



West Suburban & Maple Plain Meeting Communications

June 26th 17:00 hrs

The merger group met with Independence mayor Brad Spencer to discuss the current situation and clarify any rumors or questions that the departments had about the merger process. Maple Plain mayor Maas-Kusske was unable to attend due to a conference in Duluth.

Merger Questions/Rumors:

- Meeting notes from a May 12th Maple Plain workshop referred to a “West Hennepin Fire District” and talked about hiring of a chief and establishing an ambulance service. This caused some concern from WSFD as they were not aware this was being talked about.
 - Mayor Spencer indicated that the cities agreed that they needed plan B if the merger between WSFD and MPFD fell through. Both cities are confident and support the WSFD/MPFD merger and have no interest in creating a separate fire district or exploring other options with other departments in the area. This option was simply a framework and was not intended to be the goal of either city.
- Maple Plain and Independence city councils have not yet met to discuss merger details as a group (each city has met separately or with the Fire Commission)
 - Mayor Spencer stated that traction with the merger process has increased dramatically over the past 2 months. Mayor Spencer has been heavily involved and meeting with Chief Leuer regularly about the process. Mayor Maas-Kusske has been updated and has also been in contact with mayor Spencer throughout the process.
 - The two cities will be having a formal meeting about the process following the next Fire Commission meeting on July 8th

Merger Plan/Tasks

- The merger group will continue to meet roughly every 2 weeks while working on the items needed to proceed with the merger.
- The two cities next step is to discuss the merger at the Fire Commission meeting on July 8th at Maple Plain city hall. Following that meeting, a joint city council meeting will take place (date TBD) to formally discuss and vote on the merger.
 - A budget for the merger of the departments was presented to the cities by Chief Leuer
- Mayor Spencer has been talking to Representative Kristin Robbins about changing taxing district language that would allow for a better fit to fund the WSFD following a merger with MPFD. A taxing district would provide the greatest value and funding to the fire district, especially when building a new fire station(s).

Looking Forward:

- Both departments are fully prepared to complete this merger by the end of the year
- WSFD and MPFD will be using the same training schedules for the last quarter of the year with the goal of training together and offering multiple training dates

Next Meeting: August 14th