



# BULLHEAD CITY FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES JUNE 24, 2025

## CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Board Chairman Cummings, Chairman Cummings led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## ROLL CALL

### Present:

Board Chairman: David C. Cummings  
Board Member: Chuck Moore  
Board Member: Rose Jacobs  
Board Member: Ellen Brown  
Board Member: John Martinolich

### Staff Present:

Fire Chief: Justin Flummer  
Assistant Fire Chief – Operations: Shane Campbell  
Assistant Fire Chief – Logistics: Scott Neal  
Assistant Fire Chief – PPD: Forrest Taylor  
Administrative Manager – Paula Acker

## CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATIONS

Badge presentations: Paramedic Jennifer Ottenschot

## CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of April 11, 2025 Special Public Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of May 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- C. Acceptance of May 2025 Financial Reports

Board member Jacobs motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Board member Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

## CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Jackie Miller of Bullhead City, voiced concerns about the impact of the proposed tax increase on fixed-income residents. She described her difficulty paying an ambulance bill in monthly installments. While appreciative of the district's services, she urged the Board to consider the financial hardship the increase would create for low-income citizens.

Rick Southey, Former Fire Chief of Bullhead City Fire Dept., expressed support for Fire Chief Justin Flummer and the proposed budget. He praised Chief Flummer's leadership, strategic planning, and conservative approach to budgeting. He encouraged the Board to adopt the budget, highlighting that it reflected both fiscal responsibility and operational foresight.

Firefighters' Community Report-PFFA Local 3647

No report given this month.

Fire Chief's Report

Summary of the report included in the Board packet:

- **Wildland Deployment:** No current assignments; full resource availability.
- **Personnel:** Promotions included Dave Alaniz (Battalion Chief) and Sean Dutcher (Engineer). New hire Ziggy Wilks (Civilian) joined the department. One additional firefighter-paramedic is undergoing background and 1582 physical requirements. Eligibility Lists: Six firefighters and seven civilian candidates are on current lists.
- **Ambulance Remounts:** Two of three remounted units returned; the third expected by September.
- **Grant Update:** Mental Health and Wellness program received final approval (led by AZ Fire Medical); details forthcoming.
- **Fire Safety Trailer:** Completed and will be presented publicly with dignitaries.
- **Four-Wheel Drive Ambulance Grant:** Advanced to second-round funding consideration.
- **Leadership Academy:** Scheduled for July 15–17 in Glendale.
- **Capital Fund Policy:** Drafting underway for future board approval

### Operations Report – Assistant Chief, Shane Campbell

- May Call Volume: 1,069 calls for service.
- Staffing: Filled positions and new hire processing.
- July 4th Planning: Staffing of one brush truck, one fireboat, and an ambulance with OHV support planned for the holiday weekend.

### Logistics Report – Assistant Chief, Scott Neal

- Station 1 Renovation: Steady progress with bathroom construction at 30–40% completion and installation of bunkroom furniture. Floor polishing was completed.
- Door Package: Final measurements completed; installation pending.
- Solar Project: Fully operational at Station 7 with final permits and second payment received from MEC. Next project will focus on Station 2.
- Maintenance & Sale of Surplus Equipment: Pump testing on apparatus complete. Retired chassis sold for approximately \$20,000.
- Fireboat Repair: Planned for the upcoming fiscal year pending board approval.
- Personnel: Mechanic Gallegos completed EVT testing; results pending

### PPD/EMS Report – Assistant Chief, Taylor

- Training: All stations completed a two-day course from Phoenix Children’s Hospital covering pediatric respiratory and trauma care, including hands-on skills sessions. Stryker provided in-service training on a newly acquired gurney, which was scheduled to go into service the same day. CPR instruction was delivered to staff at Joshua Springs Senior Living and Katherine Landing.
- Upcoming Training: Respiratory emergencies (hosted by Exceptional Hospital) and customer service refresher presentation by Captain Gordon to reinforce professionalism during public interactions.

### CRR Report – Fire Marshal, Barbie Barrett

No report was given this month, as Fire Marshal Barrett was absent from the meeting.

## **BUSINESS**

### **A. Public Hearing – FY 2025-2026 Budget**

Board Chairman Cummings opened the public hearing:

Mark Wellenstein from Bullhead City who has lived in the community for 25 years, addressed the Board during the public hearing on the FY 2025–2026 budget. He expressed concern about the proposed \$3.51 tax rate, questioning its necessity given rising district revenues from increased property values and population growth. He thanked Board Member Jacobs for clearly explaining the Board’s budget options at the previous meeting, stating that her input gave him confidence in the Board’s decision-making process. He also remarked that Board Member Martinolich’s motion in support of the higher tax rate appeared predetermined.

He also criticized the use of fire apparatus for non-emergency errands, stating it was inefficient and poorly perceived by the public. He urged the board to show greater fiscal responsibility and consider alternative, cost-effective practices.

There were no other comments from the public, Chairman Cummings closed the public hearing.

### **A. Resolution 2025-01 FY 2025-26 Budget Adoption**

Chairman Cummings read a statement on behalf of the Local 3647, expressing the professional firefighters’ full support for the proposed levy increase to fund staffing for Station 7. The union emphasized that although Station 7 was built to address the city's growing needs, it currently sits unused as a fully functional fire station due to a lack of personnel.

The statement highlighted that the proposed funding would allow firefighters and paramedics to be placed where they are most needed—without pulling resources from other stations. It specifically noted the importance of serving Laughlin Ranch, Desert Foothills, and the Parkway Corridor. The statement concluded with the Local 3647 committing to protecting the community, by serving every resident when it matters most.

Board member Jacobs moved to discuss the 2025-26 Budget Adoption, Board member Brown seconded the motion.

Board member Jacobs noted in the prior month’s meeting, she made a motion for a more modest increase to \$3.42 representing a (6.88%) increase, which failed due to lack of a second. She emphasized that her proposed rate would have funded nine (9) new firefighters to fully staff Station #7 and cover associated personnel and operational costs, maintaining a 1.6 million contingency and provide sufficient funding to continue capital reserve contributions.

She noted that the last time the district raised taxes at a comparable rate was during the recession of 2011–2012, when drastic property tax declines forced emergency increases. She emphasized

that the district is not currently facing a fiscal emergency, thanks to responsible financial planning.

Board Member Jacobs referenced the BCFD Fire Board Bylaws, stating that she could not reintroduce the same motion she made last month — to adopt the rate at \$3.42— and urged fellow board members from the majority side to make a motion to reconsider the motion to increase the tax rate to \$3.51 for the FY 25-26 budget.

Board Member Martinolich responded with support for the \$3.51 rate. He explained that fully staffing Station #7 was one of the reasons he ran for the board. By leaving a \$6 million facility empty is a disservice to the community. Response times on the parkway can exceed 10 minutes, and anything over six minutes is unacceptable for emergencies like cardiac arrest.

He acknowledged Jacobs' thoughtful proposal but pointed out that even she had noted that adopting a lower rate would mean revisiting another tax increase within a couple of years. He concluded that raising the full amount now made more sense to stabilize the budget and fully fund Station #7.

Board member Brown concurred, stating that repeated annual increases would be required if the full rate weren't adopted now.

Cummings expressed support for the \$3.51 tax rate increase, noting the high cost of equipping each firefighter—approximately \$10,000, with an additional \$1,000 for uniforms and gear. He highlighted the district's \$30,000 monthly expense for 911 dispatch services. He calculated the rate increase would raise his personal taxes by \$77.17 annually (\$6.43/month)—comparing it to the price of a cup of coffee. He emphasized the value of life-saving services and commended Chief Flummer and his staff for their hard work on the budget. He also clarified that \$4 million of the \$28 million budget is a grant placeholder, not guaranteed funding.

Following discussion, Board member Martinolich made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-01, Budget Adoption at the \$3.51 tax rate as presented.

Board member Brown seconded the motion, Four (4) were in favor and one (1) Board member Jacobs – opposed. Motion passed.

## **B. 2003 Munson Fireboat Engine Replacement**

Chief Flummer reported that the 2003 Munson fireboat, which has served the community for over 20 years with more than 1,500 hours of use, is in need of an engine replacement. He stated that multiple bids as well as an additional bid from a local vendor that works on public safety boats. Chief Flummer expressed confidence in the vendor's certified marine technicians and their ability to complete the project. The proposed all-inclusive cost including tax for the full engine replacement is \$34,131.19, with completion expected by fall 2025. This would be a capital line-item purchase.

After brief discussion, Board Member Brown made a motion to approve the fireboat engine replacement as presented, at a cost of \$34,131.19. Board Member Martinolich seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR FUTURE BCFD BOARD MEETINGS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

July 22, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Recorded by,



Paula Acker

Administrative Manager

Bullhead City Fire District

Approved by,



David C. Cummings, Chairman  
Fire District Board

*Absent from meeting*

Charles Moore, Board Clerk  
Fire District Board