

Menahga Payroll and Forensic Accounting Report

Adam Gunderson | October 18, 2026

Mr. Broden's discussion of my pay leaves out important context about the employment terms approved by the Menahga City Council, the instructions I received from city administration, and the broader financial problems documented in the forensic accounting report.

On April 26, 2019, the City Council unanimously approved offering me the police chief position at \$40.35 per hour without city health insurance. The minutes did not specify salaried status or overtime eligibility. However, the written offer, signed by temporary administrator Char West, described the position as salaried, exempt, and ineligible for overtime. I accepted that offer by email on April 29, 2019. [1, 2]

When Curt Kreklau became city administrator, he explained that the council had approved an hourly rate and had not specified a salaried position. Based on his interpretation, he instructed that my compensation be administered hourly, including overtime. I relied on his instructions, and the city paid me accordingly.

The forensic accounting report identified 92 pay periods in which I received hourly earnings, including 34 periods exceeding 80 hours. These findings reflect how the city administered my compensation. [2]

Menahga experienced several changes in city administration during my employment, including vacancies and temporary appointments documented in council records. These circumstances provide administrative context, although they do not change the terms of my original written offer. [3]

No concerns about my compensation were raised with me until Laura Ahlf became temporary city administrator in September 2022. When she instructed that my position should be salaried and ineligible for overtime, I complied, adjusted my schedule to remain as close to 80 hours per pay period as possible, and stopped receiving overtime. I was neither reprimanded nor asked to repay any compensation.

The forensic accounting report was issued March 21, 2024, approximately 15 months after I left Menahga in December 2022. It examined citywide payroll and credit-card expenditures, documenting missing records, incomplete payroll data, inconsistent leave records, and PTO anomalies involving multiple employees. The accountants expressly did not determine whether anyone violated laws or regulations. [2]

I acknowledge the difference between my written offer and how my compensation was administered. I relied on the administrator's instructions and the city's payroll practices, and I complied when the arrangement was questioned.

A fair assessment should consider the council's approved hourly rate, the instructions I received, the broader financial administration problems, and my response when concerns were raised.

Sources and Public Records

[1] City of Menahga, April 26, 2019, Special City Council Meeting Minutes, pages 2–3.

[2] Eide Bailly LLP, *City of Menahga Forensic Accounting Report*, March 21, 2024, pages 1–3, 12, 24–27.

[3] City of Menahga Council Meeting Minutes, January 10 and February 14, 2022, documenting administrative vacancies and staffing difficulties.

The forensic accounting report and council minutes are public records available upon request from the City of Menahga.