

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 22, 2009
FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

Wednesday, April 22, 2009, 9:00 A.M.
Meeting held at the Administration Building
516 Paul Morris Drive, Englewood, FL 34223

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 by the Chairman, Ms. Hawkins. Those present were: Ms. Hawkins, Mr. Bray, Mr. Bell, Mr. Seneca, Chief Bonakoske and Ms. Emery. Mr. Davison was not in attendance.

OPEN TO PUBLIC:

No one wished to address the Board at this time.

MINUTES FROM LAST MONTHS MEETING:

Ms. Hawkins asked if there were any questions, corrections or additions to the minutes from the Board Meeting of April 8, 2009. Mr. Seneca made a motion to accept the minutes from the Board Meeting of April 8, 2009 as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Bell and passed unanimously.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Hawkins asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's Report for March 2009. Mr. Bell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for March 2009 subject to audit. It was seconded by Mr. Bray and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Bray notified the Board of an upcoming school for the Firefighter Pension Trust Fund.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Chief Bonakoske stated that Mr. Davison wanted the Board to know that the backup emergency generator has been installed at the Administration Building and the Station 73 generator is being installed at this time.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

The Chief asked if there were any questions regarding the written Chief's report. There were none.

The Chief advised the Board that the letter applying for the stimulus package from the State of Florida is ready for the Chairman's signature. We should be hearing from Tallahassee in the near future about our status regarding the stimulus package monies. A short discussion ensued.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Hawkins apologized to Mr. Seneca for not re-addressing the Station 71 renovations at the last Board Meeting. Mr. Seneca asked if the other Commissioners had a chance to review the plans for this renovation. They said they had a chance to review them briefly. Commissioner Seneca asked Assistant Chief Gaskell where we stood, regarding the bid process. Assistant Chief Gaskell advised the Board that we are going to need architectural drawings to get a more exact bid. A lengthy discussion ensued. Ms. Hawkins suggested that each Commissioner review the plans and bring back their suggestions to the May 27, 2009 Board Meeting.

Mr. Bray addressed the Cell Phone policy and advised the Board that he has researched various plans and suggested that a stipend of \$60.00 per month be given to the two Assistant Chiefs and the Chief. With this stipend the two Assistant Chiefs and the Chief could purchase the plan to fit their specific needs. The Board decided that a Cell Phone Policy needs to be put in place. Mr. Bray made a motion to authorize the Chief to prepare a Cell Phone Policy giving the three superior officers a stipend of \$60.00 per month for Cell Phones. This policy would include the Battalion Chiefs phone, which would be a plan with 1,000 anytime minutes and free incoming calls. This policy will be brought back for Board approval. It was seconded by Mr. Seneca and passed unanimously.

The Chief addressed the 800 Radios. He advised the Board that this issue was addressed at the last staff meeting and it was the consensus of the staff that of the 3 large projects we are planning, i.e. air packs, remodeling of Station 71 and 800 Radios, the 800 Radios would be of the greatest priority. The Assistance to Firefighters grant has a deadline of May 20th; at that time the application has to be finalized and submitted. The Chief advised the Board that we have one bid from Motorola. The Chief stated there are other companies that have similar technology but he does not know if they will work for us. Ms. Hawkins stated that before the Board can make a decision they require 3 bids. Ms. Emery agreed. Mr. Seneca stated that Assistant Chief Gaskell had reported that Motorola was the best radio for our needs. Assistant Chief stated for the record, that EF Johnson does not have a rep locally and only one county in the state supports EF Johnson and that is Charlotte County. Mr. Seneca stated he thought that this project was given to Assistant Chief Gaskell and he has tested all the other radio systems and they do not work as well as Motorola. Commissioner Seneca, would like to know what would be wrong with putting Motorola down on the grant application? A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Seneca made a motion to proceed with and apply for the 800 system grant using the Motorola information and technology. After a lengthy discussion Mr. Seneca withdrew his motion. The firefighting personnel in attendance each addressed the Board and stated that Motorola was the radio that would work best for them. Mr. Bray made a motion to allow the Chief to proceed with the grant application using Motorola and all their spec information, as long as we do not have to sign a contract that would lock us into the purchase of these radios. It was seconded by Mr. Seneca and passed with a majority vote. Ms. Hawkins did not cast a vote.

Ms. Hawkins addressed the off duty work hours for salaried employees. Chief Bonakoske had given each Commissioner the updated policy with the amendment (copy attached for the record). Mr. Bray made a motion to accept this policy as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Bell and passed unanimously.

Chief Bonakoske presented a letter to the Board from Assistant Chief Lane regarding the possibility of allowing potential students of the Training Facility to make payments for tuition. In the letter he suggested that the potential students would make a 50% payment for the first half, (Firefighter 1) and the second half of the tuition (Firefighter 2) would be made prior to the start of the Firefighter 2 class. This would be offered to the first three students that request this payment option. Mr. Bray made a motion to draw up a policy as per Assistant Chief Lane's letter, (copy attached) that would allow the first three students who ask for a payment plan, to pay half the tuition before the Firefighter 1 class begins and pay the second half of the tuition before the Firefighter 2 class begins. A credit card can be used, if the District is capable of accepting credit cards. It was seconded by Mr. Bell and Mr. Seneca and passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Hawkins addressed the meeting of May 13th and advised the Board that two commissioners and the Chief will not be in attendance. It was decided that the meeting will be held and if a quorum is not in attendance it will be cancelled.

The Board recessed at 10:25 and reconvened at 10:35.

Mr. Bray advised the Board that the Pension Board had a special meeting and out of that meeting there were two proposed resolutions regarding the state pension monies and an early buy out. He went on to explain both proposed resolutions and the reasons for them (copy of these resolutions are attached for the record). The first resolution addressed state money and the fact that if they were not used they may be lost to the pension fund. The change to the pension would be the definition of the average final compensation it will be changed from the best five of the last ten years to the best two of the last ten years. This average would be used for benefit compensation for retirement. The multiplier or benefit accrual rate will be increased from 3.25% of the average final compensation for the years credited to 3.5% of the average final compensation for the years credited. This would be at no cost to the District. The second resolution is a possible way to cut payroll and pension costs. This would be an early out that would offered to 8 employees. If this resolution were adopted it would provide a retirement incentive to any member of the plan who reaches 20 years of service prior to November 30, 2009. Any eligible member who elects to retire before November 30, 2009 and makes an irrevocable written election to do so before June 30, 2009 will receive an extra 7% of the average final compensation added to their calculated benefits (basically this is, if you have 23 years in, this would credit you with 25 years). After his explanation of these two resolutions, Mr. Bray introduced Mr. Doug Lozen from Foster and Foster, the pension fund's actuary. Mr. Lozen and several of the District employees explained in great detail these two resolutions. Mr. Bray made a motion to accept the two resolutions as presented (copies attached for the record). It was seconded by Mr. Seneca and passed unanimously.

Mr. Bray wanted to address under New Business the resignation of one of the District's firefighters. He would like to postpone the hiring of a replacement until there is a consensus of where we are with the budget. The Chief advised the Board that the test has already been scheduled and he would like to proceed with it but postpone the hiring. The Board agreed to test but not hire at this time. This will be discussed further at the May 27th Board Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 A.M.

_____ DATED: _____
Denise Hawkins, Chairman

_____ DATED: _____
Attest

Bdmt April 22, 2009