



Fire Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2025

Roll Call of Attendees

Fire Chief Mike Heiland called the meeting to order. Members in attendance:

Long Lake

Scott Weske
Mike Heiland
Todd Newcomer
Amanda Nowezcki
Cody Farley

Orono

Adam Edwards
Steve Persian
Shea Chwialkowski

Medina

Erin Barnhart
Dino DesLauriers

Minnetonka Beach

Jennifer Halverson

1. Welcome & Introductions

Fire Chief Heiland explained that Long Lake City Administrator Weske had accepted a new position with another city and thanked him for his years of service to the city of Long Lake.

2. Topics

a. Receive Minutes of August 13, 2025, Fire Advisory Board Meeting

Fire Chief Heiland noted that they had originally scheduled this meeting so close to the August Board meeting because they had been hopeful that they would be ready to discuss the draft Joint Powers Agreement, but it wasn't quite ready yet.

b. Review Operating Expenses as of August 30, 2025

Fire Chief Heiland reviewed the operating expenses as of August 30, 2025, and noted that there had not been significant changes since they had reviewed them in August. He noted that he felt that overall, the Department was doing really well with its budget in 2025. He asked the Board to discuss the rooftop units and explained that they were down to 2 fully functioning units. He noted that he would like to get going on replacing 1 or 2 of the existing units and explained that there was concern that one of the units that blew may not have heat. He stated that there was money in the Building Maintenance Fund and asked the Board to weigh in on how they thought things should move forward because he did not believe they would be able to continue to ignore this issue. He briefly reviewed the number of units, the understanding that all 5 units still have heat, but only 2 have air conditioning, the possible replacement options, and the expected costs. He reminded the Board that \$3,000 of the projected costs was just to have the crane work done, which was why they had discussed the possibility of taking care of more than one unit at a time to keep the crane costs lower.

The Board discussed the expected life of the existing units, how much it would be to replace all the units, the balance in the Building Maintenance Fund, past discussions about replacement, and how this ties into the ongoing JPA discussions.

Long Lake Councilmember Newcomer suggested that they get a quote for the replacement of all 5 rooftop units, so they would be ready to move as quickly as possible after the JPA is finalized.

Long Lake Finance Director Nowezki asked about the turnaround time from the time the units were ordered until they could be installed.

Heiland stated that he can get quotes for the replacement of all 5 units and would get information on the turnaround time as well.

The Board discussed some possible budget impacts if they spend money from the Building Maintenance Fund rather than using the capital or operation budgets, and the possibility of hiring a company to do an overall evaluation and assessment of the building.

Fire Chief Heiland reviewed the call numbers and explained that they were definitely increasing year over year.

3. Other Topics

Transition Update

Long Lake City Administrator Weske stated that they had a meeting on September 8, 2025, and they were still working through the budget, organization and CIP. He stated that they were working on getting things built out, but they still needed to work on the JPA. He noted that in a perfect world, they would have things hammered out by the following week and would go before the Councils following that.

The Board discussed the importance of continued communications with the Councils, residents, and firefighters.

Fire Chief Heiland stated that for the joint Duty Crew, he would say they were going through the toughest time they have been through because it was getting more challenging. He noted that it had not affected the product they were putting out, but admitted that it was putting a lot of stress on them with things like sharing equipment. He stated that the sooner they can get through the JPA process, the better things will be. He noted that he would also encourage the Board to make sure they were communicating with the firefighters.

The Board discussed the frustration that this process seems to be dragging out, skepticism among the firefighters, and the importance of keeping them in the loop.

Assistant Fire Chief Farley asked if Medina had made any decisions about what direction they may go in the future with their fire services.

Medina City Administrator Barnhart explained that the Council just discussed it at a budget work session and communicated that they would like their services to be moved to West Suburban and shared some of their reasons.

Wrap-Up / Adjourn

The Board discussed a possible next meeting date to work on budgets for the future JPA and came to a consensus to schedule the next meeting for November 5, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned by general consent at 10:41 a.m..