



**Town of Clayton
Fire Advisory Board Minutes
Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Clayton Fire Station One
325 W. Horne Street**

Board Members Present:

Jason Thompson
Keith Herring
Adam Gross
Chris Carter
Karen Patterson
Jeffrey Stallings
Stacey Turner

Staff Present:

Michael Sims, Council Liaison
David Ranes, Fire Chief
Heidi Holland, Town Clerk

Board Members Absent:

Daryle Harris
Joel Gates

1 CALL TO ORDER

- a) Board Chair Turner called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Approval of Minutes
- January 23, 2025

Motion to approve with suggested amendment.

Adoption of Minutes

RESULT:	CARRIED 9-0
MOVER:	Jeffrey Stallings
SECONDER:	Keith Herring
YES:	Jason Thompson, Keith Herring, Adam Gross, Chris Carter, Daryle Harris, Joel Gates, Karen Patterson, Jeffrey Stallings, and Stacey Turner
NO:	None

3 BOARD NOMINATIONS

- a) Chair Nominations

Nomination for Stacey Turner to remain chair was made.

Approve Nomination of Chair

RESULT:	CARRIED 7-0
MOVER:	Karen Patterson
SECONDER:	Jeffrey Stallings
YES:	Jason Thompson, Keith Herring, Adam Gross, Chris Carter, Karen Patterson, Jeffrey Stallings, and Stacey Turner
NO:	None
ABSENT:	Daryle Harris and Joel Gates

b) Vice-Chair Nominations

Nomination for Jason Thompson to remain vice-chair was made.

Approve Nomination of Vice-Chair

RESULT:	CARRIED 7-0
MOVER:	Karen Patterson
SECONDER:	Jeffrey Stallings
YES:	Jason Thompson, Keith Herring, Adam Gross, Chris Carter, Karen Patterson, Jeffrey Stallings, and Stacey Turner
NO:	None
ABSENT:	Daryle Harris and Joel Gates

4 REPORTS FROM FIRE CHIEF

a) *Presenter:* David Ranes, Fire Chief

Chief Ranes provided an update on the FY26 budget process. A portion of the budget is county-based and would remain pending until the county makes final decisions. The Town's FY26 budget request has been submitted, with a focus on firefighter safety, health and wellness, and addressing any gaps in rescue services. The county is moving toward establishing a single fire department. This is the last year the department would retain revenue generated in the Claytex district (\$3.6M last year at a 15¢ rate). For this year, the County Commissioners approved a single flat tax rate of 14¢. Beginning in FY26–27, a cost-sharing plan will be implemented. Chief Ranes serves on the committee developing the model, which considers four metrics in determining rates. While each municipal fire department arrived at different cost projections, Clayton anticipates an increase of approximately \$1M before the cost-sharing model phases next year.

Chief Ranes also met with the Fire Commission regarding the Town's provision of technical rescue services, including confined space, trench, water, and other specialized rescues. The department has received county funding for these services in the past but is now facing equipment replacement needs. Chief Ranes presented a case to the County Commissioners for an additional

\$47,000 in technical rescue funding and is hopeful the request would be approved.

The Capital Improvement Budget is nearly complete, establishing a 25-year plan for the Fire Department. This plan would outline long-term needs such as trucks, stations, air packs, and other major purchases outside of the standard operating budget.

The 2024 Annual Report has been released, including statistics, data, and accomplishments from the past year. The report is posted on the Town's Facebook page.

Personnel updates included two resignations since the last meeting, creating two full-time vacancies. A promotional process was recently conducted: two individuals were promoted to Captain, two to Master Firefighter, and seven FEOs to Engineer as part of a departmental reorganization. Two Engineer positions remain open, and external recruitment is underway. Current staffing levels are a maximum of 17 and a minimum of 15.

Chief Raney reported that a 2006 truck with water loss and oil leak issues was donated to Johnston Community College for use in its diesel mechanic program. In January, the department partnered with UNC on a slip, trip, and fall study, the most common type of firefighter injury. Duke University would next conduct a PFAS study related to the water-repellent chemicals historically used in firefighting gear, which are now recognized as carcinogens. The Fire Service has transitioned to PFAS-free gear, and the study will assess exposure levels.

Kyle Driver was recognized as the Fire Department's Employee of the Year.

The annual retiree breakfast will be held Saturday, April 5 at 9:00 a.m. at Fire Station 1. All Board members are invited.

5 OTHER BUSINESS

6 ADJOURNMENT

a) Adjourn

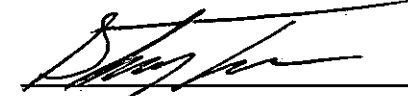
With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Motion To Adjourn

RESULT:	CARRIED 7-0
MOVER:	Jason Thompson
SECONDER:	Chris Carter

YES:	Jason Thompson, Keith Herring, Adam Gross, Chris Carter, Karen Patterson, Jeffrey Stallings, and Stacey Turner
NO:	None
ABSENT:	Daryle Harris and Joel Gates

Duly adopted this 6th day of November 2025.



Stacey Turner
Board Chair

ATTEST:

Heidi L. Holland
Heidi L. Holland, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

