



Fire Advisory Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2025

Roll Call of Attendees

The meeting was called by Fire Chief Mike Heiland. Please note that members in attendance:

Long Lake

Scott Weske
Mike Heiland
Cody Farley
Jahn Dyvik

Orono

Adam Edwards
Shea Chwialkowski
Bob Tuneim

Medina

Erin Barnhart
Jason Nelson
Dino Deslauriers

Minnetonka Beach

Jennifer Halverson

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chief Heiland noted that year to date, Long Lake has had 52 calls, Medina has had 24 calls, Minnetonka Beach has had 16 calls, Orono has had 160 calls, and there have been 18 mutual aid calls. He stated that the mutual aid number may be a bit misleading because of the way they have been logging things between the different departments, and asked Orono Interim Fire Chief Chwialkowski to share details from Orono.

Orono Interim Fire Chief Chwialkowski noted that of the 275 Long Lake incidents, 174 were what would traditionally be the Long Lake CAD zones. He stated that combined, Orono did 199 calls, and 101 of those were in the Navarre area. He explained that in total, there had been a combined 376 calls, and 98 of those were a combined response from both Long Lake and Orono.

Chief Heiland stated that when Long Lake and Orono are combined and have a signed JPA, they will be working off the same page, so it will be easier for them to have accurate information. He stated that he felt the joint duty crews and working together at the station had been going well, and there did not appear to be any internal issues. He noted that the JPA was giving the firefighters some angst because everything was on hold until the JPA was signed, so they couldn't start moving forward yet.

Orono Interim Fire Chief Chwialkowski stated that he would echo the sentiments shared by Chief Heiland related to the angst related to the JPA from both an operational and psychological viewpoint. He stated that previously, there had been a lot of momentum for the JPA, but now it appeared to be stalling out a bit.

Chief Heiland asked if representatives from the FAB would be able to attend their upcoming business meeting to give the firefighters an update.

Orono Interim Fire Chief Chwialkowski and Chief Heiland shared examples of things that were being held up by the fact that the JPA had not yet been signed.

The Fire Advisory Board discussed differing opinions on what areas may be able to move forward before the JPA had been signed, what the overall organizational chart would look like, and whether leadership would all have to reapply for their positions or not.

2. Topics

a. Receive Minutes of June 4, 2025, Fire Advisory Board Meeting

Tunheim mentioned that he had been in attendance at the June 4, 2025, meeting and needed to be added to the list of attendees.

b. Review Operating Expenses as of June 30, 2025

Chief Heiland noted that overall, everything was good and highlighted that Fire Call Pay was on target. He explained that the Chemicals line item was slightly over budget because they had to get all new foam for the new engine, and Equipment Parts was slightly over budget because they had been doing repairs on one of the truck pumps. He noted that Training was also a bit over budget, but reminded the FAB that they will get reimbursed for that. He referenced that Light Truck Maintenance and Repairs was also a bit over budget, due to refurbishment of Utility 11, but they were under budget for Heavy Truck Maintenance and Repair.

Orono Interim Chief Chwialkowski explained that they have a new engine that is on order and is scheduled to be delivered in about a year. He stated that they had talked about the possibility of cancelling that engine and collaboratively building an engine, but in looking at it decided it would not be worth the money. He noted that they have discussed the idea of rebranding it to the new department name once the truck is delivered, rather than start the process over and cost themselves another \$300,000-\$400,000.

Chief Heiland explained that they had been doing a lot of work on the equipment, what would be staying or going, and the expected arrival of new equipment/vehicles. He noted that it was important for the FAB to understand that rebranding everything was going to cost some money. He gave a brief explanation about the volunteer portion of the paid on-call duty crew not existing anymore and would now be done as part of the joint duty crew. He returned the discussion to the operating expenses and stated that Building Maintenance and Repairs was also slightly over budget. He explained that they had 5 rooftop units that were original and were nearing the end of their lives, and believed that they would have to be replaced within the next year or so. He reviewed some of the quote information he had gotten for replacing them and stated that each time one is replaced, they needed to rent a crane, so spreading out their replacement may not make the best sense. He noted that they have done a lot of work on both buildings and repaired air exchangers and generators, but cannot continue to put Band-Aids on the rooftop units.

The FAB discussed response times, in-service times, use of the boat, and the uptick in busyness of the Fourth of July weekend.

Dyvik expressed his appreciation to Chief Heiland, Interim Orono Chief Chwialkowski, and Long Lake Assistant Chief Farley for keeping everything together so well, despite going through so much turmoil. He stated that their leadership throughout this process was much appreciated and believes that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

3. Other Topics

The FAB discussed how the budget process would be followed and deadlines would be met since the JPA has not yet been signed, and once it is signed, a new advisory board would need to be formed. Following the discussion, they agreed that the next meeting date would be August 13, 2025.

Dyvik noted that he thought the new JPA would be with Long Lake, Orono, and Medina.

Barnhart stated that Medina has always said that they were not part of the JPA discussions and wanted Orono and Long Lake to come up with the new JPA and put things back together. She explained that Medina felt that they didn't need to be part of those discussions and stated that right now they are looking at a possible contract for next year before they decide if they would commit, long term, to Long Lake or move forward with West Suburban Fire.

Wrap-Up / Adjourn

Chief Heiland adjourned the meeting.