

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 13, 2011
FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 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. Davison, Mr. Bray, Mr. Kern (arrived late), Mr. Bacon, Chief Gorski and Mr. Wellbaum.

Ms Hawkins asked if anyone wishes to address the Board would you please fill out a sign up sheet.

OPEN TO PUBLIC:

Ms Hawkins explained the rules for addressing the Board. She then, asked if anyone wished to speak. The following members of the public addressed the Board: Bruce Pomeroy, Dan Eisenberg (copy of his presentation is attached for the record), Rick Camp, Donald Sullivan, Maureen Stegle, Patsy Canpbell, Judy Humphreys, Jeff Hanson and Roman Grabowski.

MINUTES FROM LAST MONTHS MEETING:

Ms. Hawkins asked if there were any questions, corrections or additions to the minutes from the Board Meeting of March 23, 2011. Mr. Davison made a motion to accept the minutes from the Board Meeting of March 23, 2011 as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Bacon and passed unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

No correspondence had been received.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Bacon asked the Chief if there was any expenditure made last month that would affect the budget. The Chief stated that there were no new purchases that would affect the budget.

Mr. Davison addressed Mr. Kern's radio interview. He stated that Mr. Kern spoke for himself not on behalf of the Board.

Ms. Hawkins also addressed Mr. Kern's radio interview, she also stated that Mr. Kern spoke for himself and not for the Board.

Mr. Kern wanted to set the record straight. He stated that WENG contacted him to speak regarding the DROP program.

Ms. Hawkins advised the Board that she worked on the Lemon Bay High School "Prom Promise" along with the firefighters from Englewood. She wanted to commend them on a fantastic job.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

The Chief advised the Board that he contacted Foster and Foster's Doug Lozen regarding questions on the firefighters' pension. Mr. Lozen will have a report for the Board in approximately 30 days and at that time he will present the report and address any questions from the Commissioners. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Gorski stated that annually Sarasota County gets award money for EMS Grants from the State. The Chief advised the Board that we have applied for a portion of that money and we should be receiving approximately \$3,000.00 for EMS supplies and equipment.

Chief Gorski congratulated Englewood's Softball Team, who won the championship for the second year in a row.

The Chief updated the Board regarding the changes being addressed in the legislative session. A lengthy discussion ensued. Copies of issues addressed are attached for the record.

Chief Gorski addressed the agenda format and the use of GovMax, which aids in the budgeting process. A lengthy discussion ensued.

The Chief addressed the \$55,000.00 received from the sale of our two trucks and where this money should be placed. Originally the Board discussed applying it to the principal balance of the loan. The Chief researched various options as to where to place this money, i.e. CD's, savings accounts or making a lump sum principal and interest payment on the loan. Chief Gorski's suggestion was to apply the \$55,000.00 to the principal amount of the loan, which would reduce the life of the loan.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chief Gorski advised the Board that he received the figures needed to calculate the maximum assessment rates. He stated that the rates will not be set at this meeting. He explained the exact procedure that has to be followed in order to set the assessment rates and presented a power point presentation explaining how the maximum allowable increase was calculated. He advised the Board that this years' maximum increase is 3.19%. A lengthy discussion ensued. The Chief distributed a calendar with a time line that needs to be followed for this process. He went on to advise the Public Hearing is tentatively scheduled for September 12, 5:01 P.M. at the Englewood Sports Complex. At that Public Hearing the assessment rates will be set. Mr. Bacon made a motion that based on the figures presented, when the budget ends at end of the fiscal year that we do not raise, \$1 in taxes on the public and that the budget is reduced. When I say reduced, I'm talking about when its all said and done the tax payer does not receive a tax bill that is \$1.00 higher than it is currently. Mr. Wellbaum stated that the motion can not be discussed until it receives a second. Mr. Bacon withdrew his motion and commented that the public needs to know how the Board stands on spending and asked each commissioner to speak on this issue. Mr. Kern stated that he would like to see a zero budget increase but several issues have to be addressed before that can happen. Mr. Davison stated that the Chief has spent hours going over the data to make a fair and equitable assessment on all categories in the community. He would like to see us hold the line and would not want to see any increases. We are trying to make it fair to all the people in this community, Mr. Davison stated. Ms Hawkins stated that it has always been this Board's intention to keep the assessment rates down and keep them low. It has also been their intention to represent every single entity in this community. It has to be fair. Mr. Bacon feels our government, both in Florida and the United State is out of kilter and the tax payer is paying the price. We have to give something back to the tax payer and I am not going to come off that platform until I see that happen. Mr. Bray stated he wants to keep the taxes as low as we can and wants the best service for least amount of money but he wants it even and have everyone pays their fair share. He wants to keep the budget down.

Mr. Bacon stated that he has several questions that have not been addressed. He asked the Chief to explain how we arrive at a call or service and what category or who gets charged for an automobile accident. The Chief explained that no one gets charged because of our assessment methodology. We do not charge user fees. Mr. Bacon asked about false calls, again, the Chief stated we do not have user fees. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Gorski addressed the dual response provided by the Englewood Area Fire Control District. He explained that the District provides fire suppression, medical first responder, and we do not provide paramedic advance life support transport. A lengthy discussion ensued where the Chief explained in detail the reasons why we respond to calls. He also addressed the volunteer program and user fees.

Mr. Kern made a motion to give the Chief direction to use the methodology that recognizes four categories; Residential, Commercial, Religious and Vacant Lots. It was seconded by Mr. Davison. Several questions were addressed prior to the motion being passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Gorski postponed the discussion of the Strategic Plan to the April 27th Board Meeting.

The Chief advised the Board that on March 25th he was notified by the IFF, in accordance with the agreement we have with them to start negotiations. He suggested that the Board meet in executive session to discuss a strategy for this negotiation. He asked them to decide if they wished to have the executive session at the beginning or end of the meeting. It was the Board's decision that it be held at the beginning of the meeting. The executive session is not open to the public.

Chief Gorski addressed several items that will affect the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year budget.

OPEN TO PUBLIC:

Mr. Bray had to leave at this time.

The following persons addressed the Board: Father Adrian Wilde, Dan Eisenberg, Mary Sprague, Richard Doonan, Patsy Canpbell, Maureen Stegle, Donald Sullivan, Gratia Schroder, Paul Scionti, Mick Strague, Harold Grafe and Jeff Hansen.

Mr. Kern addressed the firefighters' pension fund. A discussion ensued.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 A.M.

_____ DATED: _____
Denise Hawkins, Chairman

_____ DATED: _____
Attest

Copies of the tapes, for this meeting, in their entirety, are available for review with advance notice at the Administration Building, 516 Paul Morris Drive, Englewood.

Bdmt April 13, 2011