

MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 26, 2022
FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

Wednesday, October 26, 2022, 9:00 A.M.
Meeting held at
Englewood Fire Administration Office
516 Paul Morris Drive, Englewood, FL 34223

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Vice-Chairman, Mr. Benedetti. Those present were: Mr. Kimberlin, Mr. Loisell, Mr. Knauf, Lori Emery and Chief Easton. Mr. Davison was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA FROM LAST MONTHS MEETING

Mr. Benedetti asked if there were any questions, corrections or additions to the consent agenda from the August 17, 2022 and September 14, 2022 Board Meetings. Mr. Loisell made a motion to accept the consent agendas and financials subject to audit. It was seconded by Mr. Kimberlin and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comment

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief Easton updated the Board on the Florida Special Fire District Performance Review. Fitch and Associates will start after the first of the year. A small discussion ensued.

Chief Easton updated the Board on the Brush Truck; the Skid Unit has arrived and is scheduled for installation/mounting. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton updated the Board on the current Fire Impact Fee Study with Raftelis. He went onto to say that the final reports are complete and will have copies to Board at the November meeting. Based on their study, the report supports the current increase schedule of 12.5% increase, each year for a period of four years. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton updated the Board about the station security. He explained that this project has been suspended due to Hurricane Ian storm damage.

Chief Easton updated the Board on the Deputy Chief position. The application deadline is Friday, October 28, 2022; nine (9) applicants have already applied. Chief Easton is currently scheduling an interview panel to meet with the applicants next month. A short discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about the Hurricane Ian both during and after the storm. He explained the station evacuations and shelters/facilities utilized for First Responders during the storm plus, explained challenges they faced such as flooding, power outages and generator failures. Chief Easton also reviewed the damages sustained to the administration office, fire stations and engines. A long discussion ensued.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about the generator failures from Hurricane Ian. He has already spoken with suppliers and received pricing for replacements. The pricing is to replace generators at the Administration Building, Station 71 and Station 73. A long discussion ensued. Chief Easton would like to proceed with the bid provided by Florida Power Supply, approximately \$110,000. Mr. Knauf made a motion to approve the purchase of the new generators up to \$150,000 along with Chief Easton obtaining confirmation of the size and performance recommendations for each building. It was seconded Mr. Loisell and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton spoke to Board regarding the roof damages sustained from Hurricane Ian. The Administration office, Station 71, 73 and 74 are heavily damaged and will need to be replaced. Chief Easton confirmed that all roofs have been secured with tarping as adjusters make their way to each property to assess damages and repairs needed. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about a reoccurring lightning issue for Station 75. The roof has sustained damages from multiple lightning strikes plus, in recent months several electronic devices and equipment have had to be replaced. Chief Easton has met with consultants from Windemuller Technical Services who specializes in lightning protection rods and would like to proceed with the installation of a 10ft lightning mast plus, transfer switches and additional surge protection which is approximately \$15,000. A long discussion ensued. Mr. Kimberlin made a motion to approve the purchase and installation up to \$15,000. It was seconded by Mr. Loisell and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about seeking future temporary stations during Zone B evacuations. Chief Easton spoke about potential properties but the importance it will be to secure location before next Hurricane season. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about renewing a three (3) year contract with GSG (Government Services Group). Chief Easton confirmed the consistency of professionalism and positive performance of services to the district and supports the renewal. Mr. Knauf made a motion to approve the three (3) year contract for \$21,000. It was seconded by Mr. Kimberlin and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about the recent termination of the department Fire Inspector, Richard Chapman. A short discussion ensued. Chief Easton has revised the position to a Fire Marshal and has posted the position with a deadline of November 16, 2022. Chief Easton will provide an update at the November meeting.

Chief Easton presented the 2023 meeting schedule to the Board for approval. A short discussion ensued. Mr. Kimberlin made a motion to approve the schedule. It was seconded by Mr. Knauf and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton confirmed with the Board that he has applied for FEMA Disaster assistance. Chief Easton also added that he has hired a 3rd party consultant to complete the application correctly and efficiently plus, the cost is also reimbursable. A short discussion ensued.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Patrick Maley inquired about the propane supplies at the fire stations. Chief Easton confirmed that some, not all stations have back up tanks.

DVP COMMENT:

No DVP comment at this time.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Benedetti asked Battalion Chief, Donald Pasick about the recent fire at Palm Harbour Marina. Chief Pasick described the incident and spoke highly of the crews successfully extinguishing the fire and protecting other vessels from further damage.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29am.



Ron Benedetti, Vice-Chairman DATED: 12-14-2022



Attest DATED: 12/14/22