

CITY OF MINNETRISTA



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEM

Subject: St. Bonifacius/Minnetrista Fire Partnership Update

Prepared By: Jasper Kruggel, City Administrator

Meeting Date: September 21, 2026

Issue: The cities of St. Bonifacius and Minnetrista are beginning a joint examination of a possible fire services partnership. Staff requests that Council appoint two members to represent Minnetrista in those discussions.

Background: Minnetrista currently contracts with the City of St. Bonifacius for fire protection in the western portion of the city; the remainder is served by the Mound Fire Department.

Staff from both cities met on September 8, 2026, to outline a process for evaluating partnership options, which may range from modifications to the existing agreement to a joint powers arrangement or a fire district. A meeting summary prepared by St. Bonifacius Fire Chief Eric Anderson is attached.

Next Steps: Beginning in October, a working group of staff, fire leadership, and elected representatives from both cities will meet monthly to examine partnership models. Meetings are expected to continue monthly through 2026 and likely through 2027 and into 2028.

Staff is asking Council to appoint two members to serve on this working group. Representatives would be expected to attend regularly, represent Minnetrista's interests, and report back to the full Council. Council may also wish to designate an alternate given the length of the commitment.

Attachments:

1. September 8, 2026 Partnership Meeting Summary

Requested Action: Appoint two Council members (and an alternate, if desired) to represent the City of Minnetrista in the St. Bonifacius/Minnetrista Fire Partnership working group.

Mission Statement:

The City of Minnetrista will deliver quality services in a cost effective and innovative manner and provide opportunities for a high quality of life while protecting natural resources and maintaining a rural character.



Fire Partnership Meeting Summary

Minnetrista and St Bonifacius

9/8/2026

Meeting at the St Bonifacius Fire department (3pm-4pm)

Attendees: Jasper (Minnetrista), Eurel (St Bonifacius), Eric (Fire Chief)

Discussion:

1. The cities of; Minnetrista and St Bonifacius along with the Fire Chief met to discuss the need to continue partnership conversations driven by the need for long term sustainability, present and future fire service protection for the current areas the St Bonifacius Fire department serves.
2. It was decided that Eric Anderson would chair and plan the partnership meetings moving forward.
3. The meetings would consist of being held once a month starting in October of 2026. Each city would be represented by 2 elected officials and the city manager.
4. The end goal of all discussions would be a JPA agreement or Fire District in place starting 1/1/2029
5. The first step after this initial meeting (Sept 8th) is to bring this meeting summary back to the councils in each city to discuss and answer any initial questions and determine who the representatives from each city will be.
6. After the respective council meetings, the Fire Chief will find consensus on when the meeting times will be moving forward. They would preferably start at 3:30pm or there about on consistent days. The Fire Chief will also consult the State Fire Marshal's office as to when they would be best utilized in discussions for expert opinions. All future meetings would be open to all current fire fighters to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 4pm.

I look forward to further discussions about our fire service area!

Eric Anderson: Fire Chief