

This text was copied unaltered to post on the Friends of Orono website on 4/13/24. All grammatical and spelling errors are as presented. Please do note that we have found several misleading statements within this document and find the meandering text confusing at best.

In full disclosure, Ms. Veach is married to a Firefighter that will gain a pension and pay from the Orono Fire Department. This is the department that Ms. Veach is advocating for here. The costs without increased services seem exorbitant. Please see our Youtube channel for more details: You can watch Ms. Veach read this text into the public record here:

TODAY, MY MAYOR COUNCIL ADDRESSES LONG AND OUT OF RESPECT FOR THOSE THAT WANT TO HEAR IT, THAT WANT TO LISTEN, I REQUEST CIVILITY FROM THOSE ATTENDING.

I WOULD LOVE TO PROVIDE THIS IN WRITING, EASY TO READ WITH GRAPHS AND BULLET POINTS TO MAKE MY NOTES EASILY TO DIGEST.

BUT OUT OF RESPECT FOR MY FELLOW COUNCIL MEMBERS, I WANT TO PROVIDE IT VERBALLY FIRST BEFORE I PREPARE ANYTHING.

I WANT TO BE ABLE TO COLLABORATE WITH THEM IF THEY FEEL I HAVE MISREPRESENTED ANY INFORMATION OR FEEL I'VE MISSED IMPORTANT IDEAS BEFORE I PREPARE IT.

I ALSO NEEDED TO CUT DOWN MY FIRST VERSION, WHICH WAS NEARLY 15 PAGES LONG AND ABOUT 35 MINUTES TO READ, SO OUT OF RESPECT FOR EVERYONE'S TIME, I'LL START.

I'D LIKE TO ADDRESS A CRUCIAL CHANGE THAT OUR CITY IS UNDERGOING SWITCHING FROM CONTRACTING FIRE SERVICE AND BRINGING IT IN HOUSE.

THE DECISION IS NOT ONE TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY, AS IT HAS AN ELEMENT OF SAFETY AND IT COMES AT AN INVESTMENT.

ALTHOUGH THE DECISION WAS MADE BEFORE I STARTED ON COUNCIL, ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN WHY THE TRANSITION IS RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE AND IN MY OPINION NOT ONLY NECESSARY BUT ALSO ADVANTAGEOUS FOR OUR CITY AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES AND IN THE LONG TERM INTEREST OF ORONO TAXPAYERS.

I WILL EXPLAIN HOW THIS DECISION CREATES A LONG TERM FINANCIAL BENEFIT TO THE CITY.

I WILL EXPLAIN HOW THE NEW ORONO FIRE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR CITY TO BUILD EFFICIENCIES TO

CONTROL COSTS WITH INCREASED SUPPORT FROM STAFF AND HOW THIS CHANGE WILL SEEK IMPROVEMENTS IN SAFETY BY CHANGING THE SERVICE MODEL, ALL WHILE PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR NEIGHBORING CITIES.

FIRST, I'LL START WITH SUPPORT FROM STAFF.

BRINGING FIRE SERVICE IN HOUSE, ALLOWS THE ROBUST STAFF AT ORONO CITY TO HAVE GREATER CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE QUALITY AND SERVICE PROVIDED.

TO BE CLEAR, THAT IS NOT BECAUSE WE ARE RECEIVING POOR QUALITY, BUT BECAUSE WE ARE LOOKING TO EVOLVE HOW WE OFFER SERVICE.

FIRE SERVICE AS TRADITIONALLY PROVIDED IS UNDER PRESSURE NATIONWIDE TO CHANGE AND ADAPT.

THIS SHIFT IN OWNERSHIP ENHANCES OUR ABILITY TO DO SO.

BY DIRECTLY MANAGING OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT, WE CAN ENSURE THEY ARE ADEQUATELY TRAINED, STAFFED, EQUIPPED, AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OUR CITY UNDER THE NEW SERVICE MODEL, JUST AS THEY ARE AND THEIR CURRENT SERVICE MODEL.

YES, THERE WILL BE START UP COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TRANSITION, BUT OUR GOAL SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE, AND BY THAT I MEAN SETTING THE STAGE FOR LONG TERM SUCCESS.

WHILE CONTRACTING, AS WE DO CURRENTLY, MAY SEEM FINANCIALLY ATTRACTIVE, WE LOSE THE ABILITY TO UTILIZE ALL OF OUR CITY'S RESOURCES.

BY ESTABLISHING OUR OWN FIRE DEPARTMENT, WE CAN STREAMLINE OPERATIONS,

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ELIMINATE MIDDLEMAN EXPENSE, AND ALLOCATE RESOURCES MORE EFFECTIVELY, ULTIMATELY, BETTER UTILIZING TAXPAYER DOLLARS.

CHIEF ANIL HAS OUTLINED MANY OF THESE COST SAVING OPPORTUNITIES IN HIS NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROVIDED AT THE JUNE 12 MEETING LAST YEAR.

ONE EXAMPLE I'LL NOTE IS THE COST SAVINGS TO HAVE OUR CITY STAFF, WHO ALREADY ADDRESSED THE MECHANICAL NEEDS OF OUR POLICE FLEET, TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT AS WELL.

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE NEEDS OF SUPPORT FROM CITY STAFFING, EVEN IN THE MOST RECENT AUDIT, THE AUDITOR OF LONG LAKE POINTED OUT THE EXISTENCE OF LIMITED SEGREGATION OF DUTIES, MEANING ONE PERSON WEARING MANY HATS INCREASES THE RISK OF ERROR.

THE ROBUST STAFF AT ORONO WOULD PROVIDE MORE RESOURCES BENEFITING THE DEPARTMENT, OUR TAXPAYERS, AND THE CITIES WE CAN SERVE.

ON ONE OCCASION AS A MEMBER OF THE FIRE ADVISORY BOARD TASKED WITH REVIEWING THE OPERATIONAL BUDGETS, WE AT ORONO WERE NOT PROVIDED THE BUDGETS TO REVIEW IN ADVANCE.

ANOTHER MEETING, WE WEREN'T PROVIDED ANY SUPPORTING INFORMATION TO JUSTIFY A LARGE INCREASE TO THE BUDGET IN ADVANCE.

WEAVING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT INTO OUR BUDGETING PROCESS AT ORONO, WITH THE HELP OF OUR FINANCE STAFF, WILL ALLOW US THE OPPORTUNITY TO YIELD POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND THE CITIZENS IT SERVES.

NEXT, I'LL ADDRESS WHY THE TRANSITION OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE IMPROVEMENTS IN SAFETY.

THE DECISION TO TRANSITION FIRE SERVICE IS ROOTED IN THE COMMITMENT TO SAFETY, PROSPERITY, AND COHESION OF THE CITY.

BY EMBRACING THIS CHANGE, WE EMPOWER OURSELVES TO BETTER PROTECT AND SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WHILE OPTIMIZING RESOURCES.

BEFORE I WAS APPOINTED, I WAS FOLLOWING THIS DEVELOPMENT OF FIRE SERVICE, AS AN INVESTED FIRE WIFE AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY MEMBER, I HAD REACHED OUT TO BOTH CITIES TO URGE THEM TO GIVE THE PROGRAM A REFRESH THAT WAS NEEDED.

THERE ARE WAYS OUTSIDE OF OUR CURRENT CONTRACT WE COULD EVOLVE TOGETHER WITH OUR NEIGHBORS, BUT WITH THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE CURRENT CONTRACT, IT IS HARD TO START THAT PROCESS.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT INTERIM SOLUTIONS THAT SATISFY OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFETY WHILE WE WAIT FOR OUR CONTRACT TO END AND GAIN FULL ACCESS TO STATION 2, WHICH WE OWN COMPLETELY ON OUR BEHALF OF STATION NUMBER 1, WHICH WE WILL BE ABLE TO SHARE STARTING JANUARY 1ST OF 26.

IT TAKES TIME TO TRAIN AND ESTABLISH A TEAM AND THAT IS THE REASON THAT WE ARE STARTING BEFORE THE CONTRACT IS ENDING.

A DEPARTMENT CAN'T START OVERNIGHT.

WE ALREADY HAVE NINE PAID ON CALL FIREFIGHTERS AND 10 PART TIME DUTY CREW FIREFIGHTERS FOR A TOTAL OF 19 MEMBERS.

THIS IS ALMOST DOUBLE WHAT EXISTS IN LONG LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR STATION 2 CURRENTLY.

NEARLY DOUBLING THE STAFF IS A SAFETY IMPROVEMENT.

DOUBLING THE TIMES OF DAY, WE HAVE RESPONDERS AT THE STATION IS A SAFETY IMPROVEMENT.

WITH THREE MONTHS TO GO, WE ARE STILL ALLOWED TO GROW THAT NUMBER WITH OTHER PART TIME FIREFIGHTERS AND PAID ON CALL MEMBERS, INCLUDING THOSE OF LLFD IF THEY SO DESIRE AS LONG AS THEY ARE ABLE TO SEEK THE CONSENT OF THE CITY OF LONG LAKE.

SCHEDULES ARE BEING SET TO IMPROVE SAFETY BY HAVING RESPONDERS AVAILABLE FASTER AND CLOSER TO THE CALL.

WE WILL ALSO KNOW WITH CERTAINTY WHO WILL BE RESPONDING TO THE MAJORITY OF CALLS YET ANOTHER IMPROVEMENT IN SAFETY.

IT WILL ALSO LIMIT THE NEED FOR PAID ON CALL MEMBERS TO BE OUR ONLY LINE OF DEFENSE AS WE LOOK TOWARDS THE FUTURE AND WHAT A HYBRID MODEL COULD LOOK LIKE.

NOW I'LL SPEAK ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS.

THE TENSION THAT EXISTS BETWEEN LONG LAKE AND ORONO COMMUNITIES CAN BE MENDED.

IT TAKES EFFECTIVE CHANGE MANAGEMENT, AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT INVOLVES SEVERAL KEY STEPS.

LET ME ELABORATE. STEP 1 IS CLEAR COMMUNICATION.

THIS HAS BEEN DIFFICULT DUE TO MEDIA BIAS, SOCIAL MEDIA POST POLITICKING, AND COUNCILS AND THE LAWSUIT, WHICH ALL LEAD US TO THE LACK OF SOLUTIONS BETWEEN TWO CITIES.

THESE MEDIA SOURCES DO NOT SPEAK FOR THE LONG LAKE FIREFIGHTERS NOR DO THEY SPEAK FOR EITHER OF THE COUNCILS.

THEY ARE INDEPENDENTLY OPERATING, HEARING THEIR THOUGHTS ON THE SITUATION THROUGH THEIR LENS, WITH THEIR BIAS, WHICH IS THEIR RIGHT, BUT I DO BELIEVE THEY ARE DRIVING THE WEDGE IN FURTHER BETWEEN THE CITIES.

PLEASE LOOK CAREFULLY AT WHOSE INFORMATION YOU ARE READING.

DETERMINE IF THIS IS SOMEONE LOOKING FOR MORE SOLUTIONS OR MORE CLICKS.

DO THEY FOLLOW THEIR OWN ADVICE? IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REACH OUT TO A STAFF MEMBER AT EITHER CITY OR ANYONE ON EITHER COUNCIL.

TO DATE, I HAVE HAD ONE PERSON REACH OUT TO ME FROM THE ORONO COMMUNITY AND WE MET AND HAD MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION.

ENGAGE OUTSIDE OF MEETINGS, HAVE REAL CONVERSATION, AND LOOK FOR SOLUTIONS.

YOU HAVE TO BE OPEN TO LISTENING AND ENGAGING.

LEARN HOW LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKS AND HOW TO DRIVE CHANGE.

I BELIEVE NOT ONLY WILL WE ACCOMPLISH MORE TOGETHER, WE WILL ALL BE A LITTLE BIT LESS FRUSTRATED.

I ENCOURAGE YOU BE PART OF THE SOLUTION, BE PART OF THE IMPROVEMENT IN COMMUNICATION.

STEP 2, EXPLAIN THE REASON FOR THE CHANGE AND ADDRESS CONCERNS.

I HOPE THIS INFORMATION I SHARE TODAY PROVIDES

[03:05:03]

SOME CONSOLIDATION OF YEARS OF INFORMATION ALONG WITH SOME OF MY PERSPECTIVE.

REITERATING WHAT I SAID EARLIER, THE REASON WE ARE MOVING FORWARD WITH THE NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT IS TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCIES THROUGH THE UTILIZATION OF ORONO'S ROBUST STAFF, PROVIDE BETTER SAFETY THROUGH A NEW SERVICE MODEL, AND INCREASE THE VALUE OF SERVICE TO ORONO RESIDENTS BY FINDING EFFICIENCIES ULTIMATELY BETTER SERVING TAX DOLLARS.

IN REGARDS TO ADDRESSING CONCERNS I'D LIKE TO ADDRESS TOO.

IT IS CORRECT, ORONO DID NOT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR INDIVIDUALS SERVING AS COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS.

THOSE INDIVIDUALS HAD ALREADY PASSED BACKGROUND CHECKS AND MET REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT THAT HAD BEEN DEEMED SUITABLE TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.

CHIEFS ARE ALLOWED DISCRETION.

LONG LAKE HAS RECENTLY GONE OUT OF THEIR STANDARD HIRING GUIDELINES AS WELL.

ALL CITIES ARE LOOKING TO HIRE THE BEST CANDIDATES AND KEEP OUR CITY SAFE.

IT IS ALSO CORRECT, A FEW SELECT RESPONDERS CONTINUED THEIR PAID ON CALL TRAINING WITH ORONO AFTER AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF RESPONDERS WERE ATTENDING A CALL.

LONG LAKE'S CHIEF ALSO DID THIS DURING A MEETING RECENTLY.

ALL FIREFIGHTERS ARE TRAINED TO KNOW WHEN A RESPONSE IS NECESSARY, AND THEY ARE GIVEN THE TOOLS TO ENSURE SAFETY IN OUR COMMUNITY.

STEP 3, CELEBRATE SUCCESS.

RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE MILESTONES AND SUCCESS IS ACHIEVED DURING THE TRANSITION PROCESS.

A POSITIVE APPROACH WILL HELP BOOST MORALE AND MAINTAIN MOMENTUM TOWARDS CHANGE.

STEP 4, ADDRESS RESISTANCE.

ACKNOWLEDGING AND ADDRESSING RESISTANCE TO CHANGE IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER.

THE CONSTANT ADDRESSING OF RUMORS AND CRITIQUING OF MISSTEPS HAVE KEPT US LOOKING IN THE PAST INSTEAD OF LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FUTURE.

I BELIEVE BOTH CITY ADMINISTRATORS CAN HELP OUR TEAM TO OVERCOME ANY TENSION AND WORK TOWARDS COLLABORATION.

I ALSO BELIEVE THAT CHIEF MIKE AND CHIEF JAMES CAN WORK TOGETHER TO LEAD THE TRANSITION WITH THEIR COMBINED KNOWLEDGE OF FIRE SERVICE AND THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE.

I BELIEVE OUR STAFF WILL CONTINUE MEETING BASED ON BOTH COUNSEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO FIND SYNERGIES AND SHARE THEIR THOUGHTFUL RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESENT TO COUNCILS.

I'M HOPEFUL THAT THIS CHANGE IN COMMUNICATION, EMPOWERING OUR CITY LEADERS, WILL BE BENEFICIAL FOR ALL THOSE INVOLVED.

I BELIEVE WITH THE RIGHT LEADERSHIP, BOTH DEPARTMENTS WILL THRIVE THROUGH THE TRANSITION.

BOTH CITIES ARE CURRENTLY EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE OF THEIR CURRENT CONTRACT.

MOST HERE, NO, ORONO IS PURSUING AN INDEPENDENT DEPARTMENT, BUT MAYBE DON'T KNOW THAT LONG LAKE HAS ALSO BEEN EXPLORING ALTERNATIVES IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH WAYZATA.

ALTHOUGH WE AT ORONO AREN'T INCLUDED IN THOSE CONVERSATIONS NOR HAVE WE BEEN PRESENTED ANY INFORMATION, I THINK IT'S POSITIVE THAT WE ARE BOTH EMBRACING TRYING NEW SERVICE MODELS.

IN FACT, I THINK WE SHOULD WELCOME IT.

MAYBE IN LOOKING FOR OPTIONS, WE CAN FIND SOME VALUE IN WHAT WE CURRENTLY POSSESS, SETTING THE STAGE FOR A NEW RELATIONSHIP.

IF WE CAN, THEN PERHAPS THE CHANGE IS THE RIGHT DECISION FOR BOTH CITIES.

TO THIS POINT, I HAVE DISCUSSED THE THREE KEY ELEMENTS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO WHY WE ARE MAKING THESE CHANGES.

WHICH ARE UTILIZING ORONO'S ROBUST STAFF, ENHANCING SAFETY TO OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH A NEW MODEL, PREPARING US FOR THE FUTURE, AND MENDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ORONO AND LONG LAKE BY RE-ESTABLISHING COMMUNICATION, LOOKING OUTSIDE OUR CURRENT CONTRACT FOR ENHANCEMENTS.

AT THIS TIME, I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO ORONO TAXPAYERS.

I WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT THE BUDGET AND THE MODEL OF FIRE SERVICE FOR ORONO FIRE DEPARTMENT.

ORONO HAS EXPERIENCED DOUBLE-DIGIT INCREASES IN OUR OPERATIONAL BUDGET FROM THE CONTRACT WITH LLFD IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.

IF THIS WERE TO CONTINUE, WE WOULD BE PAYING 100% OF TODAY'S OPERATING BUDGET EVERY FIVE YEARS.

IN 2023, WE HAD A 15% INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S OPERATING BUDGET WHEN WE PAID ROUGHLY \$543,000.

IN 2024, WE ARE PAYING ROUGHLY \$630,000 WHICH IS NEARLY A 16% INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S BUDGET.

IF WE HAD NOT REMOVED THE INITIAL TERRITORY FOR THE PARTIAL YEAR, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN PAYING \$665,000 FOR THE OPERATIONAL BUDGET, WHICH WOULD BE A NEARLY 22% INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

AS A COMPARISON, IF WE WERE TO USE THE SAME SERVICE AND CURRENT MODEL, WE COULD UTILIZE OUR OPPORTUNITIES OF SHARING INTERNAL CITY ASSETS AND WE COULD FLATTEN ANNUAL INCREASES.

WE COULD PROJECT INTO THE FUTURE WITH OUR BUDGETING STRATEGIES.

ALTHOUGH WE WILL NOT BE USING THAT SERVICE MODEL, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THE COST.

FOR REFERENCE, ORONO FIRE DEPARTMENT COSTS \$850,000 THIS YEAR.

WITH THIS INCREASE, WE HAVE DOUBLED THE STAFF AT STATION 2 AND IMPLEMENTED PART-TIME DUTY CREWS TO BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CITIZENS WE SERVE.

ALSO NOTED IS WHEN ORONO HAS CONTROL OF THE BUDGET, WE WILL ALSO GET 100% OF THE CALL HOURS FOR THE 100% BUDGET PAID.

AS YOU MAY RECALL, CURRENTLY WE PAY ROUGHLY 80% OF THE BUDGET AND RECEIVE ROUGHLY 60% OF THE CALL HOURS.

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SECONDLY, I WILL ADDRESS THE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS.

THE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES TO DATE HAVE BEEN SPENT BY ORONO ARE ROUGHLY \$3.2 MILLION IN VEHICLES.

YES, IN ORDER TO BREAK THE CYCLE, WE HAVE NEEDED TO MAKE SOME CAPITAL INVESTMENTS, BUT THESE INVESTMENTS ARE NECESSARY IN OR OUT OF THE CONTRACT.

AS I LEARNED WATCHING LONG LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING, FROM JULY 5, IT WAS A SHORTCOMING OF THE CONTRACTS THAT THEY WEREN'T FUNDED PROPERLY.

NO CITY THAT WAS PARTICIPATING IN THE CONTRACT WAS FUNDED PROPERLY, WHICH LEADS US TO WHERE WE ARE TODAY.

ALTHOUGH THE CITY OF ORONO DOES HAVE AN ESTABLISHED FIRE CIP AND HAS FUNDED IT AT AND ABOVE THE AGREED-UPON AMOUNTS, THE OVERALL ISSUE IS THAT THE AGREED-UPON AMOUNTS WERE INSUFFICIENT.

OUR FLEET NEEDS AN OVERHAUL, AND WE HAVE STARTED TO ADDRESS THAT.

CURRENTLY, ORONO OWNS THE MAJORITY OF THE EQUIPMENT THAT IS USED BY LLFD, AND THESE INVESTMENTS WILL MAKE A GREAT ADDITION TO THOSE PIECES.

I WOULD LOVE TO PROVIDE MORE GRAPHS IN DETAIL AND MORE CONTEXT ON THIS INFORMATION BASED ON THE CURRENT LONG LAKE BUDGET AND THE PROPOSED ORONO BUDGET.

I WILL WORK WITH STAFF TO DO THAT.

LASTLY, THE BIGGEST CHANGE THAT WILL COME IS OUR FIRE SERVICE MODEL WE UTILIZE NOTICED MOST BY THOSE WHO KNOW IT BEST, OUR CURRENT FIREFIGHTERS.

IN OUR LAST FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING, WE HEARD FROM CHIEF HIGHLAND THAT TWO FIREFIGHTERS IS OFTEN THE RIGHT NUMBER OF RESPONDERS, WHICH MEANS, ON AVERAGE, WE HAVE 11 EXTRA FIREFIGHTERS RESPONDING PER CALL.

WE WILL LOOK FOR WAYS TO BEST UTILIZE CALL HOURS, SO IT LESSENS THE BURDEN ON PAID ON-CALL MEMBERS, AS WELL AS BETTER SERVICES TAXPAYER DOLLARS WHILE REMAINING STEADFAST IN SAFETY.

WE WILL UTILIZE PAID DUTY CREWS TO ENSURE WE ARE MEETING THE CHANGING NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENSURING SAFETY WITH EACH STEP.

UNDERSTANDABLY, ALL OF THESE STAFFING CHANGES ARE HARD TO DO WITH THE CURRENT SERVICE MODEL.

BUT NOT OUT OF THE QUESTION WHEN WE TRY TO RETHINK HOW WE PROVIDE SERVICE AND KNOWING WE HAVE THE RIGHT SUPPORT FROM STAFF IN PLACE.

THIS IS A BIG CHANGE, A BIG CHANGE TO OUR SERVICE MODEL, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO KNOW IT BEST.

BUT I BELIEVE IT IS SETTING THE STAGE FOR EVOLUTION THAT IS NEEDED THROUGH THE LENS OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE AND WILL BE A BENEFIT TO OUR CITIZENS.

IN CLOSING, WE NEED COLLABORATION SUPPORTED BY BOTH CITY COUNCILS AND EXECUTED BY STAFF.

WE HAVE TWO EXPERIENCED FIRE CHIEFS AND TWO ACCOMPLISHED CITY ADMINISTRATORS THAT ARE MORE THAN CAPABLE OF EXECUTING A NEW STANDARD AND STYLE OF SERVICE WITH THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

WE DO NOT NEED TO LOOK TO OUTSIDE EXPERTS THAT HAVEN'T WORKED IN OUR KYLE AREA, WITH OUR SIZE OR CITY, OR WITH A HYBRID MODEL OF DEPARTMENT.

WE ARE NOT TRYING TO IMPLEMENT WHAT HAS BEEN DONE.

WE ARE LOOKING TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE.

WE HAVE THE EXPERTS THAT WE NEED TO TAKE THE NEXT STEPS.

A FRESH START IS NEEDED.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE CURRENT CONTRACT IS HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF LONG LAKE DUE TO THE ALLOCATION OF EQUIPMENT WE OWN, THE LAND WE OWN, AND THE FUNDING FORMULA, WHICH IS HEAVILY WEIGHTED IN RESIDENTIAL TAX VALUE, AND IT'S HARD TO USE AS A TEMPLATE TO MOVE FORWARD.

CITIES HAVE EVOLVED, HOME VALUES HAVE CHANGED, AND BUSINESSES HAVE BEEN BUILT TALLER, POPULATIONS HAVE AGED, AND THE LIST CONTINUES.

IT IS TIME FOR OUR DEPARTMENT TO ADAPT AND THROUGH RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE, WE WILL BE READY TO DO JUST THAT STARTING JULY 1.

I ALSO WANT TO NOTE THAT THE GOLF COURSE OPENED OVER THE WEEKEND.