



**CITY OF LONG LAKE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 19, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Mayor Gilbert.

Present: Mayor: Randy Gilbert; City Council: Sam Rettinger, Sharon Henderson, Brian Carpenter, and Liz Olson; City Administrator: Terrance Post

Absent: None

Others: Michael Risvold, Wayzata Chief of Police; Michael Murphy, Wayzata Police Lieutenant/Investigator; Richard Stanek, Hennepin County Sheriff; Jeff Storms, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Investigator; David Zimmer, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Captain; Sandra Westerman, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Community Relations; Corey Farniok, Orono Chief of Police; and Chris Fischer, Orono Police Sergeant

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Henderson, seconded by Carpenter, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

POLICE SERVICE CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Mayor Gilbert explained the purpose of the interview process and advised that all questions should be directed at the police services provided by the three entities being interviewed.

A. Wayzata Police Department Interview

Wayzata Chief of Police Risvold introduced himself to the Council and provided background information on his career, including the past six years he spent with the City of Wayzata and a total of 20 years in law enforcement. He stated that he believed all three agencies involved in this process are competent and did not view this process as a competition, as all three agencies work together, will continue to work together, and would instead focus on the services provided by the Wayzata Police Department. He reviewed the mission statement of his department, stated he believed the people in his department held themselves to the highest level of moral and ethical standards, and he was glad to be working with such individuals. He summarized the personnel within the Wayzata Police Department and noted that should Long Lake choose to use their services, two additional officers would be hired. The average law enforcement experience for his department is 18 years, which is high for the size of the department. Chief Risvold responded to the questions he received via e-mail and explained in an emergency situation mutual aid is often utilized. He advised of a recent train derailment in which 30 mutual aid officers responded to assist. He noted that although emergency situations arise, he believed that everyday response times are just as important to residents, and provided the 2008 response times for all three agencies, Wayzata, Orono, and HCSO. The average response time for Wayzata was

5.68 minutes, Orono 9.42 minutes, and HCSO 11.10. Chief Risvold noted that the response times for the City of Orono cover their total service area and may be skewed, on the high side, because of that, whereas the Wayzata response time is only for the Wayzata area. He then displayed the 2009 response times for the three agencies, which were similar to the 2008 results. He explained the proposed plan for the Wayzata Police Department to show a presence in the City and advised that patrol would treat the Wayzata and Long Lake areas as one, which would be broken into two patrol zones at Ferndale Road North in Wayzata.

Chief Risvold explained that one patrol would cover the western zone and another patrol would cover the eastern zone to provide a police presence. If the services of Wayzata are chosen, one officer would station themselves in Long Lake to complete Police reports and provide additional police presence with the patrol car. He advised that all patrol cars are marked, as opposed to unmarked vehicles, to provide visibility. Chief Risvold stated that the other agencies are more than capable of providing services to Long Lake, but he believed that Wayzata could provide unique services. He reviewed the aspects of traffic safety including a traffic officer, participation in the safe and sober program, the Night Cap Program, as well as education, the use of media, enforcement, and problem solving. Chief Risvold explained the traffic officer program began in 2009 and advised that the number of accidents has decreased by 18 percent in that year from the previous four year average. He summarized the crime prevention services which include the Wayzata Crime Prevention Coalition, virtual neighborhood/business watch, Night to Unite, retail crime prevention, seniors, educational/internet/personal/ identity theft, monthly newsletters, the open house, and the squad room. Chief Risvold summarized the investigations services of the Wayzata Police department and commended Lieutenant Murphy for a recent \$8,000,000 indictment that he obtained. He advised that although the City of Wayzata handles some narcotics cases, more often than not the department works with a local drug task force; providing an example of a grow operation that was found in Long Lake within the past year.

Chief Risvold explained the Lake Minnetonka Response Unit and noted the surrounding areas that collaborate in that team. He advised that crime lab services within Hennepin County are provided by the HCSO and all agencies in the area work together to provide the best level of services. He stated that the Wayzata Police Department is professional, capable, and would provide a high level of service to the City of Long Lake, with the added officers discussed. Chief Risvold stated that one of the biggest challenges the department faces is the economy and the effect on the budget, explaining how officers have assisted with additional services when needed. He indicated he did not believe that there would be anything difficult, or challenging, in regard to providing services to Long Lake because the cities are close in proximity and type of crime. He stated that if a city can share resources and provide the same level of service to each city it is beneficial to each city. Chief Risvold noted that the addition of two officers to assist with providing service to Long Lake would also make the department more robust. He responded to a question received via e-mail in regard to the number of patrols on at anytime during the day and the process for covering for a sick or vacationing officer. Chief Risvold advised that the patrol times are focused more on prime hours and noted that up to four officers could be on patrol at one time. He provided the policy for covering sick and vacation time for officers.

Mike from Chunk's Garage questioned how many hours an officer would be in Long Lake.

Chief Risvold explained that he would not be able to provide an hour scheme but advised of the two car patrol which would be split into eastern and western zones.

Councilmember Henderson asked for information in regard to the diversity of the department and the respectfulness and professionalism in the department.

Chief Risvold indicated there are one female officer and nine male officers, one of whom is Korean. He noted that the police department treats everyone with respect, whether they are issuing a traffic situation, arresting someone, or responding to a call.

Councilmember Henderson questioned how successful the department has been in controlling overtime costs.

Chief Risvold believed that the department has been successful in keeping the cost under \$25,000.

Councilmember Olson questioned the process used for animal control. She also questioned what the protocol would be in regard to the fire department.

Chief Risvold explained that animals are taken to a shelter in Mound. He advised that the department would work with Long Lake to develop a protocol for the fire department.

Councilmember Carpenter questioned how the City of Wayzata has responded to this request and how Long Lake could be ensured that their residents would be treated equally. He questioned if supplemental services would be needed.

Chief Risvold stated that he believed the most important aspect of this arrangement would be communication between the two cities and within each city itself to ensure that the highest level of service could be provided to each city. He noted that at this point the department can only estimate the services, which is why the additional two officers would be added to maintain that level of service. He did not believe that supplemental services would be required but advised of the use of other agencies, such as the drug task force.

A resident questioned if the City of Wayzata is currently, or has in the past, provided services to another city.

Chief Risvold advised that the City of Wayzata is not currently, and has not in the past, provided services to another city.

B. Hennepin County Sheriff's Department Interview

Hennepin County Sheriff Stanek thanked the Council for their time and consideration. He stated that the HCSO has close working relationships with the other two agencies involved tonight, and stated that this process should not interfere with those working relationships. He noted that no matter which agency is chosen, all the agencies would continue to work together to provide the best service possible.

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Inspector Storms advised that HCSO currently provides services to three cities and also provides service to the VA Hospital and Fort Snelling. He explained the difference between the Sheriff's Office and a Police Department, advising that the HCSO patrols 45 cities daily. He explained that the investigations unit has been split into different areas of focus, such as violent crimes. Inspector Storms advised that a liaison is

provided to each city that the Sheriff's Office services and explained that the HCSO works with each City Council as well to determine the focus of needs.

Inspector Storms explained that the Sheriff's Office replied to the RFP with two tiers of service, one of which was three hours per day explaining that one hour of each eight hour shift would be spent in Long Lake. He explained the second tier of service provides an analysis of high call time and additional time within the city. Inspector Storms advised that the agency has over 800 employees and noted that additional officers would not be required to provide service to the City of Long Lake. He reviewed the volunteer units that would also be available to the City of Long Lake, for accidents or city events, such as parades.

Inspector Storms noted that water patrol would be another service offered to the city, and has been very successful. He noted which types of events would require the assistance of the emergency response team of the HCSO and reviewed the response to the RFP including the proposed cost and the two tiers of service that would be included. Inspector Storms noted that each call would generate a response from the HCSO, noting that although three hours is provided some days the HCSO could be in Long Lake up to ten hours in one day. He advised that two bloodhounds are part of the department and would be available as well.

Inspector Storms explained that because of the size of the agency, cars are on patrol at any given time and can be moved within the county at will. He noted that a Watch Commander is available after he and Sheriff Stanek have left for the day to provide a high level of experience and service at all times. Inspector Storms responded to the questions received via e-mail in regard to response times and explained the Special Response Team, which utilizes proactive response in crime hot spots. He explained that the response times may be listed higher for Hennepin County because of the large size of the county but noted that officers are spread throughout the area. He stated that mutual aid could also be utilized, and would continue to be used no matter which agency is chosen.

Inspector Storms advised that cars could be moved to provide additional coverage in the city and if there is a crime hot spot a car would be stationed in that area to provide additional presence. He noted that many officers are familiar with the area as they drive through the city on a daily or weekly basis, as cars are often at the Medina location. Inspector Storms stated that the HCSO is very dependent on local fire departments and commended the Long Lake Fire Department for their high level of service, but noted that personnel would be provided to keep the medical costs of the fire department down.

Sheriff Stanek stated that all three agencies are suited for patrol and are professional agencies but believed that the HCSO has additional resources that could be utilized by the City of Long Lake. He stated that anywhere from 150 to 200 people are working in the department at any given time. Sheriff Stanek reviewed the chain of command and patrol services. He summarized the nine levels of business that are provided by HCSO.

Sheriff Stanek noted that the contracted services provided to Greenfield, Hanover, and Medicine Lake have been very successful. He stated that one of the weaknesses seen in utilizing the services of the Sheriff's Office would be the perception that local services would no longer be provided and explained that there would be police presence in the City. Sheriff Stanek noted that the HCSO has experience with a large number, and variety, of people because of the size of the department and therefore officers are trained in a wide area of services. He advised that the Sheriff's Office does not proactively market their services and

instead respond to requests from local agencies. He reviewed the collaborations between the Sheriff's Office and local police departments to provide the highest level of service.

Mayor Gilbert asked for clarification in regard to the mutual aid process and when the Sheriff's Office would respond to those calls.

Sheriff Stanek explained the mutual aid process and advised that although the HCSO has county wide jurisdiction, they would also respond to emergency calls when needed within the County. He advised that the HCSO dispatches the calls for all of the agencies within the county and provides support services to those agencies as well.

Councilmember Henderson questioned if the Sheriff's Office would bring mounted patrol to Long Lake as an education opportunity for the citizens.

Sheriff Stanek confirmed that the mounted patrol would be available for that type of city event, along with water patrol and other departments.

Councilmember Carpenter asked for clarification in regard to the use of the Long Lake Fire Department and the associated cost.

Inspector Storms advised that law enforcement would respond to medical calls as well and would work with the Fire Department to find a balance.

A resident questioned how a copy of a police report could be obtained.

Inspector Storms stated that the HCSO would work with the City Council to determine the best method for obtaining that information and noted that the Medina office is within five miles of Long Lake.

Sheriff Stanek again thanked the Council for their time and advised that he would be available for any questions that should arise in the next few days while the City makes this decision.

C. Orono Police Department Interview

Mayor Gilbert stated that Long Lake has been very pleased with the service they have received from the Orono Police Department and explained that the RFP process is in no way a reaction to the services received.

Orono Chief of Police Farniok stated that the department would like to continue to provide the dedicated service to the community that they have for 40 years. He noted that Orono provides a small town but high quality local service and believed that the department provided the best value focusing on community presence and visibility. Chief Farniok provided an example of emergency response, which occurred in the last year when the tornado touched down during Corn Days, in which the Orono Police Department handled the situation on its own. He advised of mutual aid and noted that the services of Hennepin County are available through mutual aid, as are other agencies.

Chief Farniok stated there is a 24 hour presence in the City of Long Lake because of the common road borders between the two cities. The Orono Police Department has serviced the City of Long Lake for the past 40 years and considers the area to be one community and

with that experience has knowledge of the City that the other agencies may not. He explained that a weakness of the department may be in technology but advised that the department utilizes communication to ensure that information is passed between the department and the City. He provided an example of information sharing which helped to catch a vandalism criminal.

Chief Farniok indicated he did not view patrolling the City of Long Lake as a challenge and actually viewed patrolling the City as a benefit to both cities, creating high visibility. He stated that connections have been developed throughout the 40 years of service in Long Lake and noted that the motivation in responding to the RFP is to continue to provide a high visibility, highly efficient level of service to both communities.

Chief Farniok presented the cost for police services for Long Lake from the time period of 1989 through 2011, as well as a comparison of 2008 cost services for surrounding cities. He noted that should Orono be chosen, a separate contract would be drafted between Orono and Long Lake.

Sergeant Fischer stated that Orono is able to provide additional coverage to each of the cities they provide services to, because they are able to add additional officers which benefits Orono and the member cities.

Chief Farniok confirmed there is not a dedicated officer for the City of Long Lake, as it was determined that better service could be provided by splitting the patrol area into zones, depending on the number of officers patrolling. He explained that depending on the time of day and demand, anywhere from two to five officers could be on patrol at one time. He noted that several times during the past week officers have responded to calls in Long Lake from the Orono station, which is located near the border of the two cities.

Chief Farniok compared the cost of the services for the Orono police department to those offered by HCSO, which for the same cost would result in an additional six hours per day. He noted that the Orono Police Department has a commitment to all the cities they provide services and thanked all the members of his department who were present at the meeting tonight to show their support. He explained that should the City of Long Lake choose to go with another agency, his department would need to let three officers go because of the decreased area of coverage and need for service. He summarized the times and availability of members of his staff and support staff.

Councilmember Carpenter commented that he was unsure that the cost comparison was exactly correct because of the second tier of services offered by HCSO. He stated that value is beyond cost and was happy to know that the Orono station is so close to his home. He commented on the amount of knowledge that the Orono Police Department has regarding the City of Long Lake and asked for further clarification in regard to the cost gap and the cost of knowledge transfer.

Chief Farniok advised that many resources available through Hennepin County are still available to the City as a member of the county, and through mutual aid. He advised that teams and relationships have been built between the Orono Police Department and the City of Long Lake and the Long Lake Fire Department. He advised that services would still be available through the HCSO and for the same cost Orono would provide additional hours of patrol compared to the HCSO. He questioned how the word would get out to residents that

Orono is no longer providing police services to the City of Long Lake and acknowledged that many residents and business owners are on a first name business with many of the officers in his department.

Mayor Gilbert stated that if Long Lake does not choose Orono, he would hope that the professionalism to Long Lake would remain in a mutual aid situation.

Chief Farniok confirmed that if a mutual aid call was received his department would continue to provide services, but noted that if the call is not of an emergency situation his department would not respond. He thanked the Council for their time and noted that this is not a small matter for Orono and the decision will have an impact on his department.

Mayor Gilbert noted that this process would be public and information would be shared with the residents. He advised that the process timeline would be identified at the council meeting the following night.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Gilbert adjourned the special meeting by general consent at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Post
City Administrator