

**MINUTES FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 25, 2026**  
**FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF**  
**THE ENGLEWOOD AREA FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT**

Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 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, William Kimberlin. Those present were, Mr. Loisell, Mr. Maley, Mr. Knauf, Lori Wellbaum and Chief Easton.

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

Mr. Kimberlin asked if there were any questions, corrections, or additions to the consent agenda from the 02/25/2026 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 02/25/2026, subject to audit. It was seconded by Mr. Loisell 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 closing was today and the matter would be considered fully executed.

The Chief updated the Board on the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for generator replacement. He noted that while the project has been cleared to move into the next phase, the timeline is subject to potential delays due to the ongoing federal government shutdown.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Maley a motion to appoint Jeffrey Godlewsky as Fire Board Commissioner, Seat 3; it was seconded by Mr. Loisell and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Wellbaum performed the Swearing-In of Mr. Godlewsky; asking him to raise his right hand and repeat the Oath of Office. Once the Swearing-In was complete, Mr. Godlewsky executed the Oath of Office by signing along with a Notary present.

The Chief addressed the Board regarding the disposition of surplus assets. He reported the successful sale of the 2006 E-One Pumper to an Alabama fire department for \$70,000. Additionally, he recommended the disposal of 95 expired SCBA harnesses and 73 cylinders that have reached the end of their service life. Mr. Loisell made a motion to approve the disposal. It was seconded by Mr. Maley and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton spoke to the Board about his recent attendance at the CPSE (Center for Public Safety Excellence) conference. He informed the Board of his intent to register the department for Applicant Status, marking the formal commencement of the department accreditation process.

Chief Easton addressed the Board regarding the lack of mechanism to recoup costs for EMS calls and supplies. He explained that since the department is a non-transport agency, it is ineligible for direct insurance reimbursement. To address this, Chief is developing a proposal for EMS funding via county millage rates. Chief informed the Board that he has already consulted Sandi Neubarth of Accenture to calculate potential revenue based on the 2025 assessment rolls and estimated the taxable value. Following a brief discussion, the Board expressed interest in the financial projection, and the Chief will provide updates as the proposal develops.

Chief Easton presented Resolution 2026-1438 for Board approval that would delegate authority to the Fire Chief to execute all necessary closing documents for Station 72 easements and lease assignments on behalf of the District. Mr. Maley made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-1438 the resolution. It was seconded by Mr. Loisell and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton presented Resolution 2026-1439 for Board approval to adopt Englewood Fire Department Policy #209 – Purchasing and Procurement, providing for its immediate implementation and effective date. Mr. Losiell made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-1439. It was seconded by Mr. Maley and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton presented Resolution 2026-1440 for Board approval formally recognizing Charlotte and Sarasota Counties as the legally responsible Emergency Medical Service (EMS) transport agencies within the Englewood Fire Control District service area. This resolution serves to officially acknowledge the jurisdictional roles of each county's transport services. Mr. Maley made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-1440. It was seconded by Mr. Losiell and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Easton presented Resolution 2026-1441 for Board approval to adopt the 2025 Community Risk Assessment/Standard of Cover (CRA/SOC) and the 2025 Strategic Plan. The resolution includes provisions for departmental implementation and establishes an immediate effective date. Mr. Loisell made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-1441. It was seconded by Mr. Maley and the motion passed unanimously.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Referring to his earlier comments regarding CPSE applicant status, Chief Easton clarified that the initial phase of the accreditation process will prioritize a comprehensive review of departmental policies and procedures. He noted that as these policies are refined to meet accreditation standards, they will be brought before the Board for further discussion and formal approval.

Chief Easton confirmed that the new SCBA/Air Packs funded through the AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) have been received. The equipment is currently undergoing a final inventory and will be assigned to personnel and placed into service shortly.

Chief Easton updated the Board on the status of the LMTV (Light Medium Tactical Vehicles) donated by the Florida Forest Service, confirming they have officially been placed into service. He highlighted that these additions ensure all department brush trucks are fully operational, specifically enhancing the District's high-water rescue capabilities.

The Chief briefed the Board on the new mechanic's progress, emphasizing the value already added to the department. Specifically, the mechanic intercepted a critical equipment failure that would have required costly repairs; his ability to resolve the issue in-house saved the department a substantial amount of money.

The Chief updated the Board regarding two pending retirements within the department. He confirmed that amongst the new hires, personnel have been identified and are slated to begin their shift assignments in two weeks, allowing for a smooth transition.

Chief Easton informed the Board of his decision to reclassify the Fire Marshal position to Division Chief. He explained that this title more accurately reflects the role's expanded responsibilities, which include leading the Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Division and providing direct oversight of two Fire Inspectors.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

No public comment.

**DVP COMMENT :**

No DVP comment.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Loisell addressed the Board to announce his decision to step down as Vice Chairman effective immediately. Following his announcement, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. Mr. Godlewsky made a motion to nominate Mr. Maley as Vice Chairman. It was seconded by Mr. Kimberlin and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Godlewsky asked about transport funding. Chief Easton responded that his current primary focus remains on the anticipated property tax revenue outcomes, noting that the impact could be a determining factor.

Mr. Maley welcomed the new receptionist, Erin Porter, to the department and formally congratulated Mr. Godlewsky on joining the Board of Commissioners. Additionally, he recognized the Fire Marshal's promotion to the rank of Division Chief.

Mr. Kimberlin joined in these remark, offering his own words of welcome and congratulations to the individuals recognized.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25am.