



CITY OF  
**LONG LAKE**

## **City Council Agenda Report**

### **City of Long Lake**

450 Virginia Avenue, PO Box 606  
Long Lake, MN 55356

**MEETING DATE / June 4, 2024**

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**SUBJECT:** Approve Joint Powers Agreement with Hennepin County for Assessment Services

**Prepared By:** Jeanette Moeller, City Clerk

**Report Date:** 5/29/2024

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### **Recommended City Council Action**

Staff recommends the following:

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-21 approving entering into a Joint Powers Agreement for Assessment Services with Hennepin County, and authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to execute said Agreement.

### **Overview / Background**

The City of Long Lake has traditionally contracted with an independent assessor to provide assessment services for the City for an annual fee. Our current contract with Southwest Assessing Partners for the 2024 assessment period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 was in the amount of \$24,540, plus an additional \$2,543.28 technology fee for Southwest Assessing's rental of Hennepin County systems/equipment.

Over the past several years, Hennepin County has significantly increased the number of cities for whom it directly provides assessment services by agreement. As Hennepin County desires to ensure accuracy, efficiency, communication availability, and equitability for assessing functions provided across County cities, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners took action on May 14, 2024 authorizing the County to offer a Joint Powers Agreement for local assessing services to cities with populations of 30,000 or less at no cost, beginning with the 2025 assessment year. Their Board action also permitted offering the same no cost option to cities under 30,000 in population who are already under contract with the County.

Implementation of newer technologies applicable to local assessing has at times led to some challenges (both on work and communication fronts) that would be resolved by contracting directly with the County. Staff has had a number of conversations with County Assessor/Director Josh Hoogland over the past six months and is supportive of entering into a Joint Powers Agreement with the County for assessment services. The cost savings and potential efficiencies factors are certainly positive, but additionally, staff believes the change will likely result in improved communication access to assessing staff both for property owners and for City staff.

### **Supporting Information**

- Hennepin Board of Hennepin County Commissioners, Resolution No. 24-0199
- Memo from Hennepin County Assessor re: Duties and Responsibilities of Assessors
- Hennepin County Assessor's Office 'At a Glance' Informational Handout
- Resolution No. 2024-21
- Joint Powers Agreement for Assessment Services