

EAST NICEVILLE FIRE DISTRICT

Board of Fire Commissioners

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2026

5:05 PM

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the East Niceville Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at **5:05 p.m.** on **Tuesday, July 28, 2026**, by Fire Chief Jonathan Kramer.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

3. Invocation

An invocation was offered asking for God's continued protection over the Board of Fire Commissioners, the firefighters, their families, and the citizens of the East Niceville Fire District, with special prayers for everyone's safety during the current extreme heat conditions.

4. Roll Call

Present:

- **Chairman Kenny Revell**
- **Treasurer Leo Tisa**
- **Commissioner Larry Sjostrom**
- **Commissioner Ken Del Principe**
- **Commissioner John Hohmeier**
- **Fire Chief Jonathan Kramer**

The Chairman announced that **all Commissioners were present**, establishing a quorum.

There were **no members of the public present**, and the meeting proceeded directly to approval of the June 2026 meeting minutes.

5. Approval of June 2026 Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the June 2026 Regular Board Meeting minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Larry Sjostrom moved to approve the June 2026 meeting minutes as presented.

Second: Treasurer Leo Tisa

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

6. Treasurer's Report

Fire Chief Kramer presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending **July 1, 2026**.

Account Balances

Account	Balance
Money Market	\$794,926.00
Payroll Account	\$41,207.00
General Bill Pay	\$65,312.00
Certificate of Deposit	\$40,369.56

Total District Funds

\$941,815.56

Chief Kramer reviewed the monthly expenditures as follows:

Category	Amount
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Category	Amount
Payroll	\$47,332.49
Checks Issued	\$19,264.00
Vendor Withdrawals	\$45,559.00

Total Monthly Expenditures: \$112,157.13

Chief Kramer reported the District remains in a strong financial position and continues to closely monitor expenditures while maintaining conservative spending practices.

Commissioners complimented the newly redesigned Treasurer's Report, noting that the color coding and revised layout made the report significantly easier to read and understand.

Motion: Treasurer Leo Tisa moved to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Second: Commissioner Ken Del Principe

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

7. Old Business

Building Insurance Renewal

Chief Kramer reported that the District successfully completed its annual **building and property insurance renewal**.

The Board had previously authorized the Fire Chief to obtain the most cost-effective insurance coverage available. As part of the renewal process:

- The District changed insurance carriers, resulting in lower overall insurance costs.
- The District changed its cancer coverage policy.
- The State-required **Specialty Accident Policy** remains with the previous carrier at an annual cost of approximately **\$500.00**, as additional options were not yet available.
- Chief Kramer advised that this remaining policy will likely be moved during next year's renewal cycle after additional options become available.

The Board was informed that the transition was completed successfully while maintaining all required insurance coverage.

No Board action was required.

8. New Business

A. Florida Constitutional Amendment 3

Chief Kramer presented a legislative update regarding proposed **Florida Constitutional Amendment 3** and its potential impacts on independent fire districts throughout Florida.

Chief Kramer summarized information obtained while attending the Florida Fire Chiefs' Conference, where attorneys, legislative specialists, and fire service representatives discussed the amendment in detail.

Discussion included:

- State-approved informational materials that may legally be shared with the public.
- Restrictions prohibiting governmental agencies from advocating for or against the amendment.
- Potential reductions in ad valorem tax revenues.
- Possible increases in commercial property taxes.
- Potential increases in rental housing costs.
- Future impacts to homeowners' insurance premiums.
- Possible reductions in staffing and fire protection services.
- Potential effects on ISO Public Protection Classification ratings.
- Future legislative rulemaking if the amendment is approved.

Chief Kramer advised that, regardless of the outcome of the November election, additional tax reform legislation is expected during future legislative sessions and recommended the District continue planning conservatively.

No formal Board action was taken.

B. Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget and Tentative Millage Rate

Chief Kramer presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2026–2027 operating budget.

Current Millage Rate:

3.4000 Mills

Maximum Authorized Millage:

3.7500 Mills

Several budget scenarios were reviewed and discussed.

Chief Kramer explained that increasing the millage would provide the District with additional financial stability should Amendment 3 reduce future revenues and would help maintain current staffing, emergency response capabilities, and operational readiness.

Commissioners discussed:

- Maintaining three-person staffing.
- Preserving emergency response capabilities.
- Future costs associated with fire assessment studies.
- Maintaining operational reserves.
- The possibility of reducing the millage rate in future years should Amendment 3 fail.

Following discussion:

Motion: Commissioner Larry Sjostrom moved to approve a **tentative millage rate of 3.7157 mills** for Fiscal Year 2026–2027.

Second: Treasurer Leo Tisa

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

The Fire Chief was directed to submit the tentative millage rate to the Okaloosa County TRIM system in accordance with Florida law.

C. 2026 TRIM Hearing Schedule

Chief Kramer presented the required schedule for the District's annual Truth in Millage (TRIM) public hearings.

The Board established the following hearing dates:

First TRIM Public Hearing

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

5:01 p.m.

Second TRIM Public Hearing

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

5:01 p.m.

The hearing schedule complies with all Florida statutory TRIM requirements.

The Board concurred with the proposed schedule.

9. Fire Chief's Report

Chief Kramer provided the following departmental updates:

Apparatus

- The new fire engine continues to perform exceptionally well.
- The former Engine 13 will be transported for maintenance and repairs

Station Security Improvements

Installation of the District's new security system continues.

Updates include:

- Security cameras have been installed and are operational.
- Door access hardware has been installed.
- Electronic keypad programming is underway.
- Interior monitor installation is nearing completion.

Upon completion, each Commissioner will receive an individual access code for after-hours entry into the station.

Advanced Life Support (ALS)

Chief Kramer reported that implementation of ALS service continues to progress.

Updates include:

- Medications have been delivered.
- Medical equipment has been ordered.
- Vehicle graphics have been ordered.
- County approval documents are nearing completion.

The anticipated ALS start date is **September 1, 2026**, with **October 1, 2026** serving as the latest anticipated implementation date should any unforeseen delays occur.

Chief Kramer also reported that no offers have yet been received for the District's former fire engine, but marketing efforts will continue.

10. Next Meeting

The next Regular Meeting of the East Niceville Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners will be held on:

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

5:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Larry Sjostrom moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Treasurer Leo Tisa

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately **6:03 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Kramer

Fire Chief

East Niceville Fire District