MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF MAY 27, 2026
FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

Wednesday, May 27, 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, Mr. Loisell, Mr. Knauf and Chief Easton. Ms. Wellbaum was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Mr. Kimberlin asked if there were any questions, corrections, or additions to the consent agenda of the 04/22/2026 Board Meeting. Mr. Maley questioned the delay regarding the financial reports. Chief Easton noted that the software conversion has been exceptionally complex, but the Financial Director is working diligently on the transition. Financial reports are expected to be ready for the June meeting.
Mr. Maley then made a motion to accept the 04/22/2026 consent agenda, subject to audit. It was seconded by Mr. Godlewsky and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comment

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief Easton provided an update to the Board regarding the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grants for two new generators. Funding related to Hurricane Debby has been approved for the headquarters generator, and the department is currently awaiting FEMA contract. Meanwhile, the generator for Station 72 is awaiting final paperwork from FEMA before it can advance to the next stage. Mr. Kimberlin expressed his concern about the hurricane season already begun while Station 72 is without a working generator. Chief Easton assured him that a portable generator is available for deployment if the permanent unit is not installed on time.

Chief Easton updated the Board on Charlotte County's 1-cent sales tax revenue allocations. With the ballot measure heading to voters in November, the Chief coordinated with the assistant county administrator to obtain educational materials which will soon be shared with residents and launched across the department website and social media platforms.

Chief Easton updated the Board of the Fire Marshal recruitment, noting that while the position remains actively advertised, hiring is moving slowly due to a highly competitive market and matching pay scales from other agencies. He commended Ken for doing a terrific job filling the role in the interim. When asked by Mr. Kimberlin how things were progressing, Ken reported it is steady, highlighting that he has been successfully training Inspectors Wiskowski and Strong, which will provide tremendous support moving forward.
Chief Easton provided an update to the Board regarding the financing for the fire station project. He initially received a consultant proposal for $40,000; however, following discussions with the

representative, the contract amount was reduced to $10,000, with the remaining $30,000 balance applied directly to the project. Chief Easton was also contacted by Sarasota, they are requesting architect and design to be considered for their upcoming budget plus, a timeline. His search for suitable vacant property is ongoing, though no viable options have been secured at this time. Additionally, the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for architectural services is complete and ready for solicitation. Upon receipt of the bids, the Chief and the Board will review the submissions to select the architect

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Easton informed the Board that his employment contract is scheduled for renewal in August. He requested that the Board initiate preliminary discussions regarding the upcoming contract terms, duration and associated details to ensure a timely review process. Mr. Kimberlin then asked the Board if they agreed for him to manage the specific contract discussions directly with the Chief. The Board agreed, and Mr. Kimberlin will present the newly negotiated terms at a later date for official Board approval

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Easton reported on a recent, highly debated meeting regarding the department's dispatching systems and ongoing Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) compliance requirements. He explained that the implementation of the new Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system already necessitated full CJIS compliance for all personnel, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Sheriff's Office have now introduced stricter security mandates. Moving forward, Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) will require dual-factor authentication, and crews will no longer be permitted to remain permanently logged into the system. He went on to say that because the current infrastructure relies on a bidirectional communication link, security protocols dictate that the units must automatically timeout after a period of inactivity to prevent unauthorized access. Chief Easton highlighted significant operational concerns regarding this change and a long discussion ensued.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

No public comment.

DVP COMMENT :

No DVP comment.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Godlewsky took a moment to honor the memory of a Boston firefighter who tragically lost his life in the line of duty this week. A 24-year veteran, third-generation hero, who made the ultimate sacrifice after a fall while battling a structure fire.

Mr. Maley expressed his gratitude to the EFD team for their tremendous efforts and hard work in making the new headquarters office ribbon-cutting a tremendous success. It was a terrific turnout, and the positive energy made it a great experience for our community members.

Mr. Loisell also thanked EFD staff for their hard work and dedication in preparing the new headquarters office ribbon cutting ceremony.

Mr. Knauf thanked Chief Easton for his great work and for continuing to do exactly what you're doing.

Mr. Kimberlin extended his apologies for missing the recent ribbon-cutting ceremony. However, he noted that he had seen the photos and the excellent feedback circulating on social media. Mr. Kimberlin also spoke about the success of this year's awards ceremony, remarking that the event continues to improve year after year. He expressed his sincere gratitude to Krista and Shane for their hard work and dedication in making it such a spectacular evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 09:46am.