

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2008
FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

Wednesday, October 8, 2008, 9:00 P.M.
Meeting held at the Administration Building
516 Paul Morris Drive, Englewood, FL 34223

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 P.M. by the Chairman, Ms. Hawkins. Those present were, Ms. Hawkins, Mr. Kern, Mr. Bell, Mr. Seneca, Chief Bonakoske and Ms. Emery. Mr. Davison was not in attendance.

OPEN TO PUBLIC:

No one from the public wished to address the Board.

MINUTES FROM LAST MONTHS MEETING:

Ms. Hawkins asked if there were any questions, corrections or additions to the minutes from the September 24th Board Meeting. Mr. Kern made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 24th Board Meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Bell and passed unanimously.

Ms. Hawkins advised the Board that we received a check from the State of Florida for the Firefighters Pension Trust fund in the amount of \$208,808.61. This check will be deposited into the pension fund.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Ms. Hawkins asked if any of the Commissioners had any comments regarding their committees. There were no comments made.

CHIEF'S COMMENTS:

The Chief advised the Board that the roof repairs have been completed and the windows have passed inspection at the Administration Building.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Hawkins addressed the next item on the agenda, staff wages. Mr. Kern advised the Board that he has met with the Chief regarding this issue. He suggested that the staff get the same increase as the union personnel, 3% across the board, (3% increase in the wage and 3% increase in longevity). Chief Bonakoske advised the Board that he has spoken to the staff and received their ideas. The Chief advised the Board that an additional day off, Columbus Day was suggested, this is to align the office with the counties. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Seneca made a motion which was clarified by Mr. Kern, to give the 3 office staff and the 2 assistant chiefs a 3% increase in wages, a 3% increase in longevity and Columbus Day off. These changes would be retroactive to October 1, 2008. It was seconded by Mr. Bell. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the Chief would be addressed separately and offered a 3 to 5 year contract, which will be presented at the October 22nd Board Meeting. An additional Board Meeting would be scheduled for October 28, 2008, 4:30 P.M. in the case that a contract could not be completed by the Board Meeting of October 22, 2008.

Ms. Hawkins addressed the Gasparilla Marina issue. Ms. Emery advised the Board that she has responded to Attorney Draper's letter where she stated the District's position regarding their assessment (copy attached). A lengthy discussion ensued.

Mr. Seneca asked Assistant Chief Lane the status of the training facility. Chief Lane advised the Board that the County may require us to put a permanent pad under the classroom building. He will keep the Board apprised regarding this issue.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Bonakoske addressed the Fifth Third Bank banking proposal and advised the Board he would like a line of credit in place, so in the event that we require money prior to receiving it from the counties it is available to us. The Chief will be meeting with Josh McCoy from Fifth Third Bank to discuss the benefits to the District if a change in banks were in order. He will update the Commissioners at the next Board Meeting.

Mr. Seneca advised the Board that he has attended the last two local candidate forums for the Charlotte County Commission and was distressed to see that no one seemed to care or even know about the fire district. He would like to speak at the next forum and ask questions but he wanted to advise the Board prior to doing so. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Seneca will submit his questions to Ms. Emery for her review prior to speaking at a forum.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 A.M.

_____ DATED: _____
Denise Hawkins, Chairman

_____ DATED: _____
Attest

Bdmt Oct 8, 2008