

**MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 16, 2022**  
**FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF**  
**THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT**

Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 9:00 A.M.  
Meeting held at  
Englewood Fire Administration Office  
516 Paul Morris Drive, Englewood, FL 34223

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Chairman, Mr. Davison. Those present were: Mr. Benedetti, Mr. Loisell, Mr. Knauf, Lori Emery and Chief Easton. Mr. Kimberlin was absent.

**CONSENT AGENDA FROM LAST MONTHS MEETING**

Mr. Davison asked if there were any questions, corrections or additions to the consent agenda from the February 23, 2022 Board Meeting. Mr. Benedetti made a motion to accept the consent agendas and financials subject to audit. It was seconded by Mr. Loisell and the motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No Public Comment

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chief Easton briefly updated the Board about the ground water sampling at the training center. He began with new ground water legislation and standards which is expected to be signed by the Governor. Chief Easton explained that though the legislation will suspend any future water sampling until 2025 (pending sufficient standards by the (DEP) Department of Environmental Protection, the remediation plan that was agreed upon with (EAFCD) Englewood Area Fire Control District and the (DEP) has already begun. He continued by saying the five (5) wells have been installed and the sampling has been collected; he and Mr. Noble feel confident those results will have little or no elevations. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton updated the Board about the ALS program. He went on to explain that he's still experiencing tremendous delays with obtaining equipment and supplies but more importantly, since Dr. O'Leary's recent deployment to Poland, communication has been challenging plus, signatures required to obtain for medications and narcotics have to be mailed to Dr. O'Leary which takes additional time.

Chief Easton updated the Board regarding the Charlotte County Dispatch project. He explained that they were ready to go live on Monday, March 14 2022 however, after meeting with staff to go over the process and procedures, he and the staff still found safety concerns. Chief Easton believes the processes to be too cumbersome; he initially reached out to Sarasota County to get radios reprogrammed but learned there's more to be discussed between Charlotte County and Sarasota County dispatch before implantation. Chief Easton is scheduled to meet with both department in the upcoming weeks.

Chief Easton updated the Board regarding the Maintenance Technician position. He explained the post for the position remains open until Friday, March 18, 2022 and then applicants will be contacted for interviewing. He went onto say that he's very pleased with some of the applicants and hopes to make a selection by the end of March.

Chief Easton updated the Board regarding the ISO (Insurance Services Organization) inspection last month. He's spoken with the assessor and it looks like the department will remain an ISO Category 3 however, he is still waiting for official documentation. Chief Easton went onto say that this rating is still positive for our department. In addition, he also shared the positive response from crews concerning the weekly hydrant inspections and some volunteered to organize the project. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about the recent Brush Truck donated from the Division of Forestry. The skid unit has been ordered and it's expected to deliver within three (3) months. During this time,

it's with the mechanic for a complete evaluation and any repairs. Chief Easton also added Firefighter Dustin Henry will be fabricating and installing the roll cage.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about the Fire Impact Fee Study and he has contracted Raffelis to perform the study. He and Jolanda met with them yesterday via Zoom and he's already received the first data request for the study. Chief Easton also spoke to Rafetelis regarding the new law on Impact Fee studies and they did confirm his interpretation is correct plus, Rafetelis agreed that our department is well over due for the study and should be completed before implementing any additional increases. He also explained that the fee schedule may also need changed to be more specific based on use of property. A short discussion ensued.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about the upcoming Florida Special Fire District Performance Review deadline in October. Chief Easton spoke about this last April when the Senate Bill passed which specifically targets Special Districts. He has contacted (FASD) Florida Association of Special Districts and they have prepared a package of information to assist with the audit; designed for response times goal, times for water on the fire, performance indicators, etc., along with auditor information. He also noted that as part of the performance review, some public participation is required; a citizen appointed as a committee. A small discussion ensued.

Chief Easton reminded the Board about the upcoming FASD Conference, June 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> and that they confirm their attendance so reservations can be made. A small discussion ensued.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board regarding a Letter of Intent to Retire received by Firefighter Jeff Strong; the letter indicated his last shift is July 17, 2022. Chief Easton will start the process of recruiting for his replacement but noted that he anticipates additional retirements therefore, will be aggressive to hire for a smooth transition.

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

No Public comment at this time.

### **DVP COMMENT:**

No DVP comment at this time.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Knauf updated the Board regarding the EFBF (Englewood Firefighters Benevolent Fund) new licensing status; still waiting on the IRS approval.

Mr. Benedetti indicated that he will not be able to attend the upcoming Award Ceremony on April 22<sup>nd</sup>; he'll be out of town.

Mr. Benedetti also told a story of his friends, who have been residents of Rotonda for the last 13 years. They were recently involved in a terrible accident and needed transported to a local trauma center. They spoke so highly of EFD First Responders, paramedics and law enforcement

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40am.