BEAR CREEK FIRE SERVICE AREA

Board Meeting Minutes

6:00 PM August 11, 2026 *13105 Seward Hwy, Mile 5*

SERVICE AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Seat A	*Seat B*	*Seat C*	*Seat D*	*Seat E*
Brandon Tatum	*Gregory Haas*	*Andra Woodard*	*Jeffrey Wolf*	*Jason Bickling*
Board Member	*Board Member*	*Board Member*	*Vice Chair*	*Board Chair*
Expires 10/2028	*Expires 10/2028*	*Expires 10/2027*	*Expires 10/2027*	*Expires 10/2026*
Assembly Representative	*Fire Chief*	*Fire Technician*	*Fire Technician*	
Dale Eicher	*Richard Brackin*	*Coby Taylor*	*William Mangan*	

CALL TO ORDER - 1802

ROLL CALL Brandon Tatum, Gregory Haas, Andra Woodard, Jeffrey Wolf, Jason Bickling (Absent, Excused).

Also in attendance: Richard Brackin, William Hennings, Coby Taylor, Wolfgang Kurtz

CHANGES / APPROVAL OF AGENDA Brandon Tatum motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Andra Woodard second. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - 07/14/2026
Andra Woodard motioned to approve the minutes with a correction to include an omitted word in Board Comments from Greggory Haas. Gregory Haas second. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & PRESENTATION – LIMIT 5 MINUTES
None Present.

CORRESPONDENCE

- BCFSA Expenditure Report to date was delivered, showing financial expenses and encumbrances for FY27 YTD, as well as invoicing since the meeting prior.

  Jeffrey Wolf – In Minor Firefighting Equipment. There is 17% left available. Is the majority encumbered or has the 83% been spent?
  Richard Brackin – The funds are encumbered for three sets of structural firefighting gear. The purchase is initiated at the beginning of each FY.

- KPB Assembly Report: Not Present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mill Rate/FY28 Budget – Jeffrey Wolf – The first workshop meeting was on the 24th of July.
- There was a series of three questions asked of one of the public, present concerning the collection of property tax and the relationship between that collection and the General Obligation Bond for the Fire Station. The questions were sent to the Borough Finance Department, who forwarded the questions to the Legal Department, who gave a response via email that was given to the citizen.
  A printout of the response from the Borough Legal Department was given to the Board Members present.
  Another workshop is planned for the future with a focus on Mill Rate reduction possibilities.

  Jeffrey Wolf asked for a consensus from the Board Members concerning what the structure of the topic would be.

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Brandon Tatum – Stated that he would like to see a line-item by line-item, following that though it would be exhaustive, it would be worth the effort.

Gregory Haas – Stated that he would like a presentation that showed what a reduction of the equivalent of what a .5 mill reduction would look like.

Brandon Tatum – Asked Richard Brackin for clarification that a .2 mill reduction was his goal for FY28. Richard Brackin stated that a .2 reduction might be feasible for FY28 if nothing changes in the budget that has a dramatic increase.

Gregory Haas – Stated that the newly formed community council voted to support a .5 mill rate reduction. The presentation should include a reduction of .5 and what the effects are.

Andra Woodard – Would like to see the comparison between .2 and .5, that way we can see what is affected, following that no line item in the budget is stand-alone.

Discussion followed concerning setting a date for another meeting. The evening of August 25th at 6pm was set.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS No Unfinished Business.
NEW BUSINESS No New Business.

CHIEF's REPORT

- Run Report - 74 Calls for 2026.

53 of those calls being EMS, 18 being Delta/Echo levels calls. 34%.
14 calls since last meeting, 3 MA calls with command function held by agency. Remaining 11 calls were managed by 6 responders both volunteer & paid. 4/7.

- Training Report
  - Weekly Training
    a) 07/16 EMS training. Transition to LUCAS on Cardiac Arrest Calls (Will Hennings, Coby Taylor)
    b) 07/23 SCBA Confidence Course & Pin Pong Tourney (Coby Taylor) Team Lyons won the competition. Severs won the Ping-Pong Tourney.
    c) 07/30 Phoenix Chapter Meeting (Morgan Woodard)
    d) 08/06 Business Meeting (Jonathan Severs)

  - Other Training
    Sept 20-21 – Pump Ops
    Sept 26-27 – Rural Water Supply
    October Fire Conference in Kenai. Funding for 2 between Borough and Volunteers funds. No takers at this point.
- New Volunteers James Sellers. (Complete)

- Maintenance
  a) Station – Bedrooms 3 &4 have flooring. Ran out of base trim. Laundry is complete. Gym is in progress. Conversations have started concerning gym finishing. $3,250 left in raised amount.
  b) Vehicles – Oil Changed in 192.

c) Equipment – None.

- Challenge Coin is in. The coin was passed around among the Board Members.

- Transitioning to IamResponding is underway. The Dashboard was shown with an explanation of the display segments.

Gregory Haas – Asked if there was a plan to have the Strategic Risk Workshop that he had suggested, and if there had been coordination with the volunteers concerning having the them come and speak to the Board, specifically regarding the Letter of Concern, or a report from them in general.

Richard Brackin responded that he though that the document reflecting a workshop was intended to be a guide for the meeting on the Mill Rate on July 24.
Gregory Hass clarified that the intent was to have a workshop that was less focused on the mill rate.

Richard Brackin stated that the invite was delivered to the volunteers at the last volunteer business meeting.
Gregory Haas responded that the Letter explicitly said that communication should be through formal channels, and that they needed to follow up and show up.

Andra Woodard stated that the Letter invited the Board to their meetings, and if we wanted to go and talk to them, we should show up at their meeting.

Gregory Haas followed that he would like the agenda to reflect a volunteer report as an item.

Andra Woodard responded that the decision to add an item to the agenda should be the decision of the Board, not one member, and she felt it did not need to be on the agenda. If we have question of the volunteers, we should go to their meetings.

Discussion followed concerning if two Board Members could show up and discuss topics at a meeting outside of a BCFSA Board Meeting. It was decided that as long as more than two Board Members were not discussing topics at the volunteer business meeting, it was not a violation.

Andra Woodard asked that if a spot on the agenda was to be included, it be motioned and voted in.

Gregory Haas motioned to include the item “Volunteer Report” under Public Comment and Presentations.
Brandon Tatum – Second.
Jeffrey Wolf clarified that the vote to include the item on the agenda would be non-binding, and would not be a requirement of the volunteers.

The motion passed with the following votes:
Brandon Tatum – Yes
Gregory Haas – Yes
Andra Woodard – No
Jeffrey Wolf – Abstained due to being Acting Chair of the meeting.
Jason Bickling – Absent

Gregory Haas – Asked if there had been any progress on the facility use policy.
Richard Brackin – Stated that the draft was currently being reviewed by the Risk and then to the Legal Department.

Gregory Haas – Asked if the policy would be something that they would have an opportunity to vote on sending out to the community.
Richard Brackin responded that, it would be to the Borough to request and recommendation from the Board.

Gregory Haas asked Andra Woodard what she thought of voting on a facility use policy.

Andra Woodard responded that Facility Use impacted Operations and that there has been a lot of confusion because the sign in the yard says multi-use, and it means that more than one agency resides within the building, not that it is a community center for multi-use purposes.

Discussion followed concerning requested uses of the past, the use policies of other Borough agencies, and the policy creation process.

Jeffrey Wolf – Asked if the Department was eligible to send someone to the National Fire Academy.
Richard Brackin responded that most of those classes and the lodging is free, but the travel is not. The current budget cannot support that travel, and there is a need to increase funding for that option.

BOARD COMMENTS TO PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Brandon Tatum – Stated that he gets texts from the community. One of the texts he received was the Bear Creek ambulance sitting in front of the Safeway store at after closing hours. Brandon asked the question that was asked of him in the text. "Is Wolf supposed to have this as a daily driver?"
  Richard Brackin answered that Wolfgang Kurtz had pulled a shift at the station one night, and was called in to work due to someone not showing up for their shift. In trying to help the store with the personnel deficiency while still honoring his commitment to the Fire Department, he chose to take the apparatus to Safeway, thinking that if a call came in, he would not be able to immediately respond instead of needing to go to the station to pick up Rescue 5.
  This has been addressed, and while the decision was good-intentioned, the correct action should have been to let the paid-staff know that he was not on-shift so that the response plan could be adjusted.

- Gregory Haas – Stated that Dale Eicher had made a comment at a previous meeting, when talking about the budget, saying "If what want to cut the budget. What do we cut?" Greg state that he thinks it is a fear-baiting technique, and should not be used, following that he wanted to obstruct that message, and he would challenge further statements of that nature.

  Gregory Haas asked about Seward Fire Department receiving an inflatable boat from Metco and asked if the Bear Creek Fire Department had a history of receiving donations form them. If they are donating to Seward, they might be willing to donate toward projects like the upstairs.
  Richard Brackin responded that while he could not speak to cash donations, there were many donations of service from the past that benefitted the fire department.
  Gregory Hass asked Richard Brackin to find a way to approach Metco concerning donations.

  Gregory Haas asked when the timeline was for Seat E applications for the Board.
  Andra Woodard directed Greg to the Borough website for that information.

- Andra Woodard – Stated that Gregory Haas and Brandon Tatum have stated that they get calls and messages from the public with concerns. It seems that they are only coming to them, with the other members of the Board not receiving any concerns. Andra continued that she is curious that they are the only recipients.
  Gregory Haas stated that one of the concerns was one of the members at the last work session, following that he makes attempts to have the citizen reach out the other Board Members.

Andra Woodard followed that it was good to know he was encouraging that, because it seemed like there were a few people with a lot of concerns instead of many people with the concerns.
Richard Brackin -Stated that there is no violation when there is a one-on-one conversation between Board Members concerning a topic. If there is a need to ask questions about a topic, you can reach out to other Board Members, as long as it does not extend beyond the one-on-one conversation.

Richard Brackin also stated that if a Board Member receives a complaint concerning something Operational like Rescue 5 being parked outside of the grocery store, it should be brought to his attention as soon as possible, to prevent continued violations. To delay until a Board Meeting risks putting responders in harm's-way or breaking public trust.

- Jeffrey Wolf – Stated that the news from the Coast Guard was encouraging, and it will be interesting to see what responsibilities Bear Creek Fire has in the growth. It will probably increase runs and demand for services.
  On the topic of donations from Metco. He spoke with Cole Petersen after he left and there is still hostility. There will be a time and place when that will mend.

ADJOURNMENT 1922

The next regular meeting of the Bear Creek Fire Service Area Board of directors scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 6:00 pm.