



Town of Clayton
Fire Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Clayton Fire Station One
325 W. Horne Street

Pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 143-318.10(e), these minutes provide a general summary of the Fire Advisory Board meeting and do not represent a verbatim transcript.

Present:

Stacey Turner, Chair
Jeffrey Stallings
Daryle Harris
Joel Gates
Karen Patterson
Keith Herring

Staff Present:

David Ranes, Fire Chief
Amanda Underwood, Council Member Liaison
Heidi Holland, Town Clerk

Absent:

Jason Thompson, Vice-Chair
Chris Carter
Adam Gross

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Turner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. OPENING REMARKS

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Minutes:

- November 6, 2025

Adoption of Minutes

Result:	Passed 6-0
Mover:	Jeffrey Stallings
Second:	Keith Herring
Yes:	Stacey Turner, Jeffrey Stallings, Daryle Harris, Joel Gates, Karen Patterson, Keith Herring
No:	None
Absent:	Jason Thompson, Chris Carter, Adam Gross

4. REPORTS FROM FIRE CHIEF

Chief Raney provided an update on the new fire station project, stating the design is approximately 70% complete. Staff recently met to review door finishes and casework selections as the project moves deeper into the design phase. The project is expected to go out for bid in late spring, with a Notice to Proceed anticipated in the fall. Once construction begins, the contract duration is expected to be 425 days, with occupancy targeted for late 2027 or early 2028. The estimated construction cost is approximately \$18 million for the fire and police public safety facility, not including land acquisition costs. A map was presented showing the areas that will be served by the new station, which will function as the department's fifth company and improve emergency response capabilities.

Discussion also focused on the Town's recent annexation of approximately 400 acres. This area is currently more than six miles from the existing station but will be only about 2.5 miles from the future station. The department hopes to establish an agreement with Cleveland Fire Department to provide coverage in this area until the new station becomes operational. The department continues to work toward maintaining response times of five minutes or less whenever possible, while achieving an eight-minute response time for 90% of calls.

The Town recently closed on property located behind the future station site. This acquisition would provide additional benefits once the planned superhighway is constructed, including access from Short Johnson Road.

An update was provided on the planned renovation of Fire Station 1. The renovation is expected to occur concurrently with the new station project and will restore the training room, convert former dormitory space into offices, and add approximately 4,000 square feet of new sleeping quarters. The renovation is expected to take approximately eight months to complete.

The Covered Bridge Road station project was discussed. The site consists of approximately eight acres and previously included a three-acre pond that has now been drained to improve development opportunities. Department leadership anticipates hiring an architect within the next six months to begin the design process. This project is currently tracking approximately one year behind the new fire station project.

Chief Raney reported two new stations were purchased shortly after his arrival in October. In addition, new fire apparatus are scheduled to begin production soon and are expected to come off the production line around March. These apparatus would allow Stations 3 and 4 to be placed into service. The department is preparing to order a replacement rescue vehicle, as the current unit is 10 to 11 years old and nearing the typical 10- to 15-year replacement cycle. The order is expected to be placed in June or July, with an estimated four-year delivery timeline. A tractor-drawn aerial apparatus is also expected to be ordered during the same timeframe, with a similar delivery schedule.

The department is currently developing its annual budget and reported that finances remain in good condition. Staff are reviewing discretionary expenditures and evaluating possible reductions. Chief Raney also discussed ongoing efforts to secure grant funding. The department successfully received two SAFER grants and a Firehouse Subs Foundation grant. Staff are also working with Town leadership to identify additional federal grant opportunities.

A significant capital initiative involves implementing emergency vehicle preemption technology,

which allows emergency responders to control traffic signals and safely stop traffic in all directions when responding to emergencies. The Town Manager has expressed support for the project. The initial phase would focus on Clayton Boulevard from Town Center to Gordon Road and from Clayton Boulevard to Glen Laurel. An RFQ is expected to be released soon, and approximately \$750,000 has been proposed in the upcoming budget. The department intends to include this technology in future infrastructure standards because of its importance to responder safety and reducing traffic-related delays.

Chief Raney reported on the county's first vehicle repeater system, which was purchased to address radio communication challenges in certain commercial areas of Town. When activated by a Battalion Chief on scene, the system boosts radio communications for all responding personnel. Testing is still underway, but the system is expected to significantly improve firefighter safety and operational effectiveness.

Operationally, the department launched a single department-wide operational plan and updated Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs) on January 10. Improvements include an updated water supply plan that increases the department's ability to deliver water during fire suppression operations. Leadership continues to emphasize consistency across all shifts and strives to serve as a leader for fire service operations throughout the region.

Shared were the department's 2025 annual statistics. The department handled 3,891 calls for service, representing an increase of approximately 300 calls over the previous year. A total of 5,610 unit responses were recorded, with 2,950 incidents occurring within Town limits and 941 occurring within the rural Claytex district. Incident types included approximately 1,600 fire-related responses and 2,291 EMS incidents. The department provided mutual aid 150 times and received mutual aid assistance 121 times.

Performance statistics showed the department's turnout time averaged approximately 1 minute and 33 seconds, compared to a goal of 90 seconds from dispatch to apparatus response. Average response time was reported at approximately 7 minutes and 5 seconds, with overall service metrics averaging approximately 8 minutes and 6 seconds. Fridays accounted for 15.29% of all calls, with the highest call volume occurring during business hours at approximately 6:00 p.m. During the year, the department responded to 19 structure fires, including 14 within its district and five mutual aid responses. The department also responded to 34 cardiac arrest incidents, with five patients achieving return of spontaneous circulation and three patients ultimately being discharged from the hospital.

The department completed 22,599 hours of training throughout the year. In addition, staff conducted 1,158 commercial occupancy inspections, participated in 127 public events, and recorded 477 community contact hours. The department is also working to reestablish its Honor Guard program and has recruited personnel with prior national-level Honor Guard experience.

Chief Raney reported that Clayton Fire Department is becoming a regional training provider for technical rescue programs. Upcoming training would include confined space rescue and trench rescue instruction for firefighters throughout the county. The department has also partnered with NOVO to support confined space rescue operations.

Grant funding from the Firehouse Subs Foundation provided approximately \$40,000 for specialized rescue equipment and training, including equipment used for heavy vehicle lifting operations. The department is also outfitting all responders with rescue bailout kits that provide

emergency self-rescue capabilities when operating in hazardous environments.

The department implemented a 48/96 work schedule on January 10, 2026 and has received generally positive feedback from employees. Approximately 80% of personnel initially supported the change, and an additional anonymous survey will be conducted to assess impacts on employee satisfaction, overtime, and sick leave usage.

Johnston County is moving toward a single countywide fire tax rate. Claytex previously operated under a tax rate of approximately \$0.15, while the proposed countywide rate is approximately \$0.115. A county task force has been established to evaluate implementation of the new model. Chief Raney stated the county has historically contributed approximately \$4.5 million to the department through the fire tax district. Under the proposed funding structure, the Town would enter a 70/30 cost-sharing arrangement, with the county contributing approximately 30% of the department's budget. The proposed changes could result in an estimated \$2.5 million reduction in revenue to the Town. Non-municipal fire departments will also be required to submit their budgets directly to the county under the new system.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

6. ADJOURNMENT

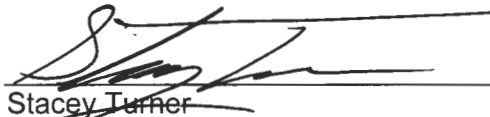
a. Adjourn

With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

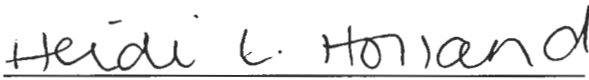
Motion To Adjourn

Result:	Passed 6-0
Mover:	Daryle Harris
Second:	Jeffrey Stallings
Yes:	Stacey Turner, Jeffrey Stallings, Daryle Harris, Joel Gates, Karen Patterson, Keith Herring
No:	None
Absent:	Jason Thompson, Chris Carter, Adam Gross

Duly Adopted by the Fire Advisory Board on Thursday, July 23, 2026 while in regular session.


Stacey Turner
Chair

ATTEST:


Heidi L. Holland, MMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

