

**MINUTES
LAKE CRYSTAL CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.
City Hall Community Room
100 E. Robinson St.**

Mayor Todd Wiens called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Members present: Councilors Brett Hanson, Gina Cooper, Michael Turgeon, and Susan Gengler.

Staff members present: Angela Grafstrom, City Administrator; Teri Hobart, Office Manager; Megan Hutchens, Administrative Assistant; Christopher Kennedy, City Attorney; Greg Burkhardt, City Auditor; Jeff Becker, Lake Crystal Fire Department; & Rhonda Ingebritson, Lake Crystal Ambulance Department

Others present: Gary Reed, Lake Crystal Fire Department

There are no actions for tonight's meeting. Both workshops are informational and discussion meetings intended as a starting point for potential council meeting actions.

Ambulance Workshop

There are currently 17 active members of the ambulance. EMT's, EMR's are staffed, but there are currently no paramedics. Along with the surrounding areas, the Lake Crystal Ambulance is also struggling with staffing shortages and an increase in calls and runs. Rhonda discussed two potential pay incentives to the council to encourage employee retention and to draw in new applicants. One incentive being an increase in hourly pay for runs on top of on-call pay and the other a stipend based on employment longevity. With either pay incentives, employees will be paid monthly. Rhonda also discussed a recruiting program with South Central College paramedic students. Before any changes can be made to the ambulance budget, the council needs to decide on whether the ambulance should be made into a department of the city, a cooperative, or continue as its own entity. An evaluation will be made in surrounding cities on how the ambulance is run per city. There was also a small discussion regarding the option of combining the ambulance with the fire department.

Fire Department Workshop

There are currently 27 active members of the fire department. After the first of the year, staffing will go down to 26 with the retirement of Tim Smith.

The Rural Fire Association is composed of 5 surrounding townships; Lincoln, Butternut, Judson, Garden City, and Rapidan. Currently, there is not an official agreement or contract between the department and association; only an agreement between the city and each township dating back to 2014. Kennedy recommended the next route of action is to develop a joint powers agreement between the fire department and the Rural Fire Association for a clear explanation of responsibilities, equipment, financial structure, operating budget, and billing. Jeff collected five contracts from surrounding cities as a guide to develop an agreement with the association.

Adjournment:

There being no further business of the Lake Crystal City Council, Mayor Todd Wiens adjourned the workshop meeting of November 16, 2022. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Todd Wiens, Mayor

Angela Grafstrom, City Administrator