

**CENTENNIAL LAKES
JOINT POWERS POLICE GOVERNING BOARD
Monday, August 12, 2024
Centennial Lakes Police Department**

1. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

D. Love, Centerville Mayor (**Chair**)
Darrin Mosher, Centerville Councilmember
Dave Bartholomay, Circle Pines Mayor
Nici Dorner, Circle Pines Councilmember
Gary Grote, Lexington Mayor
Brandon Winge, Lexington Councilmember

Also Present:

Mark Statz, Centerville City Administrator
Patrick Antonen, Circle Pines City Administrator
Chief James Mork, Centennial Lakes Police
Kathy Honkomp, Centennial Lakes Police

2. CITIZEN FORUM

None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA WITH CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

A motion was made by D. Bartholomay and seconded by N. Dorner to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. None opposed.

4. NEW COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER INTRODUCTION

A. Introduction of Community Service Officer Mara Smith

Chief Mork introduced Community Service Officer Mara Smith. Mara grew up in White Bear Lake and currently attends Century College where she is a law enforcement student. Mara also volunteers as a security staff member at Eagle Brook Church in Lino Lakes. During Mara's first few weeks with CLPD, she helped organize a bike rodeo for kids. She also rescued a brood of baby woodpeckers after a wind storm in Lexington. Mara thanked everyone and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to work at CLPD.

5. SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

A. New Officer Introduction and Oath, Seamus Linderholm

Chief Mork introduced Officer Seamus Linderholm. Seamus grew up in Blaine and attended Alexandria Technical and Community College where he obtained his associates degree in law enforcement. Most recently, Seamus worked at the Washington County Sheriffs department as a deputy in the jail division. At the jail facility, Seamus worked as an FTO, Emergency Response team member, and juvenile care attendant. While working at the jail, Seamus became an expert at de-escalation. Seamus mother, Denise, pinned his badge on him.

B. New Officer Introduction and oath, Michael Gustafson

Chief Mork introduced Officer Michael Gustafson. Michael is a graduate of Park Center High School. He studied law enforcement at North Hennepin Community College and he attended Minneapolis Community and Technical College for his skills program. He was hired by the Minneapolis Police Department and worked there for over 16 years. Michael worked for the past eight years at MPD in the digital forensics' unit of the crime lab. His job included data extractions and analysis on cell phones and computers. He also worked patrol shifts and overtime for special details as needed. Michael's wife, Amanda, pinned his badge on him.

***** The meeting was re-convened at 7:25 p.m. following a brief reception *****

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Mork updated the Governing Board on the success of Night to Unite held on Tuesday, August 6th. There were around 16 Night to Unite neighborhood parties among the three cities. It was a great opportunity for CLPD Officers to meet with people in the community.

A new entry gate that gives CLPD employees access to the secure parking area has been ordered. The current gate sporadically fails to operate correctly. The new gate will be installed sometime this fall.

The concrete located at CLPD's front entrance to the lobby is in rough shape. The concrete is scheduled to be torn up in October and replaced with asphalt which will add more parking spaces.

Officer Chamberland has given his notice with CLPD and has accepted a position with Blaine PD. CLPD is in the process of advertising to hire a replacement officer.

During the Lexington City Council meeting on August 1st, Allina paramedics conducted a Life Saving Awards ceremony. Allina paramedics wanted to formally recognize the efforts from the May 2024 incident when CLPD was dispatched to a male who was not breathing. With the efforts from CLPD, Lexington Fire, and Allina paramedics, they were able to restart a heartbeat and save his life. From CLPD, Sergeant Nolan Wahlberg, Officer Rey Hernandez, and Officer Seamus Linderholm received the Life Saving Award.

7. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE'S REPORT

City Administrator M. Statz stated that the Operations Committee has been working on some minor labor policy issues. The issues have been resolved without going through arbitration.

Also, the Operations Committee has been working on the 2025 budget and some goals for the future of the department.

D. Love questioned when we will hear if CLPD has been awarded the COPS grant. If awarded, the COPS grant would provide \$125,000 over a three-year period to help cover the expenses of an officers' salary. Chief Mork thought we would hear sometime in October.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of May 13, 2024**
- B. Financials – Unaudited**

A motion was made by G. Grote to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by B. Winge. Motion carried. None opposed.

9. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- A. A contract to provide law enforcement assistance to the City of Blaine during the 3M Open Golf Tournament from July 22-28, 2024.**

Blaine PD was in need for additional staffing for the 3M Open tournament that ran from July 22 through July 28, 2024. Two CLPD officers were able to help. The Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Blaine provided is the exact same document as used in the past. City Administrator M. Statz is asking for a retroactive approval from the Governing Board.

A motion was made by D. Bartholomay to approve the contract to provide law enforcement assistance to the City of Blaine during the 3M Open Golf Tournament as presented. Motion was seconded by N. Dorner. Motion carried. None opposed.

- B. Agreement with Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) for the Local No. 562 Captain 2024-2025.**

City Administrator M. Statz stated that the newly formed Captain's Union representative and the members of the Operations Committee came to a tentative agreement, pending approval from the Governing Board. The agreement will cover 2024 and 2025 with wages paid retroactively from January 1, 2024. The agreed-upon wage scale for the captain's position is \$62.53/hr. for 2024 and \$64.41/hr. (3%) for 2025. The Operations Committee feels that these wages are competitive when compared to Captains at similarly sized departments.

D. Bartholomay questioned and City Administrator M. Statz confirmed that Captain Aldrich's duties have not changed since he has joined the union.

D. Moser asked if the Captain will receive all the same benefits that he did before joining a union, like having a department vehicle to commute to work. Chief Mork shared that providing a department vehicle for a command staff level position is fairly common. It allows the employee to have a quicker response time if called in to work for an emergency.

D. Love confirmed that the Captain position continues to be a non-exempt position.

A motion was made by D. Bartholomay to approve the contract with LELS – Local 562 Captains for 2024-2025 as presented. Motion was seconded by B. Winge. Motion carried. None opposed.

C. Employee Handbook update: Full-time, part-time, and temporary employees (including seasonal and interns) are eligible for ESST.

City Administrator M. Statz explained that employees in Minnesota are legally entitled to earn sick and safe time (ESST), a form of paid leave. CLPD has incorporated the ESST requirements into the existing Sick Leave benefit in the non-union Employee Handbook. No additional ESST paid leave time is granted in excess of the existing Sick Leave benefit accruals for employees currently receiving sick time.

Sick days/Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) is paid leave employees can use when an employee is sick, to care for a sick family member or to seek assistance if an employee or family member has experienced domestic abuse, sexual assault or stalking.

This agreement shall be in effect retroactively from January 1, 2024.

D. Love questioned how ESST impacts mental illness and PTSD. Chief Mork explained that CLPD's Mental Health program is set up to help with that. Officers are mandated to see a therapist once a year. They have the option to continue seeing the therapist if they choose.

A motion was made by G. Grote and second by N. Dorner to approve the Non-Union Employee Handbook updates as presented. Motion carried. None opposed.

D. 2025 Proposed CLPD Budget.

The 2025 CLPD proposed budget is \$3,485,640, up from the 2024 budget of \$3,362,264. The 2025 budget has a 3.7 percent increase in expenditures compared to the 8.3 percent increase last year. There are moderate increases in expenses related to Metro-INET and Property/Liability Insurance. Full-time salaries increased 7.4 percent, largely due to adding an additional officer position and partly due to STEP and COLA increases.

City Administrator P. Antonen stated that \$45,000 was added to the budget from CLPD's healthy \$794,398 reserve fund to alleviate the increased expenditures from each city for 2025.

The capital amount for police vehicles has been increased by \$10,000 due to the rising costs of vehicles.

A motion was made by D. Bartholomay and second by N. Dorner to approve the 2025 budget as presented. Motion carried. None opposed.

10. ADJOURNMENT – 8:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by G. Grote and seconded by B. Winge. Motion carried. None opposed.