

**MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 22, 2026**  
**FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF**  
**THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT**

Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 9:00 A.M.  
Meeting held at  
Englewood Fire Administration Office  
579 S. Indiana Avenue, Englewood, FL 34223

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Chairman, William Kimberlin. Those present were, Mr. Maley, Mr. Godlewsky, Lori Wellbaum and Chief Easton. Mr. Knauf attended via phone. Mr. Loisell was absent.

**CONSENT AGENDA FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING**

Mr. Maley asked if there were any questions, corrections, or additions to the consent agenda from the 03/25/2026 Board Meeting. He also noted the monthly financials are currently unavailable and will be subject to audit at a future meeting. Mr. Maley made a motion to accept the consent agenda 03/25/2026, subject to audit. It was seconded by Mr. Godlewsky and the motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No Public Comment

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chief Easton updated the Board regarding the Station 72 easement lease. He confirmed the matter is closed and the check for \$702,080.77 was received and placed in reserves.

The Chief provided an update to the board on the HMGP generator replacement project, noting that while it has advanced to the next phase, the overall situation remains unchanged.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chief Easton provided an update regarding funding and planning progress for the reconstruction of Fire Station 72. Chief Easton attended the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, April 12th to present a request for 1-cent sales tax revenue allocations. The request was approved, officially placing the Fire Station 72 replacement on the approved project list for \$4 million dollars. To initiate the planning phase, Chief Easton consulted with the contracting firm that recently completed Palm Island Fire Station. He learned that current construction costs are estimated at \$850 per square foot however, to minimize expenditure and accelerate the timeline, discussions are underway to replicate the architectural and structural plans utilized for the Palm Island facility. This strategy is expected to yield substantial savings in engineering and planning phases while expedites project delivery.

Chief Easton addressed the Board regarding the Fire Marshal's resignation. Despite his recent promotion to Division Chief, he is relocating after accepting a Deputy Fire Marshal position in Manatee. Chief Easton will be posting the vacancy soon. In the meantime, Chief introduced Ken

Bennett, a retired Fire Marshal from Lehigh who has agreed to step in temporarily. This will ensure that plans reviews and permitting inspections remain on schedule until a permanent hire is made.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about the financing for the new fire stations. He stated the immediate next step is to hire a specialized project consultant possessing legal, bond, and design-build experience. Chief Easton emphasized that securing this consultant is critical, as their expertise will directly assist the department in navigating the complex process of applying for, processing, and executing the proposed bond. Chief Easton recommended securing a \$12,000,000 bond, this comprehensive financing strategy would not only fund the completion of Station 72 but also concurrently address the needs of Station 73. A discussion ensued. The Board unanimously agreed with obtaining the bonds. Chief Easton will be aggressively looking to acquire 1 acre land parcels for both projects. A small discussion ensued.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Easton confirmed the successful onboarding of five new firefighters, noting they have officially begun their recruit schooling.

Chief Easton announced to the Board the retirement of D. Henry on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, after 20 years of service with the department. While he has elected not to have a traditional walk-out ceremony, a final farewell radio call from dispatch is scheduled to take place on his last day.

Chief Easton provided a follow-up briefing on the new mechanic's progress, again expressing great satisfaction with the high level of expertise and efficiency he has brought to the department's fleet operations.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board regarding the logistics building, reporting that the facility is on track to be paid off soon.

### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

No public comment.

### **DVP COMMENT :**

No DVP comment.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Godlewsky mentioned he was sad to hear that Kyle Brooks had resigned, and he thanked Ken Bennett for stepping up to help the department during this transition.

Mr. Maley also thanked Ken Bennett for stepping in to support the department. He then extended Happy Administrative Professional's Day wishes to Krista Powell, expressing his appreciation for her hard work. Additionally, Mr. Maley noted that he had visited logistics to introduce himself to David, the maintenance technician, and Jason, the mechanic. He thoroughly enjoyed the visit and noted how impressed he was by their diligence in organizing the logistics building and making it functional.

Mr. Kimberlin thanked Ken Bennett for stepping into the role, noting his appreciation for the immense travel the position will require. Additionally, he expressed great excitement regarding the funding and upcoming construction for Stations 72 and 73.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.

APPROVED