

**BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Tuesday, July 19, 2022
Bluffton Fire District Headquarters
MINUTES**

Board Members Present: Joe Walsh, Joe Paolo, Louis Poindexter, Paul Hamilton, Dana Marsh

Absent: Elaine Lust, Rick Krob

Members Present: John Thompson, Paul Boulware, Derek Church, Dan Wiltse, Terry Sheriff, Anthony Van Es, Tracy Walling, Robert Payne

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 4:00 pm by Chairman Poindexter.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA: Director Hamilton motioned and Director Marsh seconded to accept the agenda. Motion passed unanimously. (YEAS – Walsh, Paolo, Poindexter, Hamilton, Marsh) (NAYS – None)

PROMOTION CEREMONY:

- Fire Lieutenant Marcos Farr promoted to Station Captain
- FF4 Mark Eiden promoted to Fire Lieutenant

CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS: Chairman Poindexter announced that Chief Thompson will be retiring, and a qualified panel has been determined to oversee the hiring process for his replacement. They will be keeping everyone informed throughout the process.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Director Paolo motioned, and Director Hamilton seconded the minutes of the June 21, 2022 Board of Directors meeting be approved. Motion passed. (YEAS – Walsh, Paolo, Poindexter, Hamilton, Marsh) (NAYS – None)

FINANCIAL REPORT: Chief Boulware reviewed the Finance Report for the month of June 2022. We have completed 100% of the 2022 fiscal year budget, and the total expenditures year to date are at 103.68%. The revenue requested year to date from the county was \$17,121,590, which is 102.15% of our \$16,761,722 budget. The total revenues year to date was \$17,433,634. The fire impact fee balance as of June 30th is \$1,369,466.

Director Hamilton motioned and Director Marsh seconded that the June 2022 Financial Report be approved as submitted. Motion passed.

Approved by the Fire Board 8-16-22.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:

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

Chief Wiltse stated that after meeting with town officials, the Fire Marshal's office may be able to write citations for fire code, open burning and fire lane violations within the Town of Bluffton limits in the future.

Director Marsh motioned, and Director Hamilton seconded that the consent agenda be accepted. Motion passed. (YEAS – Walsh, Paolo, Poindexter, Hamilton, Marsh) (NAYS – None)

AWARD PRESENTATION: The Bluffton Explorer program, led by FF Tyler Marion and FF Matt Wallett, was named the 2021 Explorer Post of the year for the Lowcountry District. The award was presented by Mr. Scott Mason representing the Scouts Coastal Carolina region.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Receipt of Operations Update:** Chief Church reviewed the Operations Report for June. Based on current call volume trends, it is projected that the District will exceed 9600 calls for 2022.

- ***Project Updates:***

Accreditation Update: To date, fourteen (14) of the 19 objectives are complete (74%). Two (2) of the five (5) remaining objectives are in process and on schedule. The remaining three (3) objectives involve other county entities and are not attainable at this time. The projected date to achieve all recommendation is May 1, 2022.

Strategic Plan Implementation Progress: The next update is scheduled to be published for the Board on August 16, 2022.

Fire Station 34/Sun City Renovation: The County has decided to proceed with construction without installing earthquake drains. A temporary parking area is being constructed behind the station to alleviate parking issues with the loss of the employee parking area during construction.

Fire Station 39/Sun City Property Acquisition: The County is working with Sun City's legal to verify the property lines from the survey and secure the property. Staff is awaiting the first draft of the lease and will bring it forward once it is received from County. This is an impact fee project.

- ***COVID-19 Response Update:*** Chief Thompson stated that new cases are up about 40% and the District has had some personnel contract Covid. However, we are not seeing an impact on service level.

Approved by the Fire Board 8-16-22.

- ***American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):*** The ordinance included funding for the project providing a state-of-the-art, countywide fire and EMS station alerting system. The two vendors that met the state contract criteria are Motorola Mach Fire Station Alerting and Purvis Systems Fire Station Alerting, and both companies will be providing their best price for the system once County develops a specification package.
- ***Beaufort County Fire Impact Fee Study:*** After much discussion the original impact fee ordinance was bifurcated into two separate ordinances prior to third and final reading on April 25, 2022. The second ordinance, which contains the District's impact fees, was not voted on and placed on hold for 60 days so the Administrator can continue to negotiate with the municipalities on the collection of fees. The Town of Bluffton is now supporting this group of impact fees.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Director Paolo motioned, and Director Hamilton seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM. (YEAS – Walsh, Paolo, Poindexter, Hamilton, Marsh) (NAYS – None)

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Cazenave
7-26-2022

Approved by the Fire Board 8-16-22.