

**Excelsior Fire District Board
EFD Governing Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 28, 2021**

**24100 Smithtown Road
Shorewood, Minnesota
6:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fletcher called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present: Excelsior Fire District (EFD) Boardmembers: Erickson, Dierking, Fletcher, Johnson, and Connelly (arrived at 6:04 p.m.).

Also present: Excelsior Fire District (EFD) Chief Mackey; Deephaven/Greenwood Administrator/EFD Fiscal Agent Young; Shorewood City Administrator Lerud; Tonka Bay City Administrator Laur; Excelsior Operations Committee Wisdorf.

Absent: None

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Erickson moved, Johnson seconded, approving the EFD Governing Board meeting agenda as presented. Motion passed 4/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 26, 2021, EFD Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Dierking moved, Erickson seconded, approving the EFD Board Regular Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2021, as presented. Motion passed 4/0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Monthly Fire District Administrative Reports – May 2021

- i. Call Reports - May**
- ii. Firefighter Activity**
- iii. Firefighter Points**
- iv. Inspection Reports**

B. Report of the Operating Committee – May 2021, and June 2021

C. Treasurer's Report

Erickson moved, Dierking seconded, approving the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 4/0.

5. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no matters from the floor presented this evening.

6. REPORT AGENDA

A. Fire Chief / Fire District Report /Major All Calls

Chief Mackey stated that the new Office Manager started on July 26, 2021 and has been doing a great job. He noted that the former Office Manager Danya Baken has been providing training during the evening hours to help the transition move along smoothly. He stated that with this staff turnover they have discovered that there really isn't a system in place for transitioning in a replacement, so they are working on building a system for the next time a replacement is needed in this position.

Boardmember Connelly arrived at the meeting.

Chief Mackey introduced Assistant Chief Mike Heiland. He noted that there was a budget item for this year to replace their phones which was done June 27, 2021. He noted that the transition to the new phones went more smoothly for the Fire Department than it did for the Police Department. He stated that they are still working on some programming and voice mail boxes set up. He explained that they are under a 3 year lease for the phones so after that time they can evaluate and decide if new technology is needed at the end of the lease term. He expressed his appreciation to firefighters Kyle Green and Brian Tersey who spearheaded this project and negotiated a great price. He explained that graphics that had been added to the station doors to help guide people and also in the fitness room to encourage people to stay fit. He stated that the 4th of July was a busy night, however, the Excelsior Fire Department made it through fairly well. He noted that they did go to multiple mutual aid calls and noted that there were over 50 fires in the southwest metro area due to the dry weather and improper disposal of fireworks. The new Utility 11 is in service and he encouraged the Board stop by to take a look at it.

B. Communications

Chief Mackey gave a brief overview of the communications from residents expressing their appreciation of the Fire Department.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Long Term Planning/Succession Planning/CIP Lease/Replacement and Planning

Chief Mackey stated that the Board would talk more about this subject when they got to the budget.

B. Concrete Project Update (Minor Punch List Items)

Chief Mackey explained that the concrete project is completed with the exception of some minor punch list items. He stated that they found that the concrete had failed so soon because of the underlayment which has now been addressed. He stated that the contractor did a good job and Shorewood Public Works Director Brown did a great job helping them manage the project.

C. Marine Program (Boat Purchase Relief Fund Raise to Purchase \$250,000 to \$275,000)

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Chief Mackey noted that the Marine Program is up and running. He explained that the Relief Association sent out letters because they are not having the dance again this year that explained that they are raising funds for the purchase of a boat. He stated that he has been contacted by people who would like to donate items outside of money such as a lift or a canopy, which they don't need, but this has shown that there is a lot of interest in supporting the cause for the boat.

Chair Fletcher asked Chief Mackey to update the board on what happened with the potential purchase of the Eden Prairie boat.

Chief Mackey explained that Eden Prairie would like to build a boat much smaller than the one they have but with COVID, they have not been able to find a manufacturer that can do it, so until they can get one confirmed and have a firm time line, they are planning to hold onto their boat. He stated that even though the Fire Relief is raising funds for a new boat, if this boat would become available, that could be revisited. He noted that the Fire Department test drove the boat and Boardmembers Johnson and Connelly took part and also felt it seemed like a great boat.

Boardmember Johnson asked if, as the Department was looking at a potential new fire boat, if they would be looking at the same hull length as the Eden Prairie boat.

Chief Mackey stated that they plan to start there and see what the price points are for adding length. He stated that the lake has been getting busier and the guys in the Department were very excited about the style, usability and functionality of the Eden Prairie boat.

Boardmember Connelly asked if there was an update on where the boat would be parked.

Chief Mackey stated that it will stay where it is right now, but noted that he is looking into other options. He gave a brief overview of some of the recent locations for the boat.

D. Fire Lanes

Chief Mackey explained that he has not had time to do much with the fire lanes, so he has no report on this item.

E. 2022 Budget Request for Approval

Chief Mackey explained that he had included a brief overview of the increases in the budget to assist in explaining this to the various cities. He noted that a big chunk of it is the weekend duty crew that will start in June of 2022.

Erickson moved, Fletcher seconded, to approve the 2022 Operating and CIP Budgets as presented. Motion passed 5/0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2023 Budget Looking Ahead (Staffing/Equipment)

Chief Mackey stated that they have done a lot of work on staffing and equipment. He stated that there has been one retirement, but three more individuals are starting the Academy in August. He noted that they have already been through EMR and their 'mini academy' which will help prepare them for the

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official Academy. He stated that the Department has put together a recruitment video from the house burn in Shorewood that he sent to the Board. He stated that he thinks it turned out really well and the message of the video is that you can have a part-time, paid, on-call fire career and a real everyday job. He noted that it will be posted to their website when work on the website is complete.

B. Hometown Heroes Act Passes Legislation

Chief Mackey explained that the Hometown Heroes Act legislation passed and noted that it is in conjunction with the MnFires initiative that offers assistance for mental health, cardiac, and cancer. He stated that this is the first of its kind and Minnesota is a frontrunner in taking care of its firefighters in those areas. He noted that also of interest was that the fire districting also passed.

C. All Hazards Incident Management Team Resolutions (AHIMT)

Chief Mackey explained that the League of Minnesota Cities felt this would operate better with a Cooperative Agreement rather than a Joint Powers Agreement. He stated that the documents included in the packet are the resolutions to dissolve the Joint Powers Agreement and adopt the Cooperative Agreement. He gave a brief overview of the All Hazards Incident Management Team and what type of events they respond to and the training they receive.

Chair Fletcher stated that he had asked Chief Mackey to contact the District Attorney because he had concerns about whether the Board would have authority as a Joint Powers organization to do these on their own. The attorney stated that he felt comfortable with it and his comment back was that it is unclear just who originally executed the JPA, the cities or the District. Chair Fletcher suggested that the individual cities may want to check if they had executed the JPA so that can be taken care of, if necessary.

Fletcher moved, Erickson seconded, approving Resolution No. 21-10 a resolution withdrawing from the Joint Powers Agreement and Establishing the Regional All-Hazards Incident Management Organization and Approving the Cooperative Agreement for the Minnesota Statewide All-Hazards Incident Management Organization; AND Resolution No. 21-11 a resolution approving the Cooperative Agreement for the Minnesota Statewide All-Hazards Incident Management Organization. Motion passed 5/0.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

10. NEXT MEETING

A. EFD Board Meeting September 22, 2021, 6:00 P.M., Station 1

Chair Fletcher noted the next regular EFD Governing Board Meeting is scheduled for 6:00 P.M. on September 22, 2021, at Station I.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Fletcher moved, Erickson seconded, Adjourning the EFD Governing Board Meeting of July 28, 2021, at 6:50 P.M. Motion passed 5/0.