



**Fire Advisory Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2024**

Roll Call of Attendees

The meeting was called by Fire Chief Mike Heiland. Members in attendance were:

Long Lake

Scott Weske
Mike Heiland
Charlie Miner
Jahn Dyvik
Cody Farley

Orono

Adam Edwards
James Van Eyll
Maria Veach

Medina

Scott Johnson
Jason Nelson

Minnetonka Beach

Jennifer Halverson

[Audio Recording Link](#)

Welcome & Introductions

Topics

2023 Final Budget Report

Weske reviewed the final budget numbers from 2023 for the audit and noted that revenues were greater than expenses, which means that they are about \$38,000 under budget. He reviewed some details regarding the grants received and notations in the report. He explained that the \$38,000 was broken down and the reimbursement per the contract terms will be \$32,759 to Orono; \$3,808 to Long Lake; and \$1,924 to Medina. He answered questions related to specific information in the budget report.

2024 Operating Expenses as of February

Weske reviewed the monthly expenses/revenue as of the end of February and noted that the items that are listed as 100% for the year-to-date budget are because they are a one-time payment. He answered questions and reviewed details within the report.

Heiland stated that related to budget, they have been paying to have their hoses tested every year and now that there are duty crews on staff, they plan to go back to doing it in house which should create a savings of \$6,000-\$7,000 per year. He noted that there are still other types of things that they cannot do in house, such as ladder testing, so they will still need to set aside funds for those types of services.

Veach stated that she would like to see the breakdown for these things.

Weske stated that even though he does not want to keep creating line items, it would make this type of thing easier to track.

Duty Crew Update

Heiland gave a brief overview of the data related to duty crew calls, the first unit assigned, the first unit enroute, the time the first unit arrived, and the time the incident closed.

Weske explained that the time numbers were shown in seconds because the formula on the spreadsheet went to 100, rather than 60.

Heiland reviewed duty crew call details for January and February.

Veach asked if there was any way, on the call report, to see whether it was Station #1 or Station #2.

Weske clarified that they should be able to determine that by looking at the case numbers.

Heiland stated that he believed that all the information they were interested can be found on the reports and noted that he was happy to share them with anyone who was interested. He stated that he feels things are leveling out and staffing duty crew shifts will be somewhere between 100-120 staffed shifts and noted that it is still a voluntary program.

Veach asked about ideal staffing and asked if there was a desired amount of calls for each.

Heiland asked if she was asking what the Department can respond to with a crew of 2 individuals.

Veach stated that she would like to know that information.

Heiland explained that a crew of two could respond to medical calls, lift assist calls, or things like power lines down. He noted that if there is an actual structure fire, they crew may wait for two others, but explained that for the garden variety of calls, two would be plenty. He stated that now that the pilot program is finished they know that they need to have a competent engineer as one of the guys and a competent officer as the other.

Veach asked for an update on the new engine that is coming and what would happen with the existing Engine #11.

Heiland stated that the new (used) engine will be coming from Excelsior in September.

Veach asked what would happen with the sale of the existing Engine #11.

Dyvik noted that the proceeds would be split per the contract.

Heiland reviewed plans for other vehicles and highlighted projects, equipment, and service work that had been done. He explained that Station #1 has 2 incoming members that were currently in class and had passed their background, physicals and psychological evaluations. He stated that there is 1 other who has passed his interview and background check and will be moving through the other phases. He noted that at Station #2 they interviewed someone last night who will be passed along to the City Council for consideration and also had a walk-in candidate who is a current Excelsior firefighter who was interviewed earlier today, but he did not have any information on the interview yet.

He stated that the Relief Association, with the help of donations, had purchased a forcible entry door for training and two fire blankets for E-vehicles. He suggested that businesses in the area that have underground charging stations get this type of blanket as well, because if an E-vehicle catches fire, it cannot be put out by standard methods. He explained that the Department had also purchased new tables and chairs for the pancake breakfast and had order a battery powered Kombi tool which is essentially a combination of a cutter and jaws of life. He noted that the cost for the Kombi was shared between the City of Long Lake and the Relief Association. He stated that Chief Spinks is an official certified Blue Card instructor. He explained that the Department had 76 more calls than in the previous year. He noted that this past year they were able to go through every medical bag and get them updated, and also replaced a lot of their pagers. He encouraged everyone to come to the upcoming Pancake Breakfast.

Other Topics

Miner stated that there was an Orono City Council meeting held last night and shared that he did not appreciate the way that Chief Heiland had been treated by Orono Mayor Walsh. He stated that they had discussed this in the fall as part of the budget discussions and were assured that he would be treated respectfully when appearing before the Orono City Council and is disappointed that did not happen as promised. He stated that he appreciated Ms. Veach and Councilmember Benson saying something about it later in the meeting. He explained that he also had not appreciated the comments from former firefighter Justin Hinker that he felt were completely misconstrued by Orono Mayor Walsh and encouraged people to watch the Long Lake City Council meeting from March 7, 2024, in order to see their discussion and explained that the recording is available on the LMCC website. He stated that he, along with the Long Lake City Council, plans to leave it up to Chief Heiland on whether he was willing to put himself through the reception he got from the Orono City Council again or not.

Edwards stated that despite the reception from Orono Mayor Walsh he believes that Chief Heiland's appearance and the information shared at the council meeting with Chief Heiland went a long way for the council and residents in attendance. Dyvik added that he thought the residents appreciated hearing from the Chief and that the report that was shared was such good news, with everything that happened during the year and what was accomplished.

Heiland noted that he will present this information to Minnetonka Beach sometime in April.

Miner suggested looking at calendars to determine the next meeting date for this group.

Veach asked about the next step of having the administrators and chiefs for Orono and Long Lake meeting.

Weske stated that they will have to take a look at their calendars and see what may work.

Miner noted that the Long Lake City Council had discussed this possibility and felt that the two administrators should have the initial conversation and determine what may be the best way to move forward before bringing in the two chiefs.

Heiland referenced quotes for repairs for generators at the two stations and reviewed possible alternative approach to potentially bring the costs down.

Wrap-Up / Adjourn

Next meeting date – June 4, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.