

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2011
FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

Wednesday, March 23, 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.

Ms. Hawkins advised the Board of a change to the agenda. Under new business, item A, Truck 71 and Engine 78 is moved to below item 3.

If anyone wishes to address the Board please fill out a sign up sheet.

The Chief presented the following citations: Fire officer of the Quarter – Lt. Justin Blais; A Unit Citation Bar for working on the Breathing Apparatus – Lt. Donald Rossow and FF Donavon Foss; A Unit Citation for implementing the Training for Life Program – Lt. John Stubbs, Lt. Justin Blais, Lt. Roman Grabowski, Lt. Lee Wiskowski, FF Jonathan Faulkner, FF Chris Miller and FF Pat Zadai.

Chief Gorski introduced the new volunteers for the Englewood Area Fire Control District to the Board. They are as follows: Mark Douglas, Derek Fuste, Brant Gomez, Spencer Heldebrand, Joshua Jacobs, William Koche, Steven McCord, James Mills, Mathew Pettit, David Salandino, Daniel Sremba and Geoff Struble. The Chief congratulated James Mills for his participation in a fund raiser for leukemia in Seattle. In this competition the participants had to run up 73 flights of stairs in full gear. The record was 10 minutes and James Mills completed it in 17 minutes.

The Chief advised the Board that Truck 71 and Engine 78 are here for them to observe. A short discussion ensued. He advised the Board that the two trucks sold on Gov Deals brought in \$55,000.00. \$25,000.00 was projected. This money will be used to off set the principle balance of the loan for these vehicles. A short discussion ensued.

OPEN TO PUBLIC:

The following members of the public addressed the Board as it relates to the Firefighter's Pension Plan: Mr. Richard Doonah, Ms. Martha Halas, Mr. Louis Douat, Mr. Frank Blaser, Ms. Christine White, Mr. Eugene Balogh, Mr. Richard Stravino, Mr. Dan Eisenberg, Mr. Hank McFarland, Pastor John Cates deferred to Mr. James Foster, Ms. Ruth Bohman, Mr. Harold Bowers, Ms. Susan Bowers, Ms. Christie Perry, Mr. Russ Kramp, Pastor Teresa Foster, Pastor Phillip Williams and Lt. Roman Grabowski.

The Board recessed from 10:15 A.M. to 10:31 A.M.

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 9, 2011. Mr. Bray made a motion to accept the minutes from the Board Meeting of March 9, 2011 as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Bacon and passed unanimously.

SECRETARY/TREASURERS REPORT:

Ms. Hawkins asked if there were any questions or corrections regarding the Treasurers' Reports for February 2011. Mr. Bacon asked the Chief if we were under or over budget. The Chief stated that we are on schedule. The reason that it shows over budget is due to the fact that we purchased the two vehicles from Sarasota County. A short discussion ensued. Mr. Kern made a motion to accept the Treasurers' Report for February 2011 subject to audit. It was seconded by Mr. Davison and passed unanimously.

No correspondence had been received.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Davison commented on the Citizens Academy he attended this past weekend. He feels that it was unfortunate that all the Commissioners were not in attendance, as it was a very informative and educational event. A short discussion ensued.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

The Chief handed out copies of the customer satisfaction surveys he received, all with positive responses.

Chief Gorski discussed a fire that occurred on March 17th. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Chief Gorski advised the Board that he spoke to ISO (Insurance Services Office). The three objectives the Board instructed him to accomplish are 1 - Look at ad valorem assessments, 2 - Update GSG's methodology and 3 - contact ISO and possibly lower the fire insurance rates. A lengthy discussion ensued.

The Chief addressed the Citizens Academy and stated that it was a huge success. A lengthy discussion ensued.

The Chief addressed and handed out information regarding the nuclear reactor situation in Japan. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Chief Gorski advised the Board that he is in the process of receiving information to start and complete the GASB 45. This report is a requirement for the District's audit. A lengthy discussion ensued.

The Chief advised the Board that the Flashover Simulator is in and the training has begun.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Chief is waiting for the numbers to be posted that impact the non ad valorem assessments rates. These numbers will be released today. Mr. Bacon would like the Chief to lower the budget across the board by \$200,000.00 to see if that affects the assessment rates. A very lengthy discussion ensued. The figures for the assessment rates should be completed and presented at the April 13 Board Meeting.

Chief Gorski wanted a discussion of the Strategic Plan put on the April 13th agenda.

Chief Gorski met on Monday with Lt. Grabowski and Lt. Fanti regarding the Firefighters Pension Trust Fund. It was their decision to withdraw the proposed DROP for their pension plan. A lengthy discussion ensued.

The Chief gave each Commissioner a copy of Chapter 175 of the Florida Statutes for their review.

Mr. Kern addressed several items regarding the fire fighters pension trust fund. He asked Mr. Bray if the DROP issue would reappear in the future. Mr. Bray said it could depending upon what happens in the legislature and statues. An extremely long discussion ensued. Mr. Kern and Chief Gorski addressed and answered the questions posed by the members of the public in the first open to the public portion of the meeting. Mr. Kern would like to engage Foster & Foster to perform an evaluation of the plan if benefits were rolled back to 2008-2009 and 1999 level to determine the impact. He feels that this would be the only way to reduce the District's unfunded pension liability and keep the pension from going bankrupt. Ms Hawkins stated that if Mr. Kern had all this information she would have appreciated it being shared with the rest of the Board, this way everyone would have been well informed regarding this issue. She requested in the future all information obtained regarding a specific subject be shared with the entire Board. Mr. Kern made a motion that we prospectively retain an actuary to look at freezing pension benefits based on state law back to 1999, which would make available what's required under the 175 plan minimums or what the plan currently had which is ever better at that time or what the impact would mean to the District going forward. Several questions were asked regarding this motion which resulted in Mr. Kern rewording his motion as follows. Have the Board hire an actuary, who will be decided upon by the Board, to do a prospective study dating back to 1999 to look at establishing a new benefit level based on state statue in compliance with current state legislation. It was seconded by Mr. Bacon and passed unanimously.

The Board recessed 11:57 A.M. to 12:06 P.M.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Gorski addressed the need for changes and updating regarding the District's web site. A short discussion ensued. Mr. Bacon asked the Chief if he had anyone in mind to do these changes. The Chief advised Mr. Bacon that there are several persons with the expertise in this area. Mr. Bacon suggested we use Mr. Dan Eisenberg.

OPEN TO PUBLIC:

The following persons addressed the Board: Mr. Peter Watson, Mr. Gordon Deutscher, Ms. Teresa Foster and Mr. Dan Eisenberg

The Chief and Mr. Kern answered some of the questions posed by the members of the public.

Mr. Bacon wanted information for members of the public, regarding how the assessment is arrived at for vacant land. A short discussion ensued where the Chief explained the process to Mr. Bacon.

Ms. Hawkins complimented the Chief for the job he is doing.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 P.M.

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

_____ DATED: _____
Denise Hawkins, Chairman

_____ DATED: _____
Attest

