

MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 25, 2023
FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

Wednesday, January 25, 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 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 12/14/2022 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 are scheduled to meet with Staff on February 2, 2023 and to perform site visits to the stations.

Chief Easton updated the Board about the station security. Chief Easton has obtained his first quote which is \$19k and will continue to get multiple quotes for the Board to review. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton updated the Board about the new generators. Chief Easton's still working with Florida Power Supply to complete permitting paperwork. A small discussion ensued.

Chief Easton updated the Board regarding the second Deputy Chief position. The job posting has closed and six applications were received. Chief Easton is currently putting together an interview panel; interviews will tentatively be scheduled late February, early March. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton updated the Board regarding the offer for purchase of property on Placida Road. The \$400k offer was submitted and Chief Easton received a counter of \$500k. A long discussion ensued and the Board agreed to stand firm on \$400k. Mr. Kimberlin also inquired about a possible environmental survey. Mr. Emery made a suggestion to counter with the survey as a contingency.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about the necessity to hire an I.T. service for the department. A short discussion ensued. Chief Easton is in the process of obtaining quotes and will update the Board of his finding at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Easton opened the new business with introducing the new Fire Marshal, Kyle Brooks. Chief Easton also mentioned that Fire Marshal Brooks has gotten acclimated to the department rather quickly and began inspections. Kyle Brooks inspected the departments building and stations where minor issues were discovered. A short discussion ensued and all the Board members gave Kyle Brooks a warm welcome to the department.

Mr. Benedetti addressed the Board to elect and approve Board officers for 2023. Mr. Knauf nominated Mr. Davison for Chairperson. There were no further nominations. Mr. Davison was unanimously elected as Chairperson for the 2023 Fire Commission Board. Mr. Loisell nominated Mr. Benedetti for Vice Chairperson. There were no further nominations. Mr. Benedetti was unanimously elected as Vice Chairperson. Mr. Knauf nominated Mr. Kimberlin for Treasurer. There were no further nominations. Mr. Kimberlin was unanimously elected as Treasurer.

Chief Easton presented the Board with Resolution 2023-1416; amending Resolution 2022-1412. The new resolution is to remove note #3 from Resolution 2022-1412. A small discussion ensued. Mr. Knauf made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-1416. It was seconded by Mr. Kimberlin and passed unanimously.

Mr. Benedetti presented the Board with a date change for the March board meeting. The original date was scheduled for March 22, 2023 but is requesting it be moved to March 15, 2023. A short discussion ensued and the Board agreed to the date change.

Mr. Benedetti addressed the Board about his concerns with current interest rates and suggested that the department look into alternative rates, investments or money markets for the District 2023. A long discussion ensued. Mr. Knauf will look into some alternative investments. It was agreed to discuss further at the next meeting.

Chief Easton addressed the Board about changes to the bank accounts. With Chief Stubbs retirement, he will need to be removed as a signor and then Chief Bennett will need to be added to accounts as the new signor. Mr. Kimberlin made a motion to approve the bank account signor changes. It was seconded by Mr. Loisell and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton introduced Shawn from Raftelis; Shawn presented the Board with the final numbers of their study of the district. He went onto explain how they utilized the financial, capital and call data to calculate the proposed fees. Shawn also presented the proposed growth and fees for the district through 2040. A long discussion ensued.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about replacement vehicles for the Deputy Chiefs. He explained that he has located a vehicle for Chief Bennett; Ford Expedition with a lease option. He is proposing to purchase the vehicle with a three (3) year lease at \$76,650. A long discussion ensued. Mr. Knauf made a motion to approve the three (3) year lease and not to exceed \$76,650. It was seconded by Mr. Kimberlin and pass unanimously.

Chief Easton confirmed with the Board that he will be meeting South Florida Emergency Vehicles on February 3rd to discuss the replacements of Engine 76 and Truck 75 as the build time is 40 months. He also confirmed that Brindley Mountain has extended the seven (7) year buy back because of the extended build time. A short discussion ensued. Mr. Loisell made a motion to approve the purchase of the new ladder truck and engine. It was seconded by Mr. Kimberlin and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board regarding the radio tower lease with Crown Castle for Station 71. He explained that Crown Castle has requested a 4th amendment to the lease; adding 130 square feet to their property for additional generators to accommodate AT&T and T-Mobile. A long discussion ensued. Chief Easton will review the amendment with Ms. Emery and will update the Board at the next meeting.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about an opportunity that was presented to Deputy Chief Bennett. He has been invited to be on the Board of Directors at the Englewood Community Hospital. A small discussion ensued. Chief Easton and the Board conveyed their support of this opportunity and Ms. Emery confirmed there is no conflict.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about a recent cardiac arrest call that our ALS unit has responded to. He praised that because of their quick response and they were able to provide lifesaving skills to the patient prior to the ambulance's arrival.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

No Public Comment at this time.

DVP COMMENT:

No DVP comment at this time.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Benedetti just wanted to remind the Board members to follow up with their CDO credits and he asked Krista to confirm the FASD conference dates which are June 12th – 15th.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04am.



DATED: 2/22/23

Ron Benedetti, Vice-Chairman



DATED: 2/22/23

Attest