

BRIGHTON AREA FIRE AUTHORITY
February 12, 2026
Regular Board Meeting

A Regular Meeting of the Brighton Area Fire Authority Board was held on Thursday, February 12, 2026. This Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Muzzin, at 8:00 a.m.

PRESENT: KEVIN SPICHER
 TODD WALKER
 *BRIAN VANSINGEL-alternate
 JOE RIKER
 JIM MUZZIN
 SUSAN GARDNER

ABSENT: PATRICK MICHEL
 MIKE CORRIGAN

ALSO PRESENT: Fire Chief Michael O'Brian

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to the Public

Ms. Susan Walters, City of Brighton resident, raised questions on Jim Muzzin's appointment to the BAFA board by the City of Brighton. Chief O'Brian responded and said that Chairman Muzzin's appointment was made by the City of Brighton City Council. BAFA's Articles of Incorporation state that our "board shall be composed of two members selected by the Governing Authority of each Public Agency (for a total of 6 members) each of whom at the time of selection and during their term of office shall be a qualified elector residing within the territorial boundaries of his or her respective incorporating municipality." Fire Chief O'Brian also relayed that the concerns raised by Mrs. Walters were addressed at the January City Council meeting by City Manager Gomalka.

Approval of Consent Agenda

26:012 Motion by Kevin Spicher supported by Todd Walker
That we approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Approval of Regular Agenda

26:013 Motion by Joe Riker supported by Susan Gardner
That we approve the Regular Agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Presentation of the 2025 Year-End Report

Chief O'Brian and staff presented the 2025 Year-End Report and highlighted the various aspects of the organization. Here are some highlights:

BAFA responded to 4643 calls for service in 2025, a 27% increase from 2024.

BAFA partners with local fire departments for Mutual Aid. The Fire Authority provided mutual aid 123 times to neighboring fire departments and received mutual aid 36 times. Mutual aid is built into the initial alarms dispatched to ensure an adequate response.

In 2025 BAFA purchased and placed into service 12 new Physio-Control LIFEPAK CR2 AED units. These advanced automated external defibrillators represent an important enhancement to our emergency response capabilities.

MABAS-Mutual Aid Box Alarm System-Michigan played an active role in the disaster response to the Northern Michigan Ice Storm that impacted 12 counties in the northern lower peninsula. In addition, Michigan Task Force 1 was deployed to assist the Michigan National Guard with clearing hundreds of miles of roadways that were impassable due to fallen trees. A team of 20 task force personnel including two BAFA personnel spent two weeks working alongside the Guardsmen providing sawyer skills to the decimated area that included Mackinac Island and Beaver Island.

BAFA's Human Resources department's focus was on recruitment, retention & diversifying our workforce demographics. Our workforce consists of 55 Paid-on-call, 37 Full-time & 3 Part-time employees for a total of 95 employees with 10% of our workforce being female. Adding to our staffing model to aid with the increasing demands of our communities, we hired nine full-time Fire Protection Specialists, 13 Paid-on-call firefighters and welcomed 3 new Junior Cadets. We also promoted Kevin VanDerhoof to Lieutenant at Station 33.

We hosted another successful First Responder Youth Camp in 2025 welcoming 31 campers to the program. This camp has helped with recruitment in our Junior Cadet program as well as our Howell High School Fire Academy which in some cases has fed into our local fire departments. A big thank-you to all of our camp sponsors. We are grateful to all of our sponsors.

Fire Prevention is always a priority and staff works diligently to educate the public on smoke and carbon monoxide alarms as well as CPR/AED use. Our fire prevention team is constantly conducting routine inspections at area businesses to ensure the safety of the public.

Training has always been one of BAFA's strengths. We recognize the need to remain solid on core skills as well as various high hazard/low frequency incidents. Staff continues to train daily on various topics including: CPR, medical training, water & ice rescue, fire suppression and Haz-mat.

Our Livingston County Firefighter Training Academy graduated 30 new firefighters in 2025 from 12 area communities.

Howell High School Fire Academy - Class 12 is made up of 30 juniors and seniors from area high schools, many of these cadets are now current members of local fire departments as part of their Junior Firefighter program. Lt. Chad Nickels is well respected by the students and does a great job teaching.

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) was added to our high school academy program. In our first year 8 of our 30 cadets obtained top program scores and were selected to compete in the regional event and 2 of the 8 that competed in regionals placed in the top five and earned a trip to Traverse City for the State HOSA Competition.

Lt. Jim Boisvert retired after serving the BAFA community for 25 years.

Shawn Pipoly who served for twelve years as a dedicated BAFA board member retired in December 2025.

In November of 2025 Station 31 began a long awaited renovation project. The expansion will offer bunk rooms for our 24 hour staff and a state of the art building for administrative staff. Thank you to the board and the community for your continued support.

A big thank you to Chris VanBlaricum for her hard work on putting together the 2025 Year-End report.

Discussion and Consideration of Board Policy on Compensation

At the January 2026 BAFA Regularly scheduled board meeting, the Authority board proposed the question on how board members should be compensated, specifically for alternate board members.

The Restated Articles state:

“Compensation. The members of the Fire Authority Board shall be compensated at the rate provided in the budget for the Authority for each fiscal year. Each member of the Board shall be entitled to reimbursement for all expenditures made by him or her in carrying out official duties as may be approved by the Board and to the extent authorized by the budget for the Authority for each Fiscal Year. “

A *draft* Board Compensation Policy SOP 316 was presented to the board and there was much discussion regarding the compensation for alternate board members. The *draft* policy will be revised and brought back to board at the next meeting.

Request to Authorize the Purchase of Fire Alarm System for Station 31

The Fire Authority is responsible for the fire alarm system at the Station 31 construction project. The Fire Authority staff has been working for our fire alarm systems to be consistent across the various facilities. A request for proposals was issued by Fire Marshal Boisvert where three proposals were received:

The previous two alarm systems have been installed and maintained by Boynton Fire Service.

26:014 Motion by: Joe Riker supported by Todd Walker that we approve the design and installation of the fire alarm system at Fire Station 31 with Boynton Fire Services at a cost of \$49,740.

AYES: Jim Muzzin, Susan Gardner, Joe Riker, Brian VanSingel, Kevin Spicher,
Todd Walker,
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Patrick Michel, Mike Corrigan
ABSTAIN: None

Motion carried 6-0

Good of the Order

Come and join us for Soup Out at Station 32 on February 19th from 11:30 - 1:15pm

Our annual Awards Ceremony was held on Friday, February 6th at the Brighton Center for the Performing Arts. Battalion Chief Ryan Sovey was awarded the 2025 BAFA Firefighter of the Year! Congratulations to Ryan who's been with BAFA for 23 years. He was also recognized at the American Legion Hall on February 11th, 2026.

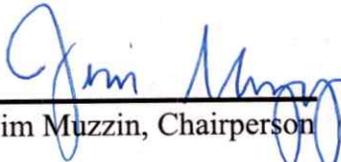
Susan Gardner commented on the MDOT construction project.

Kevin Spicher thanked the Chief for his efforts in getting the issues with the public safety communication system addressed by the Livingston County Board of Commissioners.

Adjournment

26:015 Motion by Todd Walker supported by Joe Riker that we adjourn this meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.
This meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am



Jim Muzzin, Chairperson