

**MINUTES**  
**WAKEFIELD SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 19, 2026 6:30**  
**CITY OF COLD SPRING – COLD SPRING FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTRACT NEGOTIATION MEETING**  
**27 Red River Ave, COLD SPRING, MN 56320**

Supervisors present: Dave Dold, John Willenbring and Glen Stalboerger, Clerk Heidi Stalboerger and Representatives from CSFD, Cold Spring City council, Luxemburg township and Colledgeville township.

The meeting was called to order by Cold Spring City Mayor Dave Heinen.

Cold Spring Administrator Kris Dockendorf gave a recap of the proposed contract, highlighting that the City Council is still offering a three-year phase in period for increase contract payment amount by the townships for financing payments towards the new CSFD Fire Hall. The City Council is requesting thoughts and ideas about the proposed fire contract prior to the townships annual meeting date of March 10, 2026. The City has received a redlined version from Colledgeville Township in response to the proposed contract given to the townships at the October 22, 2025 Annual Budget Meeting. The city has not had their attorney review the redlined version. Mayor Heinen questioned why the proposed contract was redlined to include a provision for rental of the fire hall for any use outside of fire department use. Colledgeville Township Supervisor Craig Guggenberger stated that this is an equitable charge for all users and the contract should include provisions for repurposing the fire hall, since the townships have a fire contract and should not pay for the building to be used for any other purpose; rather, strictly as a fire hall. City Council member Doug Schmitz stated that the city plans to use the fire hall for 10-11 months in 2026 for City Administration and the Police Department while the Cold Spring City Hall is being renovated. The group discussed rental costs and formula for payment of rent that the city would need to pay towards the annual operating cost for the space that the City Admin and Police Department would pay rent for use.

Supervisor Stalboerger questioned why the township is paying for capital improvements owned by the city. He further questioned if the city has applied for city sales tax implementation to be used to offset costs for the fire hall building to reduce the property tax burden. The group discussed how the implementation of a city sales tax would work and the history of the application process, including a moratorium on applications. Dockendorf will check into the application process. Supervisor Stalboerger also inquired about the contingency bond amount that the contract states would be used for equipment purchase or to supplement the city during the phase in period. Dockendorf stated that the bond amount is still outstanding and it is likely there won't be any contingency left after the project is complete.

The group discussed proposed contract language regarding termination and operational expenses. Dockendorf pointed out that the termination clause is due to non-payment. She also went on to say that several items in the contract state that the City would initially pay items, such as training and insurance, but would add those expenses to the operational cost to be passed through to the contract and paid under the applied formula of townships as well as the city.

Mayor Heinen asked the township if they would sign the proposed contract if the electors said yes at the annual meeting. Wakefield Township stated that they have not yet reviewed the contract, as Colledgeville Township did, and reminded the city members that they originally requested to resume the contract discussion after hearing from the township electors at the annual meeting. The township would then

complete their due diligence to review, apply attorney comments and return the contract to the City for further review.

The townships asked Mayor Heinen if he spoke to the Richmond Mayor about forming a larger, community-based fire district. Heinen stated that both the Mayor of Richmond and Rockville are in favor of this fire district concept.

Supervisor Dold stated that Wakefield Township may be interested in reorganizing fire district coverage area to ensure adequate township coverage from the closest responding department. The group discussed proximity to locations based on distance from the closest fire hall and routes taken to provide service with the fastest response time. Doug Schmitz stated that the distance from the fire hall is only one aspect of the response time but to also consider the difference between the dispatch time and the enroute time, which he feels cannot be less than CSFD, considering the rural setting of the Chain of Lakes Fire Department. The township members stated that this is not a politically motivated exercise; rather, a review of most beneficial response for township residents in need of emergency services.

The township members were thanked for coming to the meeting at the City of Cold Spring by the City Council members.

Meeting was adjourned by Mayor Heinen at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

/s/Heidi M. Stalboerger, Clerk

/s/Dave Dold, Chair