

Villages of Walworth and Fontana
Ad Hoc Joint Services Committee Meeting
September 15, 2008
4:00 P.M.

Chair Matt Long called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Present: Nordmeyer, O'Connell, Petersen, Spadoni, Long. Also present: Kelly Hayden, Fontana Administrator, Jon Kemmett, Fontana Fire Chief, Rob Ireland, Lake Geneva Regional News, Chris Severt, Walworth Emergency Services Director, Andy Long, Walworth Fire Chief, Joe Abell, Town of Walworth Chair. Simonson absent. Simonson arrived at 4:08 p.m.

O'Connell/Spadoni motion to approve August 18th minutes carried by ayes without negative vote.

Long gave update on joint municipal court from Walworth's perspective. As soon as this committee gets feedback from Walworth Board, we will start looking at it again. Spadoni asked if we got President Watters everything he wanted? Long believes we accomplished that.

Severt handed out information and noted that the title should be Breakdown per Department for Paid on Premise Wages. Salary includes benefits at two employees for \$58,500. The additional 10% is Metro's fee. The third employee is from Walworth or Fontana at \$39,000. It's a mixture of many employees so no one goes over 600 hours per year. Paratech would like to compete but needs to get some of their expenses down before they can. The next part of the sheet breaks down calls between Fontana and Walworth. This is for staffing between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. If we just want to put people in the station, then we have these figures upon which to base our budgeting. Since we know the two villages are doing parallel budgets for 2009—with and without paid on premise staff—are we committing to this? What happens if, during the budget process, one Village finds that they can't come up with the money and therefore can't commit to this. Spadoni is planning to bring it up in October at the Fontana meeting to get a general feeling/consensus for which direction they want to go. O'Connell asked if we have established a fire/EMS service area for this combination? Long notes the Town of Walworth is a customer of the Village of Walworth and, as it stands, they are figured into the Walworth budget. Long assumes we'll continue on until we hear differently from the Town. If the Town drops out, percentages will change. It would make a difference mostly for rescue calls which are high in the town. Long reminded everyone this consolidation effort has two different aspects. Early on we determined there was a need for paid on premise people. Not only are we looking to consolidate, but also to step up the service to be paid on premise. Severt says the boards should be told the need is there and it comes down to whether or not we can afford it. Andy Long had a conversation with Brent Connelly from Lake Geneva. They were Monday-Friday 7 am to 7 pm, but took in more money than they expected and are now going 7 days a week. Per Severt Walworth would probably lose revenue under the consolidation plan. He also noted that people question a bill for a fire call. Taxes pay for the service being there. Residents pay

for using the service. Abell noted that the state will reimburse you for fire calls if someone out of state, for example, does not pay. Kemmett noted that what he presented to Fontana finance committee was based on a 40 hour work week and it was about \$10,000 less than what's on this sheet. Fontana is saying this is the first look at everything and everyone's been told 0% pay increase in Fontana. Long asked if it's realistic to expect to add this to next year's budget considering levy limits. There are expected savings with the elimination of some of the officer corps and some of the need for number of people to respond. Severt noted paid on premise is the first step to a consolidation. McConnell asked if the concept will be well received by Walworth. Long believes yes, but he's not sure if the funding is there. He thinks we should make some motions tonight to show both boards this committee's commitment. Severt noted that at their fire/rescue meetings, they've discussed how staffing locations, equipment, buildings and duties might work. Some of these items will create cost savings not accounted for in the numbers so far. Hayden thinks it's OK for this committee to make motions, but hopes they don't think the Boards will be ready to make this decision in October. Spadoni foresees lists of questions coming back from October meeting to this committee. Fontana will be better equipped to answer this budget question in late October or early November. Severt offered a presentation on the paid on premise option from the departments. Nordmeyer thinks this is a good idea. Long suggested that some of the ideas discussed at joint department meetings on splitting time and on duties to be performed should be put on paper. Severt stated they will lay this out at their next joint meeting if this committee says to go ahead. Spadoni/Nordmeyer motion that the paid on premise concept and related proposed budget be brought to our respective boards and that the departments present information at October board meetings.

Long asked if anyone had a chance to look at the documents from Bloomfield/Genoa City and found no one had a problem with using this document as a template. Nordmeyer asked Abell if there is an interest in the town to stay a customer as before or to become a partner. The big question is what would it cost the town. They're under the levy limit like everyone else and the cost is already high for them. Nordmeyer notes there are two examples for cost sharing in this agreement. He'd like to request that it be figured out both ways—with the town as a customer and with the town as a partner.

Spadoni/Nordmeyer motion to take paid on premise concept to both boards, along with a budget for this concept and a presentation by the departments to the October board meetings. The only change suggested to the sample document was that October 1st the budget be sent to committees. We don't have a name yet. A suggestion was made to call it Fontana/Walworth Fire Dept.

Severt suggests Fontana and Walworth meet together for the department's Power Point presentation so it's only done once and the same for everyone. The next meeting date for the Ad Hoc Committee will be October 30 at 5 p.m. The presentation will be 5:00 on 10/13 if the grade school is available. Severt will check with Brad to see if there's actually an Appendix A and will re-do his breakdown.

Spadoni, Petersen motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Schut, Clerk