

MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 28, 2024
FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 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. Kimberlin, Mr. Knauf, Lori Wellbaum, and Chief Easton. Mr. Benedetti attended via telephone. Mr. Loisell absent.

CONSENT AGENDA FROM LAST MONTHS MEETING

Mr. Davison asked if there were any questions, corrections, or additions to the consent agenda from the 07/24/2024 Board Meetings. Mr. Kimberlin made a motion to accept the consent agenda and financials from 07/24/2024 subject to audit. It was seconded by Mr. Knauf and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comment

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief Easton updated the Board about the new Fire Inspector vehicle. The truck has been delivered; it's in the process of being scheduled for lights and graphics along with radio installation.

Chief Easton updated the Board about the Transient Property Lodging Establishment (TPLE) inspections. He went onto explain that the Trim notices have been sent out to property owners; those properties identified as transient have been recategorized as commercial and assessed under the commercial rate. Chief Easton also explained that some property owners have reached out to file exemptions once rental terms have been confirmed. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton updated the Board about the mental health/employee assistance program. He explained that he's working to obtain a department Chaplain, peer support resources, and mental health clinicians. Chief Easton also added that he anticipates sending six (6) personnel to the peer support training hosted by the IAFF (International Association of Fire Fighters).

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about his recent search for a department Chaplain. He went on to explain that he sent letters to all the local churches and did receive some interest. After meeting with the applicants, he has appointed Reverend Scott Andrews of Community Presbyterian Church as EAFCD volunteer Chaplain. Chief Easton is planning to introduce him to staff and tour the stations soon.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about the Collective Bargaining Agreement. He confirmed that he and the IAFF Local 2546 have reached a tentative agreement. The agreement will increase the firefighter pay by 7% the first year, 4% the second year and 4% the third and final year. Chief Easton noted that he and the IAFF also agreed to some term's changes; the contract will be in effect October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2027. The IAFF has scheduled the ratification voting for September 3rd and 4th. Mr. Knauf made a motion to Chief Easton to proceed with the new contract terms and pay increase and finalize with IAFF Local 2536. It was seconded by Mr. Kimberlin and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about the upgrades to Station 72. He received his first quote to build a metal garage to store the new engine 72 that's anticipated later this year. He explained the quote totaled \$161,253 however, he is also expecting two (2) additional quotes before selecting a

vendor. Mr. Kimberlin made a motion to approve a budget of \$170k for the garage construction project. It was seconded by Mr. Knauf and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about adding a Director of Public Relations position. He explained the position has a significant role as the liaison between the EAFCD and the public. He added that the position also includes the development and delivery of information to the public, whether through local media outlets, social media, department website or department app. The position will also coordinate training and education for local businesses and residents. Chief Easton indicated the budget would allow a salary of approximately \$70k. A small discussion ensued.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about the Workers Compensation renewal. He went onto explain that he was anticipating a significant increase; up to 30% therefore he reached out to an alternative provider. Chief Easton has a meeting with them today. However, in the interim, he received the renewal quote from the current vendor, and it was decreased by 2%. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about a new program he has obtained for the department. He explained that he has subscribed to Ready Rebound; a 24/7 service that provides elite healthcare and injury navigation to public safety workers and their families. The team can expedite the care, recovery time and return employees to work up to 30% faster when navigating on or off the job injuries. Chief Easton added that Ready Rebound already has a relationship with our workers comp so staff can get connected to their physicians as well as physicians in network with the department health insurance. A small discussion ensued. The contract will be reviewed by Ms. Wellbaum. Mr. Kimberlin made a motion to approve the program for \$25k for 12 months and subject to the review by Ms. Wellbaum. It was seconded by Mr. Knauf and the motion passed. Chief Easton updated the Board on the production of the new ladder Truck 75. He confirmed that the rolling chassis, the cab and pump module are done. Chief Easton estimated the Truck will be complete approximately May 2025. He also added that he has spoken with Brindlee Mountain, and they already have a potential buyer for the old truck.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

No public comment.

DVP COMMENT :

No DVP comment.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Knauf thanked Chief Easton, Chief Bennett and Chief Blasetti for their continued hard work and complimented them all for doing such a terrific job.

Mr. Davison agreed with Mr. Knauf's sentiments and thanked them for doing a great job.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47am.



Ronald Davison, Chairman

DATED: 10/23/24



Attest

DATED: 10/23/2024