer information on the organization website
- Creating volunteer sign-up forms and liability waivers
- Installing temporary signage
- Coordinating with county agencies regarding landfill assistance or dump fee coverage
- Exploring dumpster availability while recognizing concerns regarding public misuse
- Considering bulky-item pickup services as an alternative
- Recruiting local high school volunteers

Members favored keeping the initial effort relatively simple by partnering with existing organizations and expanding the program in future years if successful.

9. Request for Extrication Tool Funding

The Board reviewed a request from Boone regarding possible funding assistance for extrication tools estimated at approximately \$57,000 for local volunteer operations.

Discussion included previous grant-funded equipment acquisitions through the Office of Traffic Safety as well as concerns regarding use of community funds for equipment associated with a publicly funded district. Members also discussed ensuring that any equipment obtained would remain stationed locally rather than transferred elsewhere.

The Board suggested pursuing grant opportunities specifically targeted toward the local station through Gold Ridge and exploring possible cost-sharing arrangements with partner organizations.

The Board did not approve direct purchase funding at this time and requested additional details and grant exploration before further consideration.

Next Arrangements / Action Items

- Await Darren's lease response letter and schedule a special meeting if necessary
- Jeremy to continue work on updated articles and bylaws pending Attorney General guidance
- Follow up with Alex regarding building repairs and staining schedule
- Finalize Polenta Dinner expense totals and update future shopping estimates
- Confirm electrical setup for the Local Artists Event
- Complete August Big Event shopping and food logistics planning
- Continue refinement of barbecue and picnic area improvement plans
- Purchase additional chair bottoms and replacement feet as needed
- Begin planning for September community cleanup effort and coordinate volunteer recruitment
- Boone to explore grant opportunities for extrication tools and report back with details

Meeting Adjourned: 8:38 PM