



Excelsior Fire District

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24100 Smithtown Road, Shorewood, MN 55331

Fire Operating Committee Meeting April 15, 2026 at 9:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Operating Committee Chair Kristi Luger called the meeting to order at 9:06.

Members Present: Kristi Luger (Excelsior City Manager), and Marc Nevinski (Shorewood City Administrator), Max Peters (Tonka Bay City Administrator), Tom Fletcher (Greenwood Mayor in the capacity of City Administrator), Dan Madsen (Deephaven City Administrator)

Staff Members Present: Chief 1 Nate Basinger

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Madsen Second by Luger to approve and amended Agenda with the following additions: Discussion of upcoming projects and initiatives; Letter from Jennifer Gallagher to members; Fire boat slip; July 4 fireworks reimbursement of EFD; Discussion of Chief process – Motion passed

2. Minutes

Motion by Madsen, Second by Luger to approve the March 18, 2026 meeting minutes amended to show Fletcher as present at meeting – Motion passed

3. Bills

Motion by Fletcher, Second by Nevinski to approve the March 2026 bills – Motion Passed

4. Budget Updates

Chief 1 Basinger indicated that there had been no changes to the draft budget after the Board Worksession. There was discussion of the Kraus Anderson building capital needs study. He indicated that there was a need to coordinate between EFD and South Lake Police on the joint priorities including a possible joint meeting or worksession including both Boards.

5. Administration

No major calls in March with a total of 104 calls. Enroute and on scene times are staying about the same. With new system the hope is to have more detailed and better data going forward.

6. Board Meeting

- a. Next Fire Board meeting April 22, 2026 18:00 EOC Station 1
- b. Major "All Call": None
- c. Engine 21 financing options. Peters and Fletcher will assist Basinger with reviewing finance options.

7. Admin Updates

- a. Leadership Development & Succession Planning - Nothing
- b. Personnel & Staffing 41 firefighters and 2 battalion chiefs now with the Battalion Chiefs really helping with duty crew coverage. Troy is getting into emergency management. Expect 2 to 3 retirements in 2026 with all of them being drivers, which is where we are short. Outside interest of experienced firefighters that are drivers in joining the departments has waned. When get down into 30s have strained to fill shifts. We are not too far away from having trouble getting shifts covered.
- c. E21 repairs – Engine is in shop still.
- d. HOA repairs – LMC denied HOA claim. HOA asked EFD for reimbursement. Attorney Dorothy has communicated that reimbursing HOA would not set a precedent. Overall project cost is about \$4,400 based on HOA bid. Will be presented to Board Meeting as a good will payment if Board approves.
- e. Chiller update. The electric wiring change order is now \$14,000 rather than previous \$25,000. After discussion with SLMPD there will be a discussion with the Board next week.

8. Other Items

- a. Fire boat slip. While EFD greatly appreciates the Tonka Bay slip that is provided free to the EFD, it does take time to get to main lake and doesn't have shore power. With electronics turned off there is still a parasitic draw on the boat's batteries and they get drawn down without shore power. The EFD is investigating other options.
- b. July 4 fireworks EFD cost reimbursement. The Rotary will be at the Board meeting regarding the July 4 fireworks. They are requesting no cost to the Rotary public safety coverage for the event.
- c. Basinger and Luger will work with Board Chair Gallagher on any communication that she may send to firefighters.
- d. Madsen moved to recommend the Board appoint Basinger as Interim Chief with retroactive pay to April 8, 2026 with pay recommendation to be provided by Operating Committee for Board consideration at May Board meeting. Second by Peters. Passed unanimously. Further that the Operating Committee present to the Board a recommendation for third party organizational consultant and robust search using outside entity that includes firefighters in the process will be provided by the Operating Committee at the May Board meeting. Second by Peters. Passed unanimously.
- e. Madsen made a motion that the Operating Committee recommend that the Board approve payment of former Chief's prorated salary prior to termination and his accrued vacation time. The Operating Committee further recommends that the

discretionary payment of accrued sick time also be paid contingent on release for any and all employment related claims by the former Chief. Second by Luger. Passed unanimously.

- f. Upcoming Projects and Initiatives. Reviewed to do lists with recent events in the Department.

9. Adjournment

- a. Motion by Nevinski, Second by Luger to adjourn at 2:00 PM – Motion Passed

Next meeting Wednesday, May 20, 2026. 9:00 AM Fire Station 1 Conference Room

Minutes prepared by Tom Fletcher, City of Greenwood