

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2009**  
**FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF**  
**THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT**

Wednesday, September 23, 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 9:00 A.M. by the Chairman, Ms. Hawkins. Those present were: Ms. Hawkins, Mr. Bray, Mr. Bell, Mr. Davison, Mr. Seneca, Chief Bonakoske and Ms. Emery.

**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 Meetings of August 26 and September 9, 2009. Mr. Seneca made a motion to accept the minutes from the Board Meetings of August 26 and September 9, 2009 as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Davison and passed unanimously.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT:**

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

**COMMITTEE COMMENTS:**

Mr. Davison advised the Board that FPL is doing energy audits at all our Stations. Commissioner Davison also advised the Board that we are looking into replacing the air conditioner at Station 71.

**SERVICE AWARDS:**

Chief Bonakoske presented ten year service pins to Firefighter Thomas Bannerman and Firefighter Richard Chapura.

**CHIEF'S REPORT:**

Chief Bonakoske advised the Board that Assistant Chief Gaskell has move up his retirement date to September 24, 2009. Tomorrow will be his last day.

Assistant Chief Lane advised the Board that the first graduation for the cadets will be this Saturday at the Suncoast Auditorium. All the Commissioners are invited to attend. A short discussion ensued.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Ms. Emery addressed the complaint from EF Johnson regarding the 800 Radios. The Chief stated the testing, in his opinion, was done fairly. A lengthy discussion ensued. It was the Board's decision not to address this issue further.

The Chief advised the Board that the 800 Radios are being received at this time. He has contacted Sarasota County regarding a memorandum of understanding, which would allow us to come on the system. A short discussion ensued.

Ms. Hawkins addressed the memorandum of understanding with the Charlotte County Board of Education. Ms. Emery stated that she is waiting for final contact and will follow up to see where it is.

Ms. Hawkins addressed the resumes for the Chief's Position. Mr. Bray discussed the procedure in reviewing the resumes. It was the Board decision that the resumes will be kept in a locked file at the Administration Building and opened October 1, 2009 in the presence of the first commissioner who comes in to review the resumes. Each Commissioner will go to the Administration Building to review the resumes and compile a list of the persons they feel meet the qualifications. Mr. Seneca would not be in favor of having an outside group go over the resumes. He feels that the members of the Board have enough experience to make the right choice. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the process that would be followed for reviewing and selecting a Fire Chief.

The Board recessed from 9:36 A.M. to 9:47 A.M.

Ms. Emery addressed the sunshine law regarding an independent panel reviewing the resumes. She stated that the panel would be in an advisory capacity only and could not make any decisions nor narrow down the list of candidates, unless it was done in the sunshine.

The Board decided that the each Commissioner would review the resumes and compile a list of ten names to be discussed at a special meeting to be held at Station 74, Thursday, October 8, 2009, 6:00 P.M.

Ms. Hawkins asked to move Mr. Garza's complaint issue to the next item on the agenda. The Board agreed. Chief Bonakoske advised the Board that he has addressed this issue with Mr. Garza but was unable to resolve it. He suggested to Mr. Garza that he bring his complaint before the Board. A lengthy discussion ensued The Board decided that this issue is under the Chief's responsibility and his decision is final. Mr. Bray wanted it on the record that if at all possible the District does business with local businesses. Ms. Hawkins assured Mr. Bray that this has always been the practice of the District.

The next item on the agenda was the operating budget. Mr. Bray advised the Board that Chief Bonakoske has emailed the Commissioners a revised budget for their review. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Bray made a motion to accept the budget as presented (copy attached for the record). It was seconded by Mr. Davison and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Emery updated the Board regarding the status of the Gasparilla Marina law suit. A lengthy discussion ensued.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Chief Bonakoske addressed Mr. Markus' contract. He advised the Board that Mr. Markus would like to go on a month to month basis with no increase in his hourly rate until a new chief is hired. The Board agreed that this would be an acceptable arrangement.

The Chief advised the Board of the First Amendment Foundation's class regarding Sunshine Laws will be held October 2 in St. Petersburg. Anyone interested in attending please contact him.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 A.M.

\_\_\_\_\_ DATED: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Denise Hawkins, Chairman**

\_\_\_\_\_ DATED: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Attest**

