



**– Evanston Foreign Fire Tax Board –**  
**MINUTES**

**Date:** March 9th, 2026

**Location:** EFD HQ – 909 Lake Street

**Board Members Present:** Casey, W. Davis, Holthaus, Polep, Smrha, Ceriale, Edwards

**Called to Order:** 08:03

After recent elections, board positions need to be established. Since the board is made up of the same members, all agree to remain in the positions they previously held. President Edwards, Vice President Smrha, Treasurer Casey, Secretary Holthaus, Trustees W. Davis and Ceriale.

Casey sending annual letter to City Clerk outlining boards purchases from the previous year.

**Financial:** Casey gives the financial report.

**Checking Account:**               \$ 256,700.33

**Outstanding Funds:**       - \$ 44,121.50

**Remaining Balance:**         \$ 212,578.83

**Motion to accept the financials:** Passes 7-0

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

Van Duch presents to the board for the following:

Funding to support community chow funds at each station. With rising costs of many items, having some extra funds would make day to day shopping and meal planning easier. Discussion follows.

- Casey makes a motion for funds not to exceed \$8400 for a 6 month trial period of community chow funding. Details will follow on parameters of plan and how this will be implemented.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ceriale

*Motion passes 7-0*

Bazan presents to the board for the following:

Funds to purchase new weight belts for dive team. Current ones are old and do not work well.

- Holthaus makes a motion to the board to allocate funds not to exceed \$3000 for weight belts.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ceriale.

*Motion passes 7-0*

Holthaus presents to the board for the following on behalf of Hicks:

Shelf for work bench at Station 4.

- Holthaus makes a motion to the board to allocate funds not to exceed \$100 for shelf.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Edwards

*Motion passes 7-0*

Casey presents to the board for the following:

New front office TV for Station 3.

- Davis makes a motion to the board to allocate funds not to exceed \$500 for TV.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Smrha

*Motion Passes 7-0*

Edwards presents to the board for the following on behalf of Roche:

Hydraulic Rams for both Trucks. Discussion follows on necessity of and location of rams.

- Casey makes a motion to the board to allocate funds not to exceed \$28500 for 2 Rams and accessories.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Davis

*Motion fails 3-4*

- Smrha makes a motion to the board to allocate funds not to exceed \$14250 for 1 Ram and accessories.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Davis

*Motion passes 6-1*

Morel presents to the board for the following:

Funds to equip three new SWR team members will all necessary equipment. Discussion follows. Polep is not sure if it is possible to add any more members to the team at this time.

- Smrha makes a motion to the board to allocate funds not to exceed \$4500 for SWR team equipment contingent on Polep approving the addition of new members.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Davis

*Motion passes 7-0*

Ceriale withdraws proposal for kitchen supplies.

Ceriale presents to the board for the following:

Funds for a Blackstone griddle with accessories for Station 5.

- Edwards makes a motion to the board to allocate funds not to exceed \$500 for a Blackstone.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Smrha

*Motion passes 7-0*

Polep states that the city will purchase all items from Arreguin's proposals including scoop shovels, office supplies and tow straps for station 2 totaling approximately \$1100.

**Other Business:** Audit to be completed by trustees today.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 09:17

**Next EFFTb meeting:** Monday, June 22nd, 2026, Shift 2

**EFD HQ – 909 Lake – 0800 HRS**

**Make all submissions via Formstack to EFFTb Secretary Holthaus by:** Monday, June 15th, 2026 at 0900