



## Broad & Gales Creek Community Association, Inc.

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<http://broadandgalescreekca.org/>

Tony Bello, President  
Steve Phifer, Vice President

Sallie Salter, Secretary  
Jeff Batten, Treasurer

### Minutes of the Annual Meeting

November 9, 2023

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm**

#### **Board Members Present:**

Steve Phifer, Dusty Desteunder, Mark Rippeth, Tony Matthews, Sallie Salter, Missy Rhodes, ~~Ryan Garcia~~,  
Jeff Batten, Tony Bello

**Community Members Present:** Pamela Fields, Dr. Jeff Krause, Pam Rouse, David Burket, Rick & Teri Hasenmayer, Olivia Elliott, Denice & Steve Swisher, Chuck & Carol Upton, Dennis Gaither, Corbin & Brandy Bello, Alison & Jeff Bentz, BJ Reed, Patty Rippeth, Asha Kuzma, Michael McGrail, Patrick Bello Jr.

**Roll Call:** Sallie Salter

#### **Adoption of Agenda:** Tony Bello

1. Motion to approve the agenda.
  - a. Motion to approve by Steve Phifer
  - b. Seconded by Missy Rhodes
  - c. Motion passed.

#### **Secretary's Report:** Sallie Salter

1. Minutes of the 2022 annual meeting were issued for approval.
2. Correction to the Minutes, Dusty Desteunder was present but marked absent.
  - a. Motion to accept Missy Rhodes
  - b. Seconded by Steve Phifer
  - c. Motion passed.

#### **President Report:**

1. President Tony Bello presented his reported:
  - a. 2023 has been a very productive year for the Broad & Gales Creek Community Association. I have been working with board officers and committee chairs as they serve the community with their important tasks. There have been many changes made that will better the community as we grow with new residents.
  - b. We have partnered with Compassion Ministries as they provide outreach services for our community from within the community building. They also operate the "Compassion Closet" the to provide clothing, home goods, and toys for community members in need. Thank you to Sallie Salter for all her hard work and dedicated service to our community.
  - c. At the community park, the basketball court has a new concrete slab and new playground equipment has been setup thanks to the Big Rock Grant.
  - d. I have been working with Treasurer Jeff Batten to streamline banking, payroll, and financial responsibilities for the fire department and community association. Our bookkeeper, Alison Bentz, has done a tremendous job working with Jeff Batten as we transition to a more streamlined process of conducting financial business and working productively with our CPA.

- e. I have also been working with Steve Phifer, Building and Grounds Committee Chair, to oversee the community building, park, and fire department properties. Steve has done a great job with maintaining the building and grounds for all association properties.
- f. I have tasked board members and community members (Ad-Hoc Committee) to research the possibility of converting to a full-time fire department and retain volunteers. With the consistent increased population in our community, this is a move that may be proposed with next year's budget.
- g. I look forward to working more with the dedicated community members in providing a safe and inviting community within our fire district. I would like to personally thank all the volunteers, day staff, and Chief Tony Matthews of the Broad & Gales Creek Fire Department for their extraordinary efforts with emergency and fire service.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- 1. Treasurer Jeff Batten presented the Treasurer's Report and financial statements:
  - a. The Community Association is financially stable.
  - b. The Chief is fiscally responsible when it comes to spending money.
  - c. We are in the process of moving checking accounts from Dogwood to Truist since there were some reporting issues and credit cards for Fire Department officers.
  - d. Fire Relief Fund has been moved from First Citizens to CIVIC since they offer a better rate.
  - e. Met with CPA last week and the preliminary report was received, and we are now ahead of the game from where we were at this time last year.
  - f. Alison Bentz, bookkeeper, keeps us in line and make the treasurer's job easier.
- 2. Motion to approve by Steve Phifer
  - a. Seconded Missy Rhodes
  - b. Motion passed.

**Fire Department Report:**

- 1. Chief Tony Matthews Reported
  - a. We have an outstanding fire department. Other than 911 calls, we do community work with Camp Albemarle. First Aid, Safety, Fire Truck demonstrations.
  - b. Bogue Sound Elementary for fire prevention
  - c. Broad Creek Middle School at the end of the year for demonstrations
  - d. Croatan will have us setup a mock wreck during prom.
  - e. Day cares in the area bring kids to do tours. We are always accommodating.
  - f. Statistics
    - i. Approximately 40 active members on the roster.
    - ii. Any given day, just about all show up.
    - iii. Call volume in 2020 ran 477 calls.
    - iv. Call volume for 2023, already up to 626 calls and have another month to go.
    - v. With all the new houses being built, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and electrical issues are on the rise. We don't mind since we work with the community and get to meet people.
    - vi. 398 calls were EMS related. 90% of their calls, the fire department responds as well.
    - vii. 228 Fire Related calls. Fires, wrecks, detectors, etc.
    - viii. Average response time from dispatch to scene, 10 minutes for all calls, including mutual aid out of district.
    - ix. Most paid departments around us, have one truck with around 4 firefighters that show up on their calls. B&G typically has 2-3 trucks with 10-12 firefighters show up on scene.
  - g. With the increasing number of 3-story houses being constructed in Cannons Gate and Bogue Watch, we are looking into purchasing a platform ladder truck. This will help assist calls where

people are stuck on the third floor or roof. This is much safer than a regular ladder truck. Also, with the aerial platform in breezy conditions, it is much more effective to keep fires from spreading from structure to structure.

- h. We are also looking to purchase an UTV for brush fires and search/rescue in the woods. Patsy Pond and little nature trails have increased activity. Many horse riders use the woods and can get spooked and drop the riders and get trapped. This will also help with an UTV. We are currently utilizing personal 4-wheel drive trucks that is not the best option.
- i. Our main goal is to keep the community tax rates as low as possible. The donation letter we issue allows us to purchase equipment and supplies in order to keep the tax rate down.
- j. Missy Rhodes thanked the chief and the firefighters for the extraordinary commitment they undertake, and she is proud to be part of this community with an exceptional fire department.

#### **Committee Reports:**

1. There was no proposed action to be taken by committee chairs. Any action would be required to be posted 30 days in advance.

#### **Old Business:**

1. No old business.

#### **New Business**

1. Pam Fields, a community member, asked about the structure of the community association and fire department. Is it part of a housing community?
  - a. Tony Bello answered by stating that the Broad and Gales Creek Community Association formed the Broad and Gales Creek Fire Department in 1964 to provide fire service for the Broad and Gales Creek Community/Fire District. The Community Association Board is the governing body of the fire department as listed in the original charter. We are not a municipality, but a volunteer fire department with paid day staff on duty Monday – Friday.
2. Pam Fields asked how the fire department is funded by the county.
  - a. Tony Bello answered by stating that the Fire Tax that is paid by community members in the Broad and Gales Creek Fire District goes to the board for fire department use only.
  - b. Jeff Batten mentioned that the rate is set forth by the county commissioners. These funds are distributed monthly through the County Fire/EMS Commission.
3. Pam Fields asked about additional donations to the fire department, can that be made straight to the Chief?
  - a. Jeff Batten answered that there is a Broad and Gales Creek Fire Department Foundation 501(c)(3) in place that accepts donations. Chief Matthews can handle donations made to this foundation for fire department use. This is much cleaner than donating to the association.
4. Pam Fields asked if the Community Association itself also funds the fire department.
  - a. Tony Bello answered by stating that the Community Association does not operate with fire tax money. Funding is provided by rental of part of the building to the County for EMS, rental of the community building for events, and fundraising. The Community Association does accept donations, however, since we are a 501(c)(4), donations are not tax deductible.
  - b. Jeff Batten mentioned that funding from the county comes through the association but is solely earmarked for fire department use. If there are any extra funds at the end of the year, it is placed in a “reserve fund” through the county that can be later used for capital expense.
5. Another gentleman of the community asked how the Chief feels about having a full-time paid staff on duty since most of the calls are EMS related?
  - a. Tony Bello mentioned that he appointed an Ad-Hoc Committee that the Chief serves to investigate the need of a full-time paid staff.

- b. Chief Matthews added that weighing in on the pros/cons, feasibility study, that warrants full time. It is too early to predict since there has only been one meeting. With a full-time fire department, there will be a tax increase. The committee will also look into how it would be structured. There may be issues with paid staff vs. volunteers. For example, if there are four firefighters on duty and a call is made, there may be resistance between the paid staff and volunteers. It would need to be structured where this would not happen and operate under cohesive partnerships within the fire department.
6. Second question was asked by the gentleman. With over 300 calls for first responder program with EMS, is there EMS tax funds that go to the fire department?
  - a. Chief Matthews stated that this was started a few years ago due to declining services by EMS and concern by community members. Through this program, the firefighters, especially those with EMS experience, can keep check on the community members as they are served with proper care.
  - b. Chief Matthews also stated that the fire department has started to reduce the number of first responder EMS calls since the county has taken over EMS and now have a chase vehicle. There is a barrier now with the county understanding what the fire department is trying to do with the first responder program. We will be migrating to calls that are only Delta/Echo or life-or-death calls and lift assist as requested due to EMS physical ability.
7. Appointment of Tellers by President Tony Bello
  - a. Steve Phifer
  - b. Chief Tony Matthews
8. Election of Board Members for expired terms.
  - a. Expired terms for: Jeff Batten, Dusty Desteunder, Ryan Garcia, Sallie Salter
  - b. Nominations open to the floor.
    - i. Tony Matthews nominated Sallie Salter
    - ii. Steve Phifer nominated Chuck Upton
    - iii. David nominated Dennis Gaither
    - iv. Dennis nominated David Burket
    - v. Mark Rippeth nominated Pam Fields
    - vi. Steve Phifer nominated Jeff Batten
      1. Jeff Batten Declined
    - vii. Dennis nominated Dusty Desteunder
      1. Dusty Desteunder Declined
    - viii. Steve Phifer nominated Ryan Garcia
  - c. Motion to close nominations by Steve Phifer
    - i. Second by Missy Rhodes
    - ii. Motion passed.
  - d. Voting by secret ballot for FOUR Nominees to be elected to the Board.
    - i. Election Results per Tellers
      1. Sallie Salter
      2. Pam Fields
      3. Dennis Gaither
      4. David Burket

**Adjournment:**

1. Motion to Adjourn by Steve Phifer
2. Motion Seconded by Missy Rhodes
3. Motion passed.
4. Adjourned at 7:54 PM

Respectively presented by Secretary Sallie Salter.

