

**BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Bluffton Fire District Headquarters
MINUTES**

Board Members Present: Bill Rickett, Joe Paolo, Dana Marsh, Drew Bedingfield (Zoom), Paul Hamilton

Absent: Natalie Majorkiewicz

Members Present: David Hindman, Derek Church, Adam Corn, Steve McKinley, Tracy Walling, Rhett Livingston, Daniel Wiltse

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BOARD MEMBER ROLL CALL

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

CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:

- FF Mikayla Blanton completed Paramedic School
- FF Christopher Snowden completed Paramedic School

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Commissioner Bedingfield motioned, and Commissioner Paolo seconded the minutes of January 20, 2026, Board of Commissioners meeting be approved. Motion passed. (YEAS – Rickett, Bedingfield, Paolo, Marsh, Hamilton) (NAYS – None)

FINANCIAL REPORT: Chief Church reviewed the Finance Report for the month of January 2026. We are through 58.33% of the 2026 fiscal year budget, and the total expenditures year to date is 54.99%. The revenue requested year to date from the County was \$14,850,050, which is 55.18% of our \$26,913,566 budget. The current fire impact fee balance is \$1,981,808 (Increase of \$48,509).

Approved by the Fire Board 3/17/2026

Commissioner Hamilton motioned, and Commissioner Marsh seconded that the January 2026 Financial Report be approved as submitted. Motion passed (YEAS – Marsh, Paolo, Rickett, Bedingfield, Hamilton) (NAYS – None)

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Receipt of Operations Update:** Chief Corn reviewed the Operations Report for September. The overall call volume was 937 calls. Stations 38, 34, 30, and 35 are still the busiest stations.

PROJECT UPDATES:

- ***Strategic Plan Implementation Progress:*** Chief Livingston continues to work with the team leaders to start working on strategic goals.
- ***Fire Station 39/Sun City Property Acquisition:*** We have met with the design build/build team and County to discuss final options and get an update on pricing. We are also working on IGA for the District's funding responsibility.
- ***American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):*** Bryx has entered the final testing process. The system was running 8a-5p last week and is now running 24/7 Monday-Friday this week. A meeting will be held next week to review the system and any issues that have been noticed.
- ***Policy Update Process:*** A deadline has been established for committee input. Final reviews and rollout should begin in March.
- ***Old Station 32:*** Our lawyer is still working with the heir's lawyer and waiting for them to provide proof of their right to the property. We now have possession of the building as tenants have vacated.
- ***Station 32/EMS QRV 27:*** We have been notified that EMS plans to shut down QRV 27 (stationed at Station 32) until sufficient staffing is reached with their new schedule. There is possibility that it could be staffed as supervisors are available but will not be included in mandatory staffing. Chief Corn is working to ensure ALS coverage for that area.

Approved by the Fire Board 3/17/2026

- **Facilities:** Updates and repairs that have been approved:
 - **Training building** is awaiting arrival of supplies prior to the work beginning for repair.
 - **Admin Annex** will have the exterior painted along with repair to damaged wood.
 - **Station 35** will have rear bay doors replaced due to the failure of 2 of the current doors.

- **Need Assessments/CIP:** Continuing to assess infrastructure needs to develop CIP and prioritize improvements and repairs around the district.
 - Generator condition and sizing at Stations
 - Click-to-enter at Training/ Maintenance Facility
 - Apparatus Committee has begun work for updating replacement fleet specifications
 - Evaluating other vehicle and apparatus needs
 - Work task analysis is on-going to assess personnel needs, efficiency and workload management.

- **Chiefs Remarks:** We will be hosting the County Fire Chief's Meeting on March 12th at Station 35. We are also continuing to work on the FY27 budget.

Executive Session: Discussion of personnel matters with the Board. No actions taken while in executive session.

Director Marsh moved to enter Executive Session. Director Paolo seconded. The motion was passed, and the Executive Session began at 4:20pm. (YEAS –Paolo, Rickett, Bedingfield, Marsh, Hamilton) (NAYS – None)

Director Hamilton moved to end the Executive Session. Director Marsh seconded. The motion was passed, and the Executive Session ended at 5:13 pm. (YEAS –Paolo, Rickett, Marsh, Hamilton) (NAYS – None)

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Marsh motioned, and Commissioner Paolo seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 5:14 PM. (YEAS – Rickett, Paolo, Marsh, Hamilton) (NAYS – None)

Respectfully Submitted,
Hailey Smith
02/17/2026

Approved by the Fire Board 3/17/2026