

# *East Niceville Fire District*

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## **EAST NICEVILLE FIRE DISTRICT**

**Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**February 1, 2026**  
**5:15 PM**

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### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting of the East Niceville Fire District Board of Commissioners was called to order at 5:15 PM by Fire Chief Kramer.

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### **2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.  
An invocation was given.

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### **3. Roll Call**

Present:

- Commissioner Leo
- Commissioner Kenny Revell
- Commissioner Larry Sjostrom
- Fire Chief Kramer

A quorum was established.

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### **4. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

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## 5. Approval of January Minutes

A correction was noted under “Approval of Prior Minutes” to change “Mover Larry” to “Motion Larry.”

**Motion:** To approve the January meeting minutes as corrected.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Leo

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Larry Sjostrom

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

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## 6. Treasurer’s Report (February 1, 2026)

### Account Balances:

- Money Market: \$1,202,036.00
- Payroll Account: \$55,980.14
- Bill Pay Account: \$14,081.36
- CD (matures 3/29/26): \$40,366.54

**Total Funds as of February 1, 2026:** \$1,319,630.40

A deposit of approximately \$1,089,077 was received in January.

### Monthly Expenditures:

- Monthly recurring expenses: \$32,791.03
- Total checks issued: \$135,642.90
  - Over \$100,000 allocated to annual retirement contributions (Salem Trust).
- Payroll (two cycles): \$46,252.00
- Total monthly expenditures: \$214,693.32

Health insurance premiums increased approximately 10–13%. The Chief is reviewing billing details with the insurance provider.

**Motion:** To approve the Treasurer’s Report.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Larry Sjostrom

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Leo

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

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## 7. Old Business

None.

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## **8. New Business**

### **A. Annual Pump, Ladder, and Hose Testing**

Quote received: \$2,299.50 (not to exceed \$2,500).

**Motion:** To approve up to \$2,500 for annual pump, ladder, and hose testing.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Leo

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Larry Sjostrom

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

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### **B. Audit Update**

The District's assigned auditor is no longer with the auditing firm. A new auditor will be assigned. The audit will proceed as required by law; the timeline may be adjusted pending reassignment.

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### **C. Hiring Update**

Ten applications were received for the open firefighter position. Six candidates were selected for interviews; four were interviewed.

One candidate, a 26-year-old recent fire academy graduate, was selected. He will begin employment on February 16, 2026. Upon his start date, the department will return to full staffing.

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### **D. New Fire Engine Update**

The new fire engine is in final production stages. Financing paperwork is forthcoming. Anticipated structure:

- 10-year financing term
  - One annual payment
  - First payment approximately one year after contract execution
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## **E. Consolidation Discussion**

A consolidation discussion was held with representatives from:

- North Bay Fire District
- City of Niceville (Fire Chief and City Manager)
- Valparaiso representative (via communication)

Discussion focused on the potential formation of a special taxing district encompassing multiple agencies.

Key considerations included:

- Multiple retirement systems (175 plans and FRS)
- Significant financial obligations to restructure retirement benefits
- Estimated initial study cost approximately \$100,000
- Potential total retirement restructuring costs in the tens of millions
- Possible need to increase millage in early years to offset costs

It was noted that while consolidation may offer theoretical efficiencies, substantial financial and structural barriers exist. Additional information will be presented if formal cost proposals are received.

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## **9. Chief's Report**

- Department operations remain stable.
  - Staffing returning to full strength.
  - Monitoring of insurance cost increases continues.
  - Ongoing coordination with neighboring departments.
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## **10. Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the East Niceville Fire District will be held on:

**March 10, 2026 at 5:00 PM**

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## **11. Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Larry Sjostrom

**Seconded by:** Commissioner Leo

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:37 PM.