

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

Wednesday, July 22, 2009, 9:00 A.M.
Meeting held at the Englewood Area Fire Control District's
Station 74
403 Boundary Blvd., Rotonda, Florida 33947

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 by the Chairman, Ms. Hawkins. Those present were: Ms. Hawkins, Mr. Bray, Mr. Bell, Mr. Davison, Mr. Seneca, Chief Bonakoske and Ms. Emery

Chief Bonakoske asked to add the Crown Castle tower lease under Old Business

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 Board Meeting of July 8, 2009. Mr. Bell made a motion to accept the minutes from the Board Meeting of July 8, 2009 as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Davison and passed unanimously.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

There were no committee comments.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Bonakoske, Assistant Chief Gaskell and Assistant Chief Lane had nothing to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Chief advised the Board that a check has been sent to the architect for drawings for the Station 1 renovations. Mr. Davison stated that Lt. Rossow and FF Pasick have submitted the Grant paperwork for this project.

The Chief stated he and the committee members for the 800 Radios have received two RFP's and met with both vendors; Motorola and EF Johnson. Chief Bonakoske advised the Board that they will be conducting field tests within a week or two. Several of the committee members were in attendance at this meeting and gave their opinions regarding the two systems. Assistant Chief Gaskell went into great detail on how the equipment will work for us. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Bray wants a date as to when this issue can be settled. He would like an answer by the next board meeting.

Mr. Davison gave a short report regarding the awards ceremony. There will be an email going out to get a head count.

Chief Bonakoske addressed the Crown Castle lease and asked the Commission to review it so it can be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Hawkins addressed the replacement of retiring personnel. She asked if letters have been received from the three persons that are retiring. Chief Bonakoske said that he did not receive letters but spoke to each person and was advised that each person will use the November 30th date as their retirement date. Ms. Emery would like to have a letter from each person for the record.

Mr. Bray suggested that the replacement for the Fire Chief be a Fire Administrator instead. This person would be well educated and deal with the modern numbers, modern bookkeeping, spending, saving, budgets and preparing grants. Similar to an outside contractor, with no benefits just a contract wage. We could get the specifications from other departments who have recently hired executive personnel. The specifications could be a master's degree in public administration and fire skills. He also suggested that we not replace the Battalion Chief at this time. Mr. Seneca agrees with Mr. Bray but he feels we need definite qualifications for the Chief/Administrator's position and suggested that each Commissioner write down the qualification they would like to see in a Chief/Administrator. Mr. Bell would like to see the Battalion's Chief's position filled and have a list available to see who would be qualified to fill that position, similar to the list used for the Lieutenants promotions. Mr. Davison would like to see job qualifications for the Chief and the Assistant Chief positions but does not see the need to replace the Battalion Chief at this time. Ms. Hawkins feels the Chief's position should have an understanding of the running of a fire department. A lengthy discussion ensued. Ms. Hawkins suggested that each Commissioner bring to the next Board meeting the qualifications they would like to see in a Fire Chief/Administrator. She also suggested that the Assistant Chief's position be left vacant for the time being. Mr. Bell made a motion to establish a list to hire a Battalion Chief from. It was seconded by Mr. Seneca. The vote on the motion was Mr. Bell and Mr. Seneca for, Mr. Davison and Mr. Bray against. Ms. Hawkins broke the tie with a vote in favor of the motion. The motion passed with a three to two vote. Ms. Hawkins summarized the discussion. The Commissioners will come to the next Board meeting with a criteria for the Chief and Assistant Chief's positions. The Chief will forward information to the Board regarding the criteria used by the state for these positions. He will also forward the job duties and description for the Chief and Assistant Chief's positions.

The Board took a break from 10:34 A.M. to 10:57 A.M.

The Board discussed the proposed budget line by line. A lengthy discussion ensued. This discussion will be continued at the next Board Meeting where the Board will review sections of the budget in detail.

The Board would like to look into charging for HazMat incidents, special details and Inspections. This will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

_____ DATED: _____
Denise Hawkins, Chairman

_____ DATED: _____
Attest

Bdmt July 22, 2009