

MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2024
FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

Wednesday, November 20, 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. Benedetti, Mr. Kimberlin, Mr. Loisell, Mr. Knauf, Lori Wellbaum, and Chief Easton.

CONSENT AGENDA FROM LAST MONTHS MEETING

Mr. Davison asked if there were any questions, corrections, or additions to the consent agenda from the 10/23/024 Board Meeting. Mr. Benedetti made a motion to accept the consent agenda and financials from 10/31/2024 subject to audit. It was seconded by Mr. Loisell and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comment

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about his recent attendance at the Englewood Water District Board of Supervisors meeting. He explained some of the topics of the meeting and the recent changes to administration at EWD. Chief Easton also updated the Board about the potential private fuel site with EWD. He explained that analytics are being collected to determine tank sizes. Chief Easton will provide an update on the project at a later date. A short discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Easton introduced Todd Dunn as the new Director of Public Relations and Public Information Officer. He highlighted Todd's experience and the advantages he will bring to the department.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about purchasing Todd Dunn a department vehicle. Chief Bennett is in the process of obtaining pricing, which will likely be similar to the cost of the last vehicle purchased for the Fire Inspector. Mr. Kimberlin made a motion to approve the purchase of a new truck for up to \$43,000. It was seconded by Mr. Knauf and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton presented the Board with Resolutions 2024-1424 and 2024-1425. He explained these are the Local Mitigation Strategy agreements with Sarasota and Charlotte County; these agreements would make EFD eligible for grants following natural disasters. Chief Easton also went on to explain that those funds could be utilized for hardening our buildings and purchasing generators.

A short discussion ensued.

Mr. Kimberlin made a motion to approve the Local Mitigation Strategy for Sarasota County, Resolution 2024-1424. It was seconded by Mr. Benedetti and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Loisell made a motion to approve the Local Mitigation Strategy for Charlotte County, Resolution 2024-1425. It was seconded by Mr. Knauf and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton presented the Board with Resolution 2024-1426; the fourth and final increase to the new construction, Fire Impact Fee. This is the fourth increase of 12.5% increase from the study provided by Raftelis in 2022. Mr. Knauf made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-1426. It was seconded by Mr. Loisell and the motion passed unanimously. Chief Easton also explained that he would continue to review data and county statistics to determine whether the department will adopt another four (4) year increase plan.

Chief Easton addressed the Board regarding the potential change of financial institutions. He explained that he met with representatives from Crews Bank, who assured him they can match our current services while also providing some additional benefits. Chief Easton has not made any final decisions yet, as he is still evaluating their services. He will give an update at a later date.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about an opportunity to purchase the vacant land next to the new building at 579 S. Indiana Avenue. He went on to explain that it was recently listed (521 S. Indiana Avenue) and that the property would be a tremendous asset as it would provide the additional parking needed for staff vehicles as well as safe accessibility for Station 71 onto Indiana Avenue. A long discussion ensued. Mr. Kimberlin made a motion to approve Chief Easton to present an offer and negotiate the purchase of the property at a maximum of \$140,000. It was seconded by Mr. Knauf and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton addressed the Board regarding a recent salary study. He explained that, based on his position, job function, and geographical region, his current salary is below the minimum average. Therefore, he would like to request an increase in the form of increased pension contributions. A long discussion ensued. Mr. Knauf made a motion to amend Chief Easton's current contract, changing the pension contributions from partial to full. It was seconded by Mr. Loisell and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Davison thanked Mr. Kimberlin for his dedicated service and loyalty to the department and the Englewood community. Mr. Davison presented Mr. Kimberlin with a plaque to commemorate his 6 years of service and appreciation from the Board, Chief Easton, and Administrative Staff.

Chief Easton then welcomed the new Commissioner Patrick Maley to the Board. Ms. Wellbaum performed the Swearing-In of Mr. Maley; asking him to raise his right hand and repeat the Oath of Office. Once the Swearing-In was complete, Mr. Maley executed the Oath of Office by signing along with a Notary present.

Mr. Davison addressed the Board to elect and approve a new Treasurer. Mr. Benedetti nominated Mr. Knauf as the new Treasurer. There were no further nominations. Mr. Knauf was unanimously elected as Treasurer for the 2024 Fire Commission Board.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

No public comment.

DVP COMMENT :

No DVP comment.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Knauf thanked everyone for continuing to do a great job.

Mr. Loisell thanked Mr. Kimberlin for his service and said that he will be missed.

Mr. Benedetti welcomed Todd Dunn and Patrick Maley. He expressed how sad he was to see Mr. Kimberlin retire as he's made a tremendous contribution to the department. He thanked him for his dedicated service.

Mr. Kimberlin expressed his gratitude for the recognition and shared how honored he felt to be placed in Larry McNamara's spot. He also thanked everyone for their support and trust in his role.

Mr. Davison conveyed his enjoyment of having Mr. Kimberlin on the Board and expressed that he will be truly missed. He also welcomed Mr. Maley, noting the significant position he has to fill. He welcomed Todd Dunn to the department.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13am.



Ronald Davison, Chairman

DATED:

12/23/2024



Attest

DATED:

12/23/24