

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2011**  
**FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF**  
**THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT**

Wednesday, January 12, 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 9:05 A.M. by the Chairman, Ms. Hawkins. Those present were: Ms. Hawkins, Mr. Davison, Mr. Bray, Mr. Kern, Mr. Bacon, Chief Gorski and Ms. Emery.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC:**

No one from the public wished to address the Board at this time.

**APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OFFICERS:**

Ms. Hawkins turned the meeting over to Ms. Emery, the District's attorney, who called for nominations for chairman of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Davison nominated Ms. Hawkins for Chairman. It was seconded by Mr. Bray and passed unanimously. Ms. Emery turned the meeting over to Ms. Hawkins, who called for nominations for Vice Chairman. Mr. Bacon nominated Mr. Kern for Vice Chairman. Mr. Bacon was advised that the Chairman and Vice Chairman positions must be members of the Board for a straight two years prior to serving in either of these positions. Mr. Bacon withdrew his nomination for Mr. Kern and nominated Mr. Davison to serve as Vice Chairman. It was seconded by Mr. Bray and passed unanimously. Ms. Hawkins called for nominations for Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Kern nominated Mr. Bray. It was seconded by Mr. Bacon and passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARDS and JOURNEYMEN CERTIFICATES:**

Chief Gorski presented five years of service pins to the following firefighters: FF Michael Strauss (not in attendance), FF Terry Miller, FF Jay Henry, FF Donavon Foss and FF Derek Kemerer (not in attendance).

Chief Gorski explained the journeymen program and presented journeymen certificates to the following firefighters: FF Donavon Foss, FF Brent Florea, FF Jamie McDaniel, FF Terry Miller and FF Christopher Sirabella.

**MINUTES FROM LAST MONTHS MEETING:**

Ms. Hawkins asked if there were any questions, corrections or additions to the minutes from the Board Meeting of December 16, 2010. Mr. Kern made a motion to accept the minutes from the Board Meeting of December 16, 2010 as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Bray and passed unanimously.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Davison advised the Board that he attended the bike presentation at Station 71. These bikes were purchased by the firemen for the children in need of Englewood. He publicly thanked Lt. Donald Rossow and the rest of the department for their efforts in purchasing and presenting 37 bikes to the children.

Ms. Hawkins wanted to thank the firefighters regarding the way they worked and their efficiency in an emergency situation at an accident on Dearborn Street and 776.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT:**

The Chief gave the Commissioners copies of the customer satisfaction surveys and thank you letters he received from the public.

Chief Gorski discussed and presented a signed copy of the mutual aid agreement with Boca Grande. He would like the Chairman to sign this agreement so it can be put in place. The Chief is waiting for Sarasota County to sign and return their agreement. He stated that he has contacted Little Gasparilla Island regarding an agreement. A lengthy discussion ensued

Chief Gorski commented on the bike presentation and stated that it was unbelievable with a great turn out. He is proud of the men for their efforts.

The Chief addressed and updated the Board regarding the Myakka Pines development progress and advised them it has gone through the second public hearing and passed with a 5/0 vote. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Gorski advised the Board that Mark Souders, Fire Chief from the City of Bradenton passed away suddenly, he was 55 years old.

Twelve volunteer firefighters from the volunteer program start orientation tomorrow.

On January 24, 25 and 26 Bay Flight will be doing in service training with the crews. This will be held at the training facility. The Commissioners are invited to attend.

Chief Lane advised the Board that the new Academy Class started Monday with 15 students.

Chief Lane updated the Board regarding the damage and issues with the ladder truck. He will be looking into how cost efficient it would be to repair or replace this truck. A short discussion ensued.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Chief has been working with GSG regarding our methodology and has provided both current property data and projected fiscal data. With the presentation of this information he has found several parcels that were either assessed incorrectly or not assessed at all. He advised the Board that we could use either referendum or the five year average of the annual growth rate in Florida personal income to increase our rates. Chief Gorski presented two scenarios regarding assessment methodology and asked which one the Board wanted him to investigate further. A very lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Bacon asked the Chief if he had a chance to compile a list of the 501C 3 businesses within the District. The Chief stated that this is a very tedious process. The Board agreed that obtaining this list would be a nightmare. Mr. Bacon made a motion to direct the Chief to further his investigation for Scenario 2 which has the churches as a separate category. It was seconded by Mr. Kern. Mr. Kern withdrew his second. Mr. Bacon withdrew his motion. The Board directed the Chief to continue investigating both scenarios and present this information at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting. Mr. Bacon requested copies of the Power Point presentation.

The Board recessed from 10:55 A.M. to 11:01 A.M.

The Chief explained in detail, with a power point presentation, the need for and responsibilities of a Fire Prevention/Enforcement Program, a fire marshal/inspection's position. He gave options on how this could be done. First staying in house, the salary range would be between \$87,000.00 and \$94,000.00 inclusive of all benefits or go with an outside civilian position which would have a salary range from \$40,000.00 and \$64,000.00 inclusive of all benefits. Mr. Bray suggested that the Chief look into hiring someone that is retired and offer no benefits. A lengthy discussion ensued.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Chief provided factual information regarding fire department comparisons/per capita costs from the surrounding fire departments. A lengthy discussion ensued.

**OPEN TO PUBLIC:**

Mr. Jon Bednerik, CEO of the Englewood/Cape Haze Chamber of Commerce thanked the Board for their efforts in addressing the assessment rates.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

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

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

**Bdmt January 12, 2011**