

**BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, October 3, 2017  
Bluffton Fire District Headquarters  
MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Mike Raymond, Joe Paolo, Louis Poindexter, Elaine Lust, Paul Hamilton, Thomas Mike, Ed Olsen

**Members Present:** John Thompson, Paul Boulware, Rick Cramer, Dan Wiltse, Terry Sheriff, Steve McKinley, Bob Payne, Pete Reid, Nancy Hyer, Leslie Jones Hart

**VIA Video Conferencing:**

**Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM by Chairman Raymond.**

**Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer**

**Board of Directors Roll Call**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:** Chairman Raymond stated that no votes will be taken in today's meeting.

**FY2018 – FY2020 Capital Projects Presentation:** Chief Thompson gave an overview of capital projects that he is proposing for FY2018 – FY2020. Those projects were broken down into the fiscal years that they would be initiated. For FY2018, the following projects would be a priority: Project 1 - Fire Station 38 Hampton Lake; Project 2 Callawassie Fire Station 32 Renovations; Project 3 Maintenance/Training Facility Concrete Paving; and Project 4 Heavy Duty Rescue Vehicle. Projects for FY2019 included: Project 5 Wildland Fire Truck; and Project 6 Tanker. For FY2020, the projects would be: Project 7 Pump Test Pit; and Project 8 Rescue boat. Chief Thompson explained that he had approached Interim County Administrator Josh Gruber and Chief Financial Officer Alicia Holland regarding the first four projects and the best way to proceed with the County.

- **Project 1 – Fire Station 38 Hampton Lake:** Currently May River Station 31 services the Hampton Lake area, but with continued growth in that development and the surrounding areas, we will soon surpass the 5-miles limit for ISO ratings. This new station would be built on land purchased in 2010 and would decrease response time to Hampton Lake by 35% and the school complex at McCracken Circle by 45%. Many other commercial, residential, and medical complexes would also be afforded lower response times, including the back side of Sun City. By using the district prototype for the station we would see a cost savings. The estimated cost would be \$3 million for the building, payable by a 20-year general obligation bond. A large portion of the staffing costs (75%) would be covered for 2 years by the SAFER grant that we received. The grant would cover 35% of the salary costs in year 3, its final year. The new pumper, a quint, would be purchased through impact fees money at approximately \$975,000. The quint was chosen due to its 107 feet aerial ladder and shorter wheel base for maneuverability. Using the current mill value, the cost to taxpayers would be \$2.60/\$100,000.

- **Project 2 – Callawassie Fire Station 32 Renovations:** The long-range plan for stations is to renovate them when they reach 20-25 years old and to replace them around the age of 50 years. The Callawassie Station 32 is 24 years old and was designed for 2 people. We currently have up to 5 assigned there, with 1-2 being EMS personnel. The location would remain the same as it affords the fastest response time for both Spring Island and coverage areas off Highway 170. National standards for fire stations recommend individual sleeping quarters, workout facilities, decontamination areas and extractors, PPE storage, and bays with diesel exhaust. The renovation would include each of these items and add 1,850 sf to the building, using the ST 33 (Moss Creek fire station) plans. The estimated cost would be \$1 million for the building and new furnishings, adding \$.56/\$100,000 to debt service.
- **Project 3 – Maintenance/Training Facility Concrete Paving:** The 25 feet of crush and run that surrounds the new Training Facility has not worked well. With any amount of water used during training, the trucks become bogged down and get stuck. Asphalt was determined to be unacceptable as it degrades in hot weather and sticks to ground ladders. The plan is to pour approximately 50,000 sf of concrete, 7 inches thick, around the facility. Chairman Raymond stated that storm water runoff requirements may be an issue with that amount of concrete. However, impervious surfaces may not work with the weight of the trucks and the tight turning near the building. It was suggested we ask the architects to look for an alternate plan if needed. Cost for this project would be \$300,000, paid with impact fees.
- **Project 4 – Heavy Duty Rescue (HDR) Vehicle:** For some time, BTFD has used an old Pepsi truck to transport hazmat, water rescue, ropes, trench, and fire equipment used primarily for motor vehicle accidents. They have used an old bread truck to haul excess air tanks, rehab, and drink supplies used during fires. Both vehicles are nearing 20 years old and in poor condition. A new HDR would take the place of both of the current vehicles and reduce the use of the current aerial truck, extending its life. Crews would be cross-trained to operate both the HDR and the aerial, eliminating the need for additional personnel. The price of this vehicle would be \$655,000, plus \$100,000 for equipment. The vehicle would be leased, adding \$1.00/\$100,000 to debt service. Equipment costs would be paid with impact fees.

Total costs for these four projects would be \$8,000,000. The total debt service would be \$4.40/\$100,000. There was a discussion among Board Members as to the merit of these projects, both as a whole and individually. Station 38 could impact ISO ratings for some citizens. Without the new station, citizens could be put at risk due to the response times. It was decided that the remaining 4 projects would be presented and discussed at the October 17 meeting.

- **ADJOURNMENT:** Director Paolo motioned and Director Poindexter seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 5:22. (YEAS Raymond, Paolo, Poindexter, Hamilton, Olsen. NAYS None. ABSENT Lust - early leave, Mike - early leave).