East Niceville Fire District
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EAST NICEVILLE FIRE DISTRICT

Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Date: August 11, 2026
Time: 5:02 p.m.
Location: East Niceville Fire District

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1. Call to Order

The East Niceville Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners regular meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by an opening prayer.

Roll Call: All Board members were present. Fire Chief Jonathan Kramer was also present.

Public Attendance: None.

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2. Public Comment

There were no members of the public present; therefore, no public comment was received.

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3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Board considered approval of the July meeting minutes.

- **Motion to Approve:** Leo
- **Seconded By:** Larry Sjostrom
- **Vote:** All in favor — motion passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer’s Report

Chief Kramer presented the monthly Treasurer’s Report reflecting balances as of August 1, 2026:

- **Money Market:** $664,545.56
- **Bank Account:** $32,634.03
- **General Bill Pay Fund:** $71,319.99
- **Certificate of Deposit:** $40,369.53
- **Total Cash on Hand:** $808,869.11

The report included monthly disbursements, one check issued during the reporting month, and three payrolls totaling $70,209.87. Chief Kramer explained that the month included the third payroll that occurs twice each year.

The Board discussed the fitness coach’s three weekly visits and Florida Power & Light billing. Chief Kramer explained that billing dates can result in two payments during one calendar month and confirmed that he had checked for duplicate billing.

- **Motion to Approve:** Larry Sjostrom
- **Seconded By:** Ken DelPrincipe
- **Vote:** All in favor — motion passed unanimously.

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5. New Business

A. Attorney Review of Fire Assessment Authority

Chief Kramer reported receipt of a written opinion from the District’s attorney following review of the District charter. He stated that the opinion supported the District’s ability to pursue a fire assessment fee under its existing charter without first obtaining a charter change through the Legislature.

Chief Kramer explained that a study, referendum, and voter approval would still be required. He stated that major action would await the November election outcome. If the District elected to proceed, the study process could begin and a proposal could be prepared for a subsequent ballot. No motion to establish an assessment or authorize a study was made.

6. Fire Chief’s Report

A. Building Security and Camera System

Chief Kramer reported that the camera system was installed and operating and that access-control locks on the main doors had been activated earlier that day. One additional lock remained to be installed for the storage area containing medications and ALS supplies.

B. Apparatus Maintenance and Equipment

Engine 13 was at the repair shop for its annual service, including an oil change, inspection of lighting issues, and outstanding repairs from the previous year’s accident. The apparatus would return after the work was completed.

Chief Kramer confirmed that replacement saw blades had been purchased following the Bluewater Bay storm response. The Board discussed the need to replace worn blades rather than return used blades to the equipment compartment.

No prospective buyers had expressed interest in the old fire truck. Personnel continued to run the vehicle weekly.

C. TRIM Notices and Hearing Schedule

Chief Kramer reported that the District’s TRIM dates had been certified and submitted through the TRIM system. No corrections or rejected submissions had been reported to him. The Board discussed proposed tax notices and the county’s transition to a new printing vendor.

The TRIM hearing dates remained scheduled as follows:

- **First TRIM Hearing:** September 8, 2026
- **Second TRIM Hearing:** September 23, 2026

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7. Additional Discussion – Amendment 3 and District Funding

The Board discussed potential funding impacts if Amendment 3 passed in November. Chief Kramer described his understanding of the potential January 1, 2027 effective date, subsequent rulemaking, and possible refunds for taxpayers who paid before implementation. He emphasized that discussion of a delay until January 1, 2028 was speculative and could not be relied upon for planning.

Chief Kramer stated that a delay could provide additional time for budget planning and consideration of a fire assessment fee. He also discussed borrowing against anticipated revenue as a possible last-resort cash-flow measure, while expressing concern about relying on recurring borrowing. No borrowing or other financial action was authorized.

Chief Kramer encouraged commissioners to discuss the potential impacts with neighbors and friends and voiced opposition to Amendment 3.

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8. Next Meeting

The next meeting was announced for September 8, 2026, for the first TRIM hearing. Chief Kramer stated that reminders would be provided.

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9. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, a motion was made to adjourn.

- **Motion to Adjourn:** Leo
- **Seconded By:** John Hohmeier

Meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.