

**BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Tuesday, June 24, 2025
Bluffton Fire District Headquarters
MINUTES**

Board Members Present: Bill Rickett, Drew Bedingfield, Natalie Majorkiewicz, Joe Paolo (via phone)

Absent: Dana Marsh, Paul Hamilton

Members Present: Derek Church, Tracy Walling, Rhett Livingston, Steve McKinley

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 4:00, pm by Vice Chair Rickett.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA: Vice Chair Rickett moved to accept the agenda. Director motioned Majorkiewicz, and Director Bedingfield seconded to accept the agenda. Motion passed unanimously. (YEAS – Rickett, Bedingfield, Majorkiewicz, Paolo) (NAYS – None)

CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS: Vice Chair Rickett ask to please keep Commissioners Marsh and Hamilton in their thoughts and prayers as they are currently dealing with some health issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: None.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Director Paolo, motioned, and Director Bedingfield seconded the minutes of May 20, 2025, Board of Directors meeting be approved. Motion passed. (YEAS – Rickett, Bedingfield, Majorkiewicz, Paolo) (NAYS – None)

FINANCIAL REPORT: Chief Church reviewed the Finance Report for the month of May 2025. We are through 91.67% of the 2025 fiscal year budget, and the total expenditures year to date is 88.89%. The revenue requested year to date from the County was \$21,018,117, which is 89.03% of our \$23,606,911 budget. The current fire impact fee balance is \$1,442,372 (\$135,341 Increase).

Director Bedingfield motioned, and Director Majorkiewicz seconded that the May 2025 Financial Report be approved as submitted. Motion passed (YEAS – Rickett, Bedingfield, Majorkiewicz, Paolo) (NAYS – None)

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:

- **Receipt of Training Update**

Approved by the Fire Board 7/15/2025

- **Receipt of Maintenance Update**
- **Receipt of Fire Prevention Update**

Director Majorkiewicz motioned, and Director Bedingfield seconded that the consent agenda be accepted. Motion passed. (YEAS – Rickett, Bedingfield, Majorkiewicz, Paolo) (NAYS – None)

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Receipt of Operations Update:** Chief Church reviewed the Operations Report for May. The overall call volume was 978 calls. The response time report and the response time heat map show a longer response time to calls in the areas covered by Station 34 and between Station 30 and Station 35 as they require a longer distance and time to get on scene. Stations 30, 34, 35 and 38 remain the busiest stations.

PROJECT UPDATES:

- **Accreditation Update:** Peer review team was on site the week of May 4, 2025. The District has been recommended to re-accreditation and we will be attending a hearing in Denver, Colorado in August to stand before the CPSE Commission for the final steps.
- **Strategic Plan Implementation Progress:** Chief Livingston will be working with the team leaders to start working on the strategic goals.
- **Fire Station 39/Sun City Property Acquisition:** Through meetings including Bluffton Fire District, Beaufort County, Cort Atkins, Fraser Construction, and Ward Edwards Engineering, a general floor plan has been approved. The process of obtaining all necessary permitting has begun. The floor plan and rendering have been emailed to the board for reference.
- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):** Bryx will be on site in Beaufort County in July to address all current issues.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Old Station 32:** Reconvey Old Station 32, located at 707 Okatie Highway, to the heirs of Ruth Pryn Field. Requesting approval to retain the law firm of Vaux Marscher Berglund to represent the Fire District in preparing and processing the necessary legal documents to deed the property back to Mrs. Field's heirs. Additionally, the firm will be tasked with drafting a resolution for the Boards approval, formally authorizing the transfer of the property to the Field's family.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Discussion of personnel matters with the Board.

Approved by the Fire Board 7/15/2025

Director Bedingfield moved to enter Executive Session. Director Majorkiewicz seconded. The motion was passed, and the Executive Session began at 4:43 pm. (YEAS –Paolo, Rickett, Majorkiewicz, Bedingfield) (NAYS – None)

Director Majorkiewicz moved to end the Executive Session. Director Bedingfield seconded. The motion was passed, and the Executive Session ended at 5:16 pm. (YEAS –Paolo, Rickett, Bedingfield, Majorkiewicz) (NAYS – None)

During executive session, a discussion took place regarding retaining a firm to begin the search for a Fire Chief.

Director Majorkiewicz motioned to approve the Interim Fire Chief to contact Developmental Associates LLC to assist the Board in the process for hiring a Fire Chief. Director Bedingfield seconded. Motion passed. (YEAS –Paolo, Rickett, Bedingfield, Majorkiewicz) (NAYS – None)

ADJOURNMENT: Director Rickett motioned, and Director Bedingfield seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 5:17 PM. (YEAS –Rickett, Bedingfield, Majorkiewicz, Paolo) (NAYS – None)

Respectfully Submitted,
Hailey Smith
06/24/2025

Approved by the Fire Board 7/15/2025