

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 22, 2011
FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

Wednesday, June 22, 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, Mr. Bacon, Chief Gorski and Mr. Wellbaum.

SERVICE AWARDS:

Chief Gorski presented three Unit Citations for the work done at Station 74 to the following firefighters: Lt. John Stubbs, FF Mark Miller and Volunteer FF Steven McCord. The Chief also presented the Officer of the Quarter award to Lt. Chris Davis for all his work with the fire boat.

At the next Board Meeting the Chief will present citizen recognition awards to the members of the public involved with saving a young man's life on Beach Road. The Chief will have the press and hopefully television stations covering this presentation. A short discussion ensued.

Ms. Hawkins notified the Board that Commissioner Bacon wanted to add two items under new business to the agenda, the training center and overtime.

OPEN TO PUBLIC:

Mr. Dan Eisenberg addressed the Board regarding the salary analysis from the regional area. He worked with Chief Gorski regarding this issue and he found that North Port appeared to be in line with the mean salaries for the State of Florida. Charlotte County and Englewood appear to be 20% above these salaries. He feels that this should be taken into account during negotiations; he also feels that a percent raise in salaries does not make sense.

MINUTES FROM LAST MONTHS MEETING:

Ms. Hawkins asked if there were any questions, corrections or additions to the minutes from the Board Meeting of May 25, 2011. Mr. Bray made a motion to accept the minutes from the Board Meeting of May 25, 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 Treasurer's Reports for May 2011. The Chief went over the expenditures with the Board. Mr. Kern made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for May 2011 subject to audit. It was seconded by Mr. Bray and passed unanimously.

Ms. Hawkins received a letter from the Bogdahn Group. This letter was given to the Chief to relay to the pension board.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Kern presented and read into the record his questions for Doug Lozen from Foster and Foster (copy attached for the record).

CHIEF'S REPORT:

The Chief gave the Board a copy of Executive Order 11218 regarding wildfires in the state of Florida from the Governor (copy attached for the record).

The Chief addressed fire works and the possibility of a ban for anything other than public displays. Englewood's public display is still being held at Englewood's Middle Beach.

The Chief advised the Board and the members of the public that the annual Boots and Badges Blood Drive, which is competition between fire and law enforcement to donate blood will kick off July 12. The Blood mobile will be at Station 71 from 7:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. on July 14th and 15th. Everyone is encouraged to participate and donate to the Boots portion of the drive.

The Chief addressed the final version of Senate Bill 1128 which encompasses 175, 185 and FRS pensions. It is being challenged at this time. He will email the Commission a copy of this bill. A short discussion ensued.

Mr. Doug Lozen is available to speak to the Commission on July 6th at 10:00 A.M. The Chief suggested that a workshop be held to address the Board's questions regarding the Firefighters Pension Trust Fund. The Board agreed.

The Chief advised the Board that we again did not receive the grant for the 800 Radios. He will try again to secure this grant. At the end of the lease for the radios the lease could be renewed or the radios could be purchased outright. A short discussion ensued.

The Chief updated the Board regarding the fuel from the Sarasota County and advised the Board that we are using this fuel at this time. Chief Gorski also met with Charlotte County regarding their fuel. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Lane updated the Board regarding the progress with Engine 72 and the Brush Truck. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Lane advised the Board the pre agility and agility test for the new academy class is being held this Saturday. The next class will start in July. He received the test results from the State for the last class and was advised that 100% passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Chief reminded the Board that if they have any additions to the Strategic Plan to contact him as soon as possible. A short discussion ensued.

Mr. Davison asked the Chief if he had heard from ISO. The Chief stated that it takes about 3 ½ months to receive their findings. A short discussion ensued.

At the request of Commissioner Bray the Chief researched the possibility of refinancing the lot at Station 74 to secure a lower interest rate. His findings were there would not be enough of a savings to the District to pursue this refinancing.

Chief Gorski addressed several items in the Fiscal Year 2011–2012 budget. A lengthy discussion ensued.

The Chief presented and explained in detail the Feasibility Study on providing Fire Protection Services and First Responder Medical Services to the residents of the Barrier Island Fire Protection MSBU by the Englewood Area Fire Control District (copy attached for the record). A lengthy discussion ensued. Several questions were posed by the Commissioners. One of the concerns of the Board is the cost of this service to the residents of Palm Island and the assessment rate for the residents of Englewood.

Chief Gorski will be meeting with the residents of Palm Island tomorrow to discuss this issue further. Ms. Hawkins stated for the record that if this issue comes to a vote she will abstain from voting due to a conflict of interest but she can comment and participate in the discussions regarding this issue. At the Board's direction the Chief will continue to work on this agreement and not let it become a dead issue.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Gorski advised the Board that the auditors would like to address the Board regarding the audit at the August 24th Board Meeting.

Mr. Bacon addressed the first item he added to the agenda, the training facility. He would like to see if the training facility can support it's self so the Board and the public can clearly see where we are. The Chief explained how the training facility expenses are handled and once the facility is well into the black it would start paying some of the mortgage cost and eventually pay the entire mortgage costs. A lengthy discussion ensued. Chief Gorski addressed the overtime for the training facilities instructors and how it is handled and will continue to work on this.

Chief Gorski addressed the overtime for the district. He stated there are three causes for the overtime, 1- we are down two people on two shifts, 2 - the current arrangement in the current contract allows for four people to be off. When the fourth person is off you have to hire back one because we would be below minimum manning and 3rd - an employee was terminated. What Chief Gorski and Chief Lane have done, is from now to the end of the year, drop the staffing of the ladder truck if four people are off on a shift. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Bacon questioned the amount of overtime and made a motion that on a monthly basis the Board receives a detailed breakdown of where the overtime was spent. Questions from other Commissioners were presented to Mr. Bacon to clarify his motion. The motion failed to receive a second.

The Chief advised the Board that he and Chief Lane met with the Pastor and part of the congregation from the Christ Lutheran Church regarding their assessment. He also stated that another Town Hall meeting took place. The Chief felt the both meetings went well.

OPEN TO PUBLIC:

Mr. Paul Scionti addressed the Board regarding providing fire protection to Palm Island. His concern was the District taking on unnecessary liabilities by providing this service.

Ms. Valerie Guenther, a resident of Palm Island thanked Chief Gorski for his common sense approach and pro active out of box thinking regarding the fire protection for Palm Island. She feels the residents of the island look forward to reasonable conversations moving forward.

Mr. Dan Eisenberg addressed the complexities of providing fire protection to Palm Island.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 P.M.

_____ DATED: _____
Denise Hawkins, Chairman

_____ DATED: _____
Attest