

**Excelsior Fire District Board
EXFD Governing Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 15, 2026**

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

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Excelsior Fire District (EXFD) Boardmembers: Chair Gallagher, Maddy, Jewett, Caron, and Broas.

Also present: Excelsior Fire District Interim Fire Chief Basinger; Deephaven Administrator Madsen; Shorewood City Administrator Nevinski; Tonka Bay City Administrator Peters; Excelsior City Manager Luger.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Maddy moved, Jewett seconded, approving the EXFD Governing Board meeting agenda, as presented. Motion passed 5/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 2026, EXFD Board Minutes

Chair Gallagher stated she had a correction to these minutes, as she was absent from that meeting, but it had her calling the meeting to order.

Boardmember Caron noted that on page two, the third paragraph stated that she said the packet needed to be updated. She stated she meant the policy in the packet needed updating, not the packet itself.

Boardmember Caron continued that through pages six and seven, she thought everywhere following EXFD, the word "Board" should follow for clarity. Chair Gallagher reiterated that "EXFD Board" should be used consistently throughout the minutes for clarity. Boardmember Caron noted that it does not need to be repeated throughout, and saying "Board" may be easier.

Boardmember Jewett noted that on page two, the first paragraph, it states the annual pension amount was listed as \$12,750, but it should have been \$12,075.

Caron moved, Maddy seconded, approving the EXFD Board Work Session Minutes of June 2026, with the corrections. Motion passed 5/0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Monthly Fire District Administrative Reports – June 2026**
- B. Report of the Operating Committee Minutes – June 2026**

Maddy moved, Broas seconded, approving the Consent Agenda, items A through B, as presented. Motion passed 5/0.

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5. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

No one wished to address the EXFD Board.

6. REPORT AGENDA

A. Fire Chief: Fire District Report/ Major All calls/Staffing update

Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted there were two major all calls, with a structure fire in Deephaven on July 4, and a second fire on Minnetonka Beach. No injuries were reported at either fire. There were a few calls on the lake on July 4; again, no injuries, but the wind and waves made it difficult.

Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that staffing levels are still at 43 firefighters. Interviews are continuing to hire five to six more firefighters that would move on to the Fire Academy in the fall.

Interim Fire Chief Basinger added that the Administrative Consultant Position has been posted on the League of Minnesota Cities website. Staff has also been looking at neighboring departments for their Fire Marshal positions to see how they are structured, as they look at their Fire Marshall to retire at the end of November.

Chair Gallagher asked if the fire at Minnetonka Beach called for mutual aid. Interim Fire Chief Basinger confirmed that was correct.

Chair Gallagher asked if there was discussion about how the Administrative Consultant will be reviewed. Mr. Nevinski responded that there have not been discussions about that.

Chair Gallagher asked if anything had been decided about doing a review with the Administrative Consultant every three months, especially if this individual is going to be hired soon.

Ms. Luger noted that because this is a temporary assignment, there will be a review of the position but not the person. She added that if the contract is not working, the contract will be cancelled.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2027 Budget

Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that the big question has been how to handle the bonding with the buildings. He stated he met with the Operating Committee and will continue discussions regarding bonding, but it will not have any budgetary impacts until 2028.

Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that web hosting will no longer be free beginning in August. Options are being explored now, but fees for web hosting can range anywhere from \$500 to \$1,500 per month and have been estimated and input into the budget at \$1,000 per month.

Boardmember Jewett stated he has a 2027 file and asked if it is different from the 2028 file being presented. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated he was on the wrong screen.

Interim Fire Chief Basinger added that a potential landscaping contract for both stations has been added to the operating budget. A line item for fireworks will also be added to the budget to track those costs. Firefighter time will also be tracked separately so the Fire Department knows exactly what it costs in

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Staff time for the Fourth of July weekend. Staff time for special events will also be tracked separately. For 2027, the budgeted time will be up to 400 hours of firefighter time for special events. This will give the Department a starting point to specifically track those hours and costs.

Boardmember Jewett asked where the \$30,000 came from. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated that Staff had to go back through timecards over the last three to four years and look at all the special events and calculate the number of Staff and hours, which came out to \$30,000.

Chair Gallagher asked if the \$17,000 would cover special events. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated \$8,000 is allocated for Fourth of July activities, and if the Department cannot cover special events with 400 firefighter hours in a year, then that is another conversation, especially if the Department is thinking about charging for it or getting reimbursed somehow.

Boardmember Caron asked if the \$8,000 came out of this year's Fourth of July or if that is a projection. Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that this year's Fourth of July cost \$7,300 and the Fire Department did not staff the morning 5K like they normally do, so the \$8,000 is a cushion for next year.

Boardmember Jewett stated invoices would not be sent for events like National Night Out when fire trucks visit neighborhood parties. Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that is why the budget has money set aside for special events, because the Department would not be invoicing each neighborhood for events like that.

Boardmember Caron asked if there is a line item for community service events. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated that previously it was all lumped under firefighter salaries. Boardmember Caron added that it would be good to know what events like a National Night Out cost versus a true special event, and have those separated.

Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated the goal is to track those costs more specifically as they move forward. Boardmember Caron noted that the community could be made aware then of what those events cost.

Chair Gallagher noted that it will be good that those events are separate line items if residents have questions about events costing more. Interim Fire Chief Basinger added that for reimbursable items, these events should be tracked separately.

Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that salary and benefits have stayed the same, and the CIP includes flat roofs, garage doors, and server hardware. Police are counting on bonding for their UPS system, which is a battery backup for a generator and is in the 2027 budget. Since it services the whole building, it will be a fifty-fifty split. The Fire Department budget includes \$75,000 for their half of the UPS system, with hopes that it will come in less than that.

Boardmember Maddy asked if that is a building-wide UPS system. Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that it is not designated outlets that are hardwired, but the HVAC system will be tied to it. Boardmember Maddy added that most of the components can take the 10-second downtime. Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that has been the discussion between the Fire Department and the Police Department, but this impacts the Police Department more, and anything with a building-wide impact is a fifty-fifty split.

Boardmember Jewett asked if the Police Department is sharing the roof repair costs. Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that the estimate for the roof was \$70,000 and each Department is giving \$35,000.

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Boardmember Caron asked if there is an agreement somewhere. Mr. Nevinski stated there was an agreement, but he has not looked at it in a while; when the building was built, there was an agreement that spelled out joint responsibilities.

Boardmember Jewett asked if the UPS is original to the building or if it was put in after it was built, and who paid for it then. Boardmember Maddy asked if the Police Department really needs the UPS system, what they have done for the last year and a half without one.

Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated that the Police Department has been using old battery backups, and right now the whole thing is switches and bypass. If this is pushed off until the 2028 budget or the bonding process, there is a potential risk of smaller electronics getting damaged during monthly startups.

Boardmember Caron asked what the bottom line is for these budget changes. Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that for 2027, with the UPS system added in, there is a 6.39 percent increase. The following year, with the bond payment for a truck, the CIP is looking at a 3.87 percent increase.

Chair Gallagher asked about the garage door opener fee of \$8,000. Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that fee is for big, heavy commercial doors, and the fees include new openers and doors. The Department has budgeted to replace two a year, and there are 12 doors total; if the Board would prefer to use bonding to pay for those doors, that can be discussed.

Chair Gallagher asked if the doors require a lot of maintenance. Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted they are maintained annually, but the doors that get used most frequently get wear and tear and can become unusable or need repair. Chair Gallagher asked if that line item includes maintenance fees. Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that there is a separate maintenance line item for the doors.

Chair Gallagher asked if the Department could get through the year without replacing any of them. Interim Fire Chief Basinger confirmed that doors themselves would not have to be replaced, but the openers have been cobbled together over the past 20 years.

Chair Gallagher asked what the line item CO/NO sensors are. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated those are carbon monoxide sensors that need to be replaced throughout the building.

Boardmember Caron asked what UPS stands for. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated it stands for Uninterrupted Power Supply.

Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated an MDC is a laptop or tablet that interfaces with the county's CAD system in the command vehicles.

Chair Gallagher asked if the Department already has those. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated they only have one left that is at the end of its useful life. The Department would get two new ones. Chair Gallagher asked how the Department would use those. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated the Department would use them instead of the radio during storms when there is a high influx of calls to all Departments across Hennepin County.

Boardmember Caron asked if this presentation can be sent to the Board with notes about what those types of items are.

Chair Gallagher thanked Rochelle Johnson for putting in the notes that she did.

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Boardmember Caron asked if there is a fund balance policy. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated it is 20 to 30 percent.

Boardmember Caron asked if the total cost breakdown by cities is \$174,202, and \$75,000 of that is for the UPS. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated that the total increase is correct.

Boardmember Maddy stated the Police Department is hurting for cash more than the Fire Department, and asked why the Police Department thinks this is good timing to get a new UPS. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated he does not know that answer, but the Police Department has been pushing for it for the past year.

Boardmember Maddy noted that three of the four cities would be paying that amount twice for something that the Fire Department does not really need. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated that he would have to defer to Justin to answer those questions, but to answer the previous question about whether or not there was anything that would not survive a 10 to 15 second lapse in power, he does not know.

Chair Gallagher added that it is a lot of money. Boardmember Maddy agreed, and noted that if the Fire Department does not need it, he is skeptical.

Boardmember Caron added that it is \$150,000 split between the four cities.

Chair Gallagher asked if other Fire Departments have a UPS system. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated he does not know how many have them as part of their generator backup. He stated he does not want to downplay Justin's argument for a UPS building-wide system, but he has concerns that when replacing it, other electrical issues may be found.

Boardmember Caron asked what the next step is to understand the idea better of splitting this cost with the Police Department. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated he had discussions with Justin about waiting a year and bonding for the new UPS, but Justin expressed concerns about losing electronics during power surges. Boardmember Caron asked if there is any other alternative.

Boardmember Maddy noted that a power surge sounds like a transfer switch issue, not a generator or battery issue. He noted that even hospitals do not have a building-wide UPS because most electronics can handle a 10-second outage.

Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated this was brought up last year as well, and he never heard back why individual battery backups could not be used instead.

Boardmember Maddy stated maybe he was missing something, and if there is a good reason for the building-wide UPS, the Board needs it.

Boardmember Caron asked where the budget is without the UPS added in.

Chair Gallagher noted that it would have been helpful to have the Police Department explain why they need the UPS system.

Boardmember Caron noted that this is something the Operating Committee needs to dive into. Ms. Luger added she does not recall this being brought up in any of their budget meetings.

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Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted the UPS was one of the first things the Police Department wanted included in the bond. Ms. Luger added that it is part of the building maintenance too, and was budgeted for \$65,000, but it was never discussed.

Mr. Nevinski added that there was discussion about two other big items that were being considered for bonding, and sometimes it was referred to as a battery backup. He noted that he thought the UPS system has been talked about more on the Police side than on the Fire side. Ms. Luger stated that she does not remember discussing it on the Police side. Mr. Nevinski stated he does remember the Chiefs talking about the fact that there is not one that currently works and the damage caused by a drop in power or a surge.

Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that because the EOC is tied to it, there may be a grant opportunity there. Boardmember Jewett asked what the EOC is.

Ms. Luger answered that it stands for the Emergency Operations Center.

Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that he was not sure there is a grant for \$150,000 for batteries and that it would be a year-long process.

Ms. Luger stated that the reality is the budget has to be set tonight. Boardmember Maddy noted that the budget can always be reduced later, so the budget can be set tonight and discussions can continue about the UPS system.

Mr. Nevinski asked if part of the issue is how the battery backup would be wired in and cannot be segregated out. Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that not all systems would be tied to the UPS, but there would be no way to segregate it.

Boardmember Jewett noted that it would be good to see the original payment structure when the building was built.

Chair Gallagher asked if the UPS sits next to the generator and is not being accessed. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated it looks like a big surge protector, almost like a 12-volt battery. Chair Gallagher asked how it would work if everyone used individual battery backups.

Boardmember Maddy noted that right now it is in bypass mode so electricity does not even touch it.

Boardmember Jewett asked about the salary increase of three percent, and the Fire Marshall salary pay range. Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted the salary for the Fire Marshall will be between \$105,000 and \$110,000. The Department has not had a part-time inspector for most of the year, and that is not a feasible position moving forward, so both roles would be handled by the Fire Marshall in the future.

Boardmember Jewett asked if they are creating that new role at Minnetonka. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated the previous Fire Marshall there passed away, and they will be posting the open position, which will give the EXFD Board an idea of what the applicant pool is.

Boardmember Jewett asked what the timing is for the Battalion Chief 3 position. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated that if the budget is approved, they would post that position in October for an early January start.

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Boardmember Jewett asked about the firefighter salary increase. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated the salary is set at \$24.00 per hour right now.

Boardmember Caron noted that in the July budget, the rate was listed at \$23.00 per hour. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated that the numbers they have been looking at tonight include the \$24.00 per hour rate.

Boardmember Jewett asked about duty officer pay and weekend overnight duty crew pay. Interim Fire Chief Basinger explained that for overnights there are stipends; it is not an hourly rate. On Sunday through Thursday, the stipend is \$80 a night, and Friday and Saturday it is \$100 to do an overnight shift. The Duty Officers are paid a \$100 stipend per day. Boardmember Jewett asked how many hours they have to be there. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated the Duty Officer is there for a 24-hour shift. The Battalion Chief has been taking over that role when necessary. The Duty Officer will take the duty truck and can be at home and go straight to the scene when a call comes in.

Boardmember Jewett stated his total personnel services number was \$1,948,000, but Interim Fire Chief Basinger's number is \$1,978,000, and asked what that increase is from 2026. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated the previous number was \$1,729,988 and there is a 14.37 percent increase. Boardmember Jewett noted that number is what he wants to draw his attention to and understand.

Chair Gallagher asked why it says \$23.00 an hour versus \$24.00. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated that an updated budget was not sent out after the last meeting.

Boardmember Caron asked where the \$24.00 per hour rate puts them compared to other districts. Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that it is difficult to compare, but with the pension and hourly rate, they would be in the upper tier.

Boardmember Caron asked what the plan is now that the hourly rate has been set to \$24.00 per hour. Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that now that the rate is \$24.00, they will assess rates next year.

Boardmember Caron asked if Battalion Chiefs are paid duty crew hours in addition to salary. Interim Fire Chief Basinger stated they fill the duty officer role, but as part of their salary position.

Boardmember Jewett noted that the Board voted a year ago that if an employee is a non-exempt employee, they cannot get paid hourly.

Boardmember Caron stated that all firefighters are required to participate in duty crew to maintain their pension, and asked if the Board knows what a firefighter makes annually. Interim Fire Chief Basinger responded that it depends on how many shifts they work. Some firefighters make it a part-time job, with a minimum requirement of two overnight shifts, with the majority doing three or four. Hours are capped at 120 per month.

Boardmember Caron asked if the Fire Inspection role will change in some way. Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that the inspector role originally was to inspect special events. A firefighter could not be a permanent part-time inspector, so the current Fire Marshal started picking up those inspections.

Chair Gallagher added that the current Fire Marshal has been doing a lot of education, and asked if the new hire will do that as well or if the role will be tailored down. Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that, when looking at all the expectations of the role of Fire Marshal, priorities for the cities need to be set to determine what the new hire will focus on.

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Chair Gallagher asked if Interim Fire Chief Basinger would ask the cities what their priorities are for the Fire Marshal position. Interim Fire Chief Basinger noted that would be helpful, because each of the cities has its own priorities.

Chair Gallagher asked if the Board needed to make a motion to approve this budget. Boardmember Jewett noted that there is not another meeting scheduled until September.

Boardmember Maddy added that it needed to be approved now unless the Board wanted to have a special meeting. He noted he is comfortable approving the budget as is, and having further discussions about alternatives for the UPS system.

Maddy moved, seconded by Jewett, to approve the proposed 2027 Fire District budget, with ongoing discussions with the Police Department regarding the UPS system. Motion passed 5/0.

B. Proposed JPA amendments

Boardmember Jewett noted that the proposed JPA amendment from the May meeting has gone out to all the cities. The Board can now discuss and provide feedback.

Mr. Broas noted that he presented it to Tonka Bay City Council and it was the consensus among the Council not to reopen the JPA.

Boardmember Caron added that there was a discussion at a Work Session in Excelsior, and while there is some outdated language that is easy fixes, the Council unanimously agreed they did not want to open up the full JPA for discussion or make any changes beyond the easy language fixes.

Boardmember Maddy noted that the consensus for the Shorewood Council was that if the JPA did get reopened, the Council wanted to see what that would look like first with an Administrator, and wanted to wait. Mr. Nevinski agreed and noted that there is hesitancy with the Council right now to open the JPA with everything else that is happening right now.

Chair Gallagher added that the Greenwood City Council had questions about language in the JPA, and if there could be compromise with some of the points that could get full consensus, but the timing is not right to make changes right now.

Boardmember Jewett noted that changing the JPA is an endeavor, but section five does talk about a Fire Chief and a District Administrator as two separate entities, with the District Administrator being the only full-time paid position. This is problematic with how the Board is going to operate with the JPA, as they look to hire both positions. He added that it needs to be addressed with an evolving formula of who pays for what in the Fire District, and there is never going to be a good time to change a document. There is an evolving formula for what cities pay that is reviewed every three years in the Police Department's JPA that would work well for the Fire District. He noted that there is a member of the Board that is not happy with the way the JPA is written, and pays 30 percent into the Fire District; it is worth the time to figure something out. He added that DeePhaven proposed amendment changes that have to be presented to the Board, and after review, a report must be issued to the member cities within 90 days.

Boardmember Caron asked where Boardmember Jewett was reading that. Boardmember Jewett responded that section 15, under amendment of the agreement, spells out this process.

Boardmember Jewett added that the fact that other Councils agreed that some of the language needs to be cleaned up, but not the language that was proposed by DeePhaven, is an admission that things need to

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be cleaned up. He noted that all members of the Board are there to represent their city's taxpayers and pay appropriately for the service their residents are getting, but Deephaven is paying the Fire District well over \$800,000 this year. He noted that Tonka Bay is also overpaying for its use of the Fire District, and it would be to Tonka Bay's benefit to look at the payment structure in the JPA.

Mr. Broas stated that Tonka Bay is well aware of the discrepancy, and the Council knows that they are using the Fire District less than what they are paying for, but this involves a large piece of the JPA to revisit. He noted that he agreed with several of Boardmember Jewett's other comments, but he brought the JPA to Tonka Bay's Council, and their consensus was not to revisit the JPA at this time.

Boardmember Jewett noted that means Tonka Bay will not get a good deal. Mr. Broas added that holistically, a lot of changes to the JPA were proposed, which eliminated the Council's appetite to revisit the JPA.

Chair Gallagher stated that since most cities are not willing to revisit the entire JPA, she asked if things can be changed one at a time.

Mr. Broas stated his understanding is that there would be a vote to reopen the JPA for revisions, and at that point negotiations would begin not just about small language changes or specific things related to usage versus payment but everything in the JPA that was determined a long time ago.

Boardmember Jewett noted there is no definition of opening up the JPA; that is a made-up term people use to talk about amendments. The point of amending the JPA is that if someone proposes an amendment, each City votes by resolution to approve the amendment, and the JPA is amended. Deephaven did put 15 to 20 amendments into one resolution, which requires a lot of discussion, but a one-item change is allowed.

Chair Gallagher added that the JPA has not been looked at for amendment in 15 years. Mr. Broas pointed out it was last amended in 2011, which is why he felt like it was time, and he can bring it back to Tonka Bay's Council and explain that the EXFD Board wants a more targeted approach, but right now the Council does not want to revisit the JPA.

Boardmember Caron stated the process is not as simple as it sounds. Previous discussions were about amendments regarding the Operating Committee responsibilities and not opening up the whole JPA. Revising a document that is this complex will require multiple conversations and is a long process.

Chair Gallagher asked if the proposed amendments are up for discussion in order to come to a compromise.

Boardmember Caron added that other work needs to be done here. The EXFD Board does not have bylaws, which is not a small task either. The Board has other things they need to be looking at, and next year, if there is an appetite to start a JPA discussion, then the core work will be completed, especially as a new Board.

Boardmember Jewett asked if Boardmember Caron would be willing to adopt the same pay formula that the South Lake Police Department uses for the Fire District.

Boardmember Caron stated that Excelsior would most likely say no to that. The formula is structured now so that it equalizes across the cities. Boardmember Jewett pointed out that it equalizes for all the cities except Excelsior.

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Boardmember Caron stated that Boardmember Jewett is only looking at it one way, which is via tax capacity. It equalizes what each household pays across the entire Fire District. To have that conversation, modeling would have to occur to show the current formula and what that means per household, as well as looking at a new formula. When the cities landed on the original JPA language, it took mediation, which is another long process.

Boardmember Jewett stated that the Police Department uses population, tax capacity, and incident call reports. In the Fire Department, the policy just uses tax capacity. Boardmember Caron noted that the Fire Department is using that policy for the reasons she stated, and Excelsior is not going to be interested in more discussions.

Boardmember Jewett asked why Boardmember Caron agreed to that formula for the Police Department. Boardmember Caron stated that it was a mediated formula, because at that time, Excelsior took some steps that other cities disagreed with, and to resolve that disagreement, all the cities went into mediation, and it took months.

Ms. Luger added that it was an arbitration decision; it was not a mediation in the end. The difference with fire service is that fire service is trying to protect the value of properties, which is why using the value of properties makes sense. This has been looked at holistically as a district to try and protect value, which is a common formula type to use for Fire Districts. This fire formula looks at the size of the cities, what structures look like, and the bigger the structure, the more complicated and valuable the property is.

Mr. Madsen stated that a lot of Fire Department JPA's have different formulas and factor in usage, actual fires, and non-fire-related calls. There is value in having more metrics than solely property valuation, but it is debatable.

Ms. Luger stated that they do not want to open up Pandora's Box either because the Board has been operating as one unit, which has worked, but when the conversation shifts to who the winners and losers are, more things get brought up. She noted that Excelsior does not need a pumper truck, and asked if it is fair that Excelsior is paying for a truck that the city does not need. She noted that those debates do not happen because it is about the Fire District as a whole.

Mr. Madsen noted this is why there is a process to discuss changes and the Board decides.

Boardmember Caron stated that this is asking to open up a lot of messy things, people get angry, and it creates concern among the people that live and work in the Fire District. There are other things that should take priority after the significant change the Fire District has had before talking about the JPA. She stated per the policy in section 15.2, each of the Board members gave their report to their member City Councils, and the City Councils need to adopt their resolution stating their positions on it.

Boardmember Maddy added that the protection of property argument does not hold, because 80 percent of calls are medical.

Mr. Broas added that even though there is a lot of emotion around this conversation, this is the best conversation he has ever had regarding this topic. It is important to remember that everyone is trying to do the best thing for their member city residents.

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Boardmember Jewett stated that the other piece in the Police JPA voting structure is that everything the JPA requires a four-out-of-four vote to pass anything. He asked if the Board would be willing to change it to either a two-thirds majority or a five-out-of-five majority to get things through.

Mr. Broas stated the Tonka Bay Council does not want to make any changes to the JPA at this time.

Boardmember Jewett stated that for the capital expenses, it requires a two-thirds majority vote, but the operating expenses require a simple majority vote. He asked if the Board would be willing to make operating expenses require a two-thirds majority.

Boardmember Caron asked if Boardmember Jewett is saying something different from what was given to the Board before.

Boardmember Jewett stated he is now looking at the Police Department's JPA to find consensus. Mr. Broas asked if the revision of the JPA includes the two-thirds majority rule too and is looking to expand it to all decisions, not just majority rule. Boardmember Jewett confirmed that is correct.

Boardmember Caron asked if this means it would have to be a supermajority vote for everything. Boardmember Jewett confirmed and asked if the Board would be willing to do that. Boardmember Caron noted that the Excelsior does not want to open the JPA conversation this year.

Boardmember Jewett asked what would make Excelsior open the JPA discussion. Boardmember Caron stated the outdated language is what the Excelsior Council identified.

Mr. Broas asked if updating the language is enough to incentivize reopening the JPA. Boardmember Caron stated she did not ask the Excelsior City Council that question and cannot make that decision for the Council.

Mr. Broas asked that question because the formality of the Operating Committee and their role was initially one of the reasons why Tonka Bay wanted to revisit the conversation, but it still was not enough to reopen the JPA.

Boardmember Caron stated her view that the Operating Committee was an amendment, not fully reopening the JPA and looking at everything. A language update is modernizing it and requires legal help, because changing words changes meanings.

Boardmember Jewett added that everyone on the Board has the common goal for the best fire service possible, but paying the bill for that service is also a big component. He noted he did not know what the budget was in 2001, but now it is \$2.9 million, which is a massive number, and the Fire Department gets used the most in Excelsior and Shorewood. He asked how much everybody is comfortable paying for that, and noted the JPA pay policy has not been touched since 2001, and that is not okay anymore. While the Board wants to wait and discuss it more next year, the cities will all be in the same position regarding who is paying the most and who is using the Fire District the most. He stated he will take this as a report back to Deephaven and see what happens next, but overall the policy is unfair, and he has to speak up for his city.

Mr. Broas noted that Tonka Bay pays 13 or 14 percent, and their calls are less than other cities, but he does not see it as unfair because of how the policy was formulated using house values and other factors. He added that calculating the price formula based on population and number of calls is too

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straightforward. He noted that he understands where Boardmember Jewett is coming from, and will bring it back to Tonka Bay's City Council so they understand how other member cities are feeling.

Boardmember Maddy added that the community does not stop at a political line, and a lot of the calls in Excelsior are not made by Excelsior taxpayers. He added that if one city fails, all the cities lose out, and that is how he has made peace with what they are paying for the Fire District on paper. There has been direction given from four Councils, and nothing is going to happen tonight. He asked if this is going to be put to rest, or if the Board needs to make a plan to move forward.

Ms. Luger added that she is involved with the Police JPA, and right now they are going through some struggles, and it is affecting officers, in that they are thinking about leaving. She stated there has been a lot of time spent trying to protect the firefighters to try and stabilize the District. She added that while she understands where Boardmember Jewett is coming from, he should be very careful and aware that JPA conversations are very disruptive for everyone.

Boardmember Caron thanked Boardmember Caron for his comments about Excelsior, and noted that Excelsior does not track who is making calls while in Excelsior. The more the Board can function as a community within the Fire District, the JPA, and the Police force.

Chair Gallagher stated everyone has given direction, and asked if the Board needs to vote on anything.

Boardmember Caron asked for some clarity on section 15.2, so everyone is comfortable.

Chair Gallagher noted that 15.2 reads that any member City may propose amendments to this agreement. Such amendments shall be in the form of a Board or City Council resolution, and shall clearly identify the proposed amendment and the reasons for the amendment. Any such proposed amendment shall be presented to the Board. The Board shall review the proposed amendment and issue a report on it to the member cities within 90 days of the proposed amendment. She noted that the member cities have done all of those so far. She continued that member cities shall have 90 days after the Board issues its report in which to adopt City Council resolutions as identified in section 15.1

Boardmember Caron asked if everyone is reading that as each City Council needs to pass a resolution stating their position.

Mr. Broas noted that it seems like that would be something: if there was a change being proposed and the City Council supported it, then the next step would be a resolution, but there is no interest, so therefore there is no need for a resolution. Boardmember Caron stated that is how she read it too, but she thought she heard something different from Deephaven.

Boardmember Jewett stated he is understanding it differently now, but it is probably worth asking the Attorney to ask how to proceed.

Chair Gallagher stated that this could be brought forward again in a different format and other amendments may come up at the next meeting. Boardmember Jewett stated he would like clarity from the Board Attorney on the process, and wait for the next meeting.

Chair Gallagher asked if Boardmember Jewett would contact the Board Attorney. Boardmember Jewett confirmed he could contact the Board Attorney.

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Boardmember Caron asked if this was an Operating Committee task and normally the ones that communicate with the Attorney. Ms. Luger confirmed that was correct and certainly can reach out to the Attorney.

Boardmember Jewett stated it could be an email to explain how Section 15.2 applies to this process.

Mr. Madsen noted that if it is truly just an email asking how to get through Section 15.2, Interim Fire Chief Basinger would be the best person to communicate with the Attorney.

Mr. Broas stated that the email should clarify that even if there was some need to create a resolution, that resolution could contain nothing because no action is being taken. Boardmember Caron stated it would seem like there is no action needed, but there should be some clarity.

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. NEXT MEETING

A. Fire Board Meeting September 23, 2026, at 18:00

Chair Gallagher confirmed the next meeting will be on September 23, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

10. ADJOURNMENT

(2:12:32) Maddy moved, Broas seconded to adjourn the EXFD Governing Board Meeting of June 24, 2026, at 8:11 P.M. Motion passed 5/0.