

**BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT  
SPECIAL FIRE BOARD MEETING  
(FY2020 Budget Presentation)  
Tuesday, April 9, 2019  
2:00 P.M. Bluffton Fire District Headquarters  
357 Fording Island Road, Bluffton, SC 29909**

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Mike Raymond, Joe Paolo, Ed Olsen, Paul Hamilton, Thomas Mike, Sr. (arrived late)

**Absent:** Elaine Lust, Louis Poindexter

**Members Present:** John Thompson, Paul Boulware, Terry Sheriff, Dan Wiltse, Rick Cramer, Steve McKinley, Linda Burton

**Meeting called to order at 2:15 pm by Chairman Mike Raymond.**

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Chairman Raymond.

**Board of Directors Roll Call**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:** Chairman Raymond greeted everybody and requested Chief Thompson to begin the presentation.

**FY2020 OPERATING, CAPITAL, and DEBT SERVICE BUDGET REQUEST  
PRESENTATION – Chief Thompson, Chief Boulware, and Chief Cramer:**

**Chief Thompson:** Chief Thompson explained that Chief Boulware will be making the Fiscal Year 2020 budget presentation this year. The County originally wanted the budget presented on April 10, but the Ordinance states that it must be presented before the Fire Board prior to being presented to Council. What is presently being carried forward is the staff's budget request which will be voted on at the Fire Board's Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2019. Chief Thompson, Chief Boulware, and Chief Cramer will be attending the May 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting which will be taking place at 2:00 PM (but may be rescheduled to 1:00 PM, depending upon attendance), and presenting the Fire District's budget that has hopefully been recommended by the Board at that time. In the previous 2-3 years they have not presented the budget themselves; the form that the Fire Board Commissioners have completed has been submitted, and County staff has rolled it into their budget. There have been a number of changes on County Council, and they are going back to the old process where Chief Thompson, Chief Boulware, and Chief Cramer will go over there and present the budget to the Finance Committee. Once the Finance Committee accepts it, it will then go to County Council where it will be voted on as part of the County Budget Ordinance. Any Board member that would like to go to the May 6 meeting is welcome to attend.

*This document is presented in draft format for immediate public review and is not considered approved until action has been taken by the Fire Commission during their next scheduled meeting.*

**Chief Boulware:** Chief Boulware began by explaining that the packet he had handed out to each Board member entitled “Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal”, was essentially the “weeds” of the budget, and in addition, the one page summary is a form that the County requires the Board to fill out and send over to Council for approval, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes. The Finance Committee or County Administrator will present the request as part of the County budget, and the attendees from BTFD will answer any questions that may arise.

Chief Boulware prepared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the details of the FY2020 Proposed Budget for the Board members, which he went over in detail. Chief Boulware also spoke about the SAFER Grant through the Federal Government, which is a three year staffing grant that covers 75% of the cost for 15 of the BTFD employees for two years. For the third year, in 2021, it will cover 35% of their costs.

The Administration is requesting a slight Millage increase for operations of .35, and a 0.15 increase to cover bond payments for FY20. For the average Bluffton home with a market value of \$275,000.00, there would be a \$5.50 tax increase. The average market value is calculated by the Auditor.

#### **BOARD DISCUSSION**

Director Olsen inquired if there will be any new positions added in FY2020, and there is currently no new firefighter positions projected.

Chairman Raymond stated that the Budget Proposal was well presented, and wanted to give the District a lot of credit for responsible fiscal management over the last couple of years.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Director Olsen motioned and Director Paolo seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 3:25PM. (YEAS –Raymond, Hamilton, Paolo, Olsen, Mike, Sr. NAYS – None.)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda J. Burton  
4/10/19

Attachment: Bluffton Township Fire District Fiscal Year 2020 Proposed Budget

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**Bluffton Township Fire District  
Fiscal Year 2020 Proposed Budget  
Amended May 2, 2019 to Account for Implementation of the New Compensation Plan**

	FY 2018 Actual	FY2019 Budget	FY2019 Projected	FY2020 Proposed
Operations Millage Rate	24.70	24.10	24.10	<b>24.10</b>
Revenues				
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 13,434,695	\$ 14,580,120	\$ 14,580,120	<b>\$ 15,616,800</b>
Fees	\$ 154,398	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	<b>\$ 150,000</b>
Grant Revenue SAFER	<u>337,644</u>	<u>527,000</u>	<u>527,000</u>	<b><u>387,000</u></b>
Total Revenues	<u>13,926,737</u>	<u>15,182,120</u>	<u>15,182,120</u>	<b><u>16,153,800</u></b>
Expenditures				
Salaries Regular (includes OT)	8,254,049	8,618,796	8,995,835	<b>9,797,380</b>
Benefits	3,800,869	4,460,854	4,300,000	<b>4,600,200</b>
Purchased Services	1,264,970	1,778,836	1,650,000	<b>1,569,179</b>
Supplies	<u>134,217</u>	<u>228,180</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<b><u>141,686</u></b>
Total Expenditures	<u>13,454,105</u>	<u>15,086,666</u>	<u>15,095,835</u>	<b><u>16,108,445</u></b>
Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	472,632	95,454	86,285	<b>45,355</b>
Fund Balance, Beginning	<u>\$ 2,663,886</u>	<u>\$ 3,136,518</u>	<u>\$ 3,231,972</u>	<b><u>\$ 3,318,257</u></b>
Fund Balance, Ending	<u>\$ 3,136,518</u>	<u>\$ 3,231,972</u>	<u>\$ 3,318,257</u>	<b><u>\$ 3,363,612</u></b>

FTEs:

Administrative	21	22	22	22
Firemen	<u>112</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>127</u>
Total	133	149	149	149

Annual Debt Service Required	\$ 569,019	\$ 850,000	\$ 850,000	\$ 980,000
Debt Millage Rate	1.04	1.45	1.45	1.60