

MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 23, 2023
FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 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 Chairman, Mr. Davison. Those present were: Mr. Benedetti, Mr. Kimberlin, Mr. Loisell, Lori Wellbaum, and Chief Easton. Mr. Knauf attended via telephone.

CONSENT AGENDA FROM LAST MONTHS MEETING

Mr. Davison asked if there were any questions, corrections, or additions to the consent agenda from the 07/19/2023 Board Meeting. Mr. Benedetti made a motion to accept the consent agenda and financials from 07/19/2023 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 about the new generators. Chief Easton explained that he was able to locate sufficient plot plans for Station 71 for the permitting office therefore, things continue to move forward with the project. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton updated the Board about vacation rental property inspections. He's been having discussions with Sandi at GSG regarding the process of changing the assessments. Chief Easton indicated the changes will be a tremendous project therefore, he's hoping with the additional staffing of the Fire Inspector it will expedite the changes to get the new inspections started. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton updated the Board about the replacement apparatus for Engine 72. Chief Easton has an appointment scheduled with E-One on September 26, 2023, regarding the prebuild. He explained the total cost of the engine is \$785,178; he also explained that Brindley Mountain will buy back at \$301,817 which is 38% return on the new apparatus investment. A short discussion ensued.

Chairman, Mr. Davison addressed the Board about Chief Easton's contract renewal. He confirmed that he had reviewed the final contract with the changes as discussed at the July 19, 2023, meeting. Mr. Kimberlin made a motion to approve Chief Easton's three (3) year contract; 2023-2026. It was seconded by Mr. Loisell and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about the new Deputy Chief, Robert Blasetti; he had hoped to introduce him to the Board, but Chief Blasetti was currently attending a training course. Chief Easton did praise that since Chief Blasetti arrival, he has hit the ground running and that staff feedback has been exceptional.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about additional staff vehicles. He continued to explain that Chief Bennett has been able to locate and secure three (3) vehicles for purchase with a \$25k savings. Chief Easton requested approval to proceed with the purchase of the three (3) vehicles; two (2) 2023 Ford F-150 trucks for the Fire Marshall and Fire Inspector and one (1) 2023 Ford Expedition for Deputy Chief Blasetti. The cost for all three (3) vehicles is approximately \$150k. Mr. Loisell made a motion to approve the purchase. It was seconded by Mr. Benedetti and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton also explained to the Board that once the vehicles are purchased and obtained, the 2017 Chevy Silverado will be transferred to the maintenance technician and that the current maintenance truck, the 2006 Ford F-250 will need to be disposed and removed from the fleet. Mr. Kimberlin made a motion to dispose of the 2006 F250 truck. It was seconded by Mr. Benedetti and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about future plans to expand the Fire Prevention/Community Risk Reduction services. He briefly described some of his objectives for the expansion; having more involvement with new construction plan reviews and certificate of occupancy approval process plus, some FDC changes. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about another future plan of his to add an Ad Valorem Tax referendum for EMS funding. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton prepared an Annual Report for 2022 to review with the Board. Chief Easton provided a copy for each member, and he reviewed each section of the report. Mr. Benedetti requested to have the incidents sorted and broken down on the next report. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton confirmed that the interviews for the new Fire Inspector position will be held on Wednesday, August 30th starting at 9:00am; there are (3) candidates.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about a vacancy on the Pension Board. He confirmed that Tom Hinck has resigned, and Seat 7 will be open.

Chief Easton confirmed that he will begin the recruiting process for the six (6) additional firefighter positions. Applications will be accepted until September 15, 2023, with interviews to follow.

Chief Easton spoke about an exciting opportunity from the American Red Cross. Fire Marshal Brooks has been speaking with their program manager and they will be providing Englewood residents with free smoke detectors (up to 4 detectors per home) and EFD First Responders will be installing them. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton confirmed with the Board that the inter-local agreement with Charlotte County Tax Collector is nearly complete. Charlotte County has agreed to collect new construction impact fees on behalf of the Englewood Area Fire Control District. The charge for this service is 2.55% and he will have a copy of the agreement at the next Board meeting. A short discussion ensued.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

No Public Comment at this time.

DVP COMMENT:

No DVP comment at this time.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Benedetti asked about our current bank account interest rates; Chief Easton confirmed that Jolanda contacted the bank about the increased rates therefore, the accounts are at 5.05%.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 am.



Ron Davison, Chairman

DATED: 10/25/2023



Attest

DATED: 10/25/23