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

Wednesday, July 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 Commissioner, Eldon Loisell. Those present were Mr. Knauf, Mr. Godlewsky, Chief Easton and Ms. Wellbaum. Mr. Kimberlin was absent. Mr. Maley attended via telephone.

CONSENT AGENDA FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Mr. Loisell asked if there were any questions, corrections, or additions to the consent agenda of the 05/27/2026 Board Meeting. Mr. Godlewsky made a motion to accept the consent agenda from 05/27/2026 subject to audit. It was seconded by Mr. Knauf and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comment

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief Easton did not have any new updates for the Board regarding the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant, as the department is currently waiting for final contracts from FEMA. Chief Easton has prepared the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) however, vendor solicitation remains on hold until the official FEMA paperwork is received.

Chief Easton reported no changes or updates regarding the Charlotte County one-cent sales tax. Reconfirming that it will appear on the November ballot for residents to vote on extending the tax for another 20 years. He also noted that he is still waiting to receive educational materials from Charlotte County, which will be distributed to residents and shared across the Districts social media platforms once received.

Chief Easton updated the Board of the Fire Marshal recruitment process, noting that only one application has been received to date. He has also adjusted the salary to $100k to hopefully generate additional candidate interest. Chief Easton expressed his gratitude to the interim Fire Marshal, Ken Bennett, for his continued service and dedication while the recruitment efforts remained ongoing.

Chief Easton addressed the Board regarding the fire station financing. He reported no significant updates other than recommending that the project be postponed until the start of the new fiscal year. Chief Easton explained that essential preliminary expenses, specifically for the consultant, architectural and design fees, were not allocated for the current budget therefore, pausing the initiative until the new budget year beginning October 1, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Easton reported to the Board that Englewood Area Fire Control District has formally entered an interlocal agreement with the Boca Grande Fire Department. Under this agreement, EAFCD mechanic Jason Hogan will provide maintenance and repair services for the Boca Grande fleet. He went on to explain the agreement establishes standard hourly rates for routine repairs and maintenance, as well as a designated rate for night and weekend service calls. They will be billed for cost of parts plus 10% administration markup and invoiced on a monthly basis for all the completed services, labor and parts. Chief Easton noted that leadership at Boca Grande Fire Department expressed early satisfaction with the arrangement already, specifically for the savings for their department but also the prompt responsiveness and efficiency.

Chief Easton presented to the Board with EFD Policy 233 Fund Balance and Reserve Management alongside Resolution IF2026-1442 which adopt Policy 233 and Establishing Committed Fund Balance Reserve Accounts. Both outline their designated purposes in compliance with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board GASB Statement No. 54.
Mr. Godlewsky made a motion to approve the Resolution IF2026-1442. It was seconded by Mr. Knauf and the motion was approved.

Chief Easton presented Resolution IF2026-1443 Amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget. He explained that the department received unanticipated revenue totaling $1,353,509.30, collected from sources such as grants and the sale of department property. Chief Easton noted that he formally added these revenues to the FY2025-2026 budget and increased the Capitol Outlay by $658,429. A small discussion ensued. Mr. Godlewsky made a motion to approve Resolution IF20236-1443. It was seconded by Mr. Knauf and the motion passed.

Chief Easton presented a new EFD Policy 108 to the Board. The purpose of the policy is to define legal jurisdiction, district boundaries and authority having jurisdiction of the Englewood Fire Department. He noted the policy reflects the language set forth in the department's Enabling Act and incorporates an official district map delineating the service boundaries. Mr. Knauf made a motion to approve EFD Policy 108. Mr. Godlewsky seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Chief Easton updated the Board about the department grant activity, confirming that the Assistant to Firefighter Grant (AFG) funds were received and air pack purchases are complete, with required quarterly reporting managed by an outside agency. He has also already applied for the next AFG cycle to secure two cardiac monitors and four LUCAS devices plus, he has applied for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant to fund nine new firefighter positions.

Chief Easton informed the Board of the department public hearing date on Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 5:01pm. The meeting is to approve the new rates and budget.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Easton updated the Board on a potential development regarding staff health insurance.
He was recently introduced to Public Risk Management of Florida (PRM), a non-profit

self-insurance pool and purchasing cooperative serving local government entities in Florida. While satisfied with the current insurance broker, Chief Easton agreed to review PRM's proposal to see if substantial cost savings were possible. The preliminary numbers show significant savings for both the district and our employees, with individual staff members saving up to $2,000 annually. Chief Easton has notified our current broker of the proposal and though they are uncertain if they can match PRM's rates, Chief Easton will give them opportunity to bid before any final decisions are made.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:
No public comment.

DVP COMMENT :
No DVP comment.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:
Mr. Kauf thanked Chief Easton for continuing to do a great job.

Mr. Loisell also thanked Chief Easton for all his hard work.

The meeting was adjourned at 09:45am.