

Villages of Walworth and Fontana
Ad Hoc Joint Services Committee Meeting
February 24, 2009
5:30 P.M.

Chair Matt Long called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Present Kenny, Nordmeyer, O'Connell, Petersen, Simonson, Long. Also present Chiefs Severt, Long, and Schwartz from Walworth; Rhonda Schwartz; Asst Fire Chief Tom Westphal and Fire Chief Wolfgang Nitsch from Fontana; Joe Abell and Bill Pierce, Walworth Town Board. Pat Kenny is replacing George Spadoni on the Ad Hoc Committee.

O'Connell/Kenny motion to approve November 10, 2008, minutes carried by ayes without negative vote.

Chair Mat Long announced this would be his last meeting for a period of time. He would entertain a motion for a new chair. Petersen/O'Connell motion to nominate LeRoy Nordmeyer carried by ayes without negative vote.

Long stated that both Village's fire and rescue departments have done an inventory for this meeting. Long also noted the committee had talked about courts. Walworth Board was to send the court agreement draft to its attorney which hasn't been done yet. That will be discussed at the next Walworth Board meeting.

We also have been looking at the draft fire services agreement. Nordmeyer prepared some comments shown in italics. These were based on information from Hayden, Schut and from some research he did. He thinks the committee should discuss it point by point and make suggestions.

Bottom of page 1, non-stock corporation: this should be handled by an attorney mutually agreed upon by both municipalities. Long thinks we should comment on Nordmeyer's recommendations, add our own, forward to the Boards and then to the attorneys. Nordmeyer would also like to have suggestions on an attorney to form a non-stock corporation. Page 2, Item 2. He thinks the only thing we need to discuss is terms and meetings, with no changes to quorum or official action. But do we need both a Board and a Fire Commission? The League of WI Municipalities says no—only a commission is required. Therefore, this section may not be necessary. Nordmeyer's recommendation is to go with just the commission, leaving terms, quorum, and official action the same as under Board of Directors section and having meetings quarterly. Severt asked if quarterly meetings would be enough, suggesting that, for operational issues, monthly meetings will probably be necessary. Currently, Walworth General Services meets monthly for police, fire and EMS issues. Page 3, the purchase or sale of an asset—the value and number of votes to approve a purchase can be set by the Villages. Officers—take a look at this section and come back with suggestions. Page 5—joint fire commission: we would proceed with the town as a customer. Let's take a look at the sewer commission's inter-governmental agreement for some ideas. Page 7, Item 12, Fiscal Agent—we should be able to find someone from one of our communities. Page

8—Employees: Who would be the employer for workman’s compensation purposes? Would the commission be a separate employer or would they be employees of the two Villages? Page 10, fire dept funds and page 10, payment of expenses—both are the responsibility of the fiscal agent appointed by the commission. Page 11, financing formula—again the sewer commission’s IGA might be helpful. Petersen recommends the commission’s attorney, Larry Steen, help with this wording. He will call Steen and ask for a bid for reviewing and commenting on the document we’re looking at tonight.

There are no values in Walworth’s inventory. Severt noted that independent values were to be established. Hayden was going to contact an insurance company to get recommendations for an independent appraiser. We’re not sure if this has been done yet. Will we use original cost, current value or replacement cost? Petersen thinks we should wait until we’re closer to being ready so values are current. Long thinks 3 or 6 months will not affect the value of the equipment that much. Chief Long suggests having the appraiser estimate forward to the date we’re hoping to put this agreement into place. Nitsch and Severt will see if they can find someone and give the names to Hayden so she can find out what they’ll charge before the next meeting.

Under Item 16, buildings are owned by the joint commission. Long things we should leave buildings out of it until the commission builds a joint building. Nordmeyer asked if the two fire/rescue departments are still meeting. Severt thinks they’re at the point now of waiting for direction from this committee. A reminder was given that the target dates were October 1, 2009, for this agreement to be ready and January 1, 2010, for forming of the joint commission. Long asked if there was anything preventing the four departments from getting together and discussing the issues? Fontana’s Asst. Chief stated he had not heard that the joint commission would be formed by Jan. 1st until just now. The last he remembers was to look at whether or not it was feasible to do at all. Nitsch also thought it was still in the investigatory stage. Long believes the Fontana Board approved the start-up date of Jan. 1st. Petersen confirmed this and noted Kemmett was Chief when that was decided. He is asking these two to meet with him Monday evening to discuss this.

Severt asked for clarification—are we going from four departments to one or four departments to two because that will drive the structure talks during the meetings. Nordmeyer suggests four to one. The departments also need to discuss any potential obstacles so they can be addressed immediately. Petersen reiterated that our objectives are to improve service and save money and that all services are on the table for these talks. Long understands we’re talking about territorial issues here. He also knows we need to change the way we do business—it makes sense economically and politically.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 19, at 5:30 pm.

Petersen/O’Connell motion to adjourn carried by ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Schut, Clerk