

APRIL 22, 2006
PROTECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes Prepared by: Gail Nichols

Note: These minutes are subject to further editing. Once approved by the Protection Committee the official minutes will be on file at the police department.

APPROVED: _____

Call to Order: The Protection Committee was called to order by Chairman Bromfield at 9:00 A.M.

Roll Call: Present were Chairman Bromfield, Bob Allen, Dave Eshoo, Hal Grabow, Tom McGreevy and Patricia Goff. Also present were EMS Chief Larry Austin and Police Chief Steve Olson.

Absent: Roger O'Brien and Fire Chief Jon Kemmett.

Visitors Present: Trustee Pollitt, Trustee O'Connell, Trustee Bidwell, Bob Sandy, Officer Jeff Cates, Al Kaminski, Belva Olson, Lori Chalchoff, Angela Buchholz, Karen Varhula, Joe Varhula, Judy VanVorhees, Michelle Teale and Police Lt Brad Buchholz.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Seat Belt Program (Click It or Ticket): Chief Olson explained the Seat Belt Program runs from May 7 – 21 and May 22 thru June 4th. The purpose is to encourage seat-belt use. The police department would issue press releases explaining the program and mention of the program would be made at all public functions attended by members of the police department. By partaking in the program and submitting reports to the Department of Transportation, showing numbers of contacts, warnings, and tickets written, the Fontana Police Department's name is placed in a lottery with the possibility of winning a \$4,000 grant to spend towards the purchase of any traffic safety equipment that Police Department / community wants. (Example: Speed Radar Sign). Discussion followed.
Allen/2nd Eshoo made a MOTION to approve the police department going into the program. Motion carried without negative vote.

Bar Talks: Chief Olson said he is in the process of contacting all the local establishments, discussing new issues, process of bar checks and staffing issues. Occupancy complaint procedures are also being addressed. Certificates of Occupancy will be provided to the businesses by the Building Inspector for posting. Chief Olson said all establishments provide lists of special events and bands scheduled.

CSO Update: The Village Board accepted the Protection Committee's recommendation and approved the hiring, effective May 1st, of Brandon Smith as the Community Service Officer.

Full-Time Officer Approval: Chief Olson advised the Committee that he asked the Village Board, on April 18th, for approval to fill the full-time officer position with Officer Aaron West. The Village Board sent it back to the Protection Committee for another recommendation to the Village Board for their next meeting in May. Chief Olson said he felt, based on the 2005 Staffing-study, there is a need to fill the vacancy, bringing the police department back to six full-time officers, was justified. The secondary approval for the PFC eligibility list was supposed to take place this morning but due to a lack of a quorum, the meeting has been re-scheduled for Tuesday night at 6:00 P.M. Conditional offers of employment will be made to the LTE officers

either this weekend or on Monday. Chief Olson and Lt. Buchholz explained the training time required is 240 hours per officer. Over-time should revert back to the 2004 level with the hiring of the full-time officer, approximately 637 hours. Discussion followed reference over-time and training.

Needs Study for Fontana Police Department: Trustee Pollitt suggested an impartial party from Northwestern University, who is an expert in staffing levels, be called upon to do a needs study for the Fontana Police Department. Trustee Pollitt also said, following the needs study, both the Village Board and the Protection Committee would agree to abide by the recommendations of the study.

Visitors Heard:

Lt. Buchholz said he has already spoken to Dr. Stenzel of Northwestern University and used him as a reference in his power-point presentation for the needs study. Dr. Stenzel said the cost to do a study for the Fontana Police Department would run approximately \$10,000.

Trustee Pollitt's recommendation was to order the independent study, with no influence from any person in the Village and the Village would abide by the results of the study. Trustee Pollitt said he was told the study could be conducted within two weeks.

Resident Ann Rawley said she attended the public meeting and felt the message of the people was to comply with the Police Chief's request for the position to be filled. She asked the Protection Committee to stop "crippling the police department".

Resident Al Kaminski, of Country Club Estates, said this is a manpower allocation issue and should be approached as just that and not an emotional issue.

After a request from resident Michelle Teale, Chief Olson listed his level of experience and credentials in the field of police work. Teale and several other residents said they felt the Chief's expertise should be enough for the Protection Committee to follow his recommendations.

Lt. Buchholz quoted the extra expenses in the past year, totaling approximately \$51,000 (including the study for \$10,000) and said the department still has no officer to show for the expenditures.

Resident Karen Varhula questioned Chairman Bromfield's statement, at the Village Board meeting, that the Protection Committee's recommendation was to hire only part-time officers and not fill the full-time vacancy. She said, "No where in the past minutes from January 2005 to the present there is no such action listed." Karen Varhula asked if the Village Board did not act, on Tuesday, on erroneous information.

Resident Kaminski said consideration should be made as to how the Village will be best protected, based on a 24-7 staffing requirement.

Trustee Bidwell asked Chairman Bromfield, why the Finance Committee was asked by the Protection Committee to budget for the full-time officer in October of 2005 if the Protection Committee had no intention of filling the position.

Former Protection Committee member, Bob Sandy replied that it was his recommendation for the budget item but not in the amount of \$80,000. Karen Varhula said the minutes of October 20th, 2005 support the recommendation and vote.

Several residents asked Chief Olson how the costs related to staffing with full-time or part-time officers. Chief Olson said if the department is staffed with part-time officers, there exists a continuous cycle of training that does not occur when a position is filled with a full-time officer. Chief Olson said the part-time officer is becoming a thing of the past as the majority of applicants are looking for full-time employment.

Committee member, Dave Eshoo stated his goal in having a study done by Northwestern was to satisfy the question of a need for a full-time officer.

Chief Olson said he found from the study already completed, that the need does exist to not only fill the vacancy with one full-time officer but to also employ three or four LTE officers for the summer months.

Al Kaminski agreed with Chief Olson that part-time officers require the same training as full-time officers making it extremely difficult for smaller communities to maintain a staff of part-time officers. He also said there is an extreme amount of fall-off with the interest in applicants looking for anything other than full-time employment.

Trustee Pollitt said he would recommend contracting for a study, and if the study substantiates the need for another officer, the Protection Committee would then make a unanimous recommendation to the Village Board.

Allan Kaminski said a 10-week Staff and Command Program is currently under way at Northwestern University. Every student is required to do a staff study. He said he would be willing to make a request for one of the students to make a Staff Study at no charge to the Village.

Lt. Buchholz said again that he completed a Staff-Study for his thesis, using Captain McClory of the Walworth County Sheriff's Department and Northwestern University as expert resources and it supported the need for another officer. Buchholz said his study is available for anybody to see.

Several residents spoke up asking the Protection Committee to make a decision in favor of hiring an officer.

Committee Member McGreevy said he would like to see a decision made today.

Chief Olson asked that if the Committee votes to have a study done, that they establish a deadline and financial limits be set, in order to eliminate further delays in the process.

*****Eshoo/2nd Allan Motion to have an independent study done, by Northwestern University, not to exceed \$10,000 to determine the staffing needs of the Fontana Police Department. Motion carried with voice roll call taken.**

Grabow-Yes

Eshoo-Yes

Allen-Yes

Bromfield-Yes

McGreevy-Yes

Goff-Yes

McGreevy asked if they would have to wait for another Board Meeting to make a recommendation, if the study shows the need for a full-time officer?

Chairman Bromfield said if the study comes back with the recommendation to hire a full-time officer, he would call a special board meeting to make that recommendation.

Bob Sandy said there are four Trustees present at this meeting and asked if they would abide by the recommendation of the Protection Committee? They said they would..

Chief Olson asked if the Committee would have a problem with him, bringing on the fourth LTE and begin training. Trustee Bromfield said "Not at all".

Set May Protection Committee Meeting Date: May 20, 2006

RESCUE (Report by Chief Larry Austin) See Attached Report

Chief Austin reported they had 7 runs last month bringing the year-to-date count to 32. Chief Austin said there are two members in EMT training and their training is expected to be finished in May.

Chief Austin said Bob Hutchinson is over-seeing the Dive Team and they have practices scheduled.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT (See Attached Report)

Fire Department Report read by Chairman Bromfield

The Fire Department has received the thermal imager and it is in service in Engine 22.

House Burn: Chief Kemmett's report stated they have been approached by William Barret to burn the house at 982 Indian Hills. Chief Kemmett reports that after the asbestos inspection and raze permit has been obtained the burn is expected to take place on May 13th. The Abbey Ridge burn has been done but due to lack of ground cover in some areas and the due to the wet conditions they were not able to burn off some of the area.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Joint EMS and Fire Department: Discussion

Trustee O'Connell said she has spoken to Chief Jon Kemmett and would like to re-open the subject of joint services with the Village of Walworth. She said she would like to see the two departments establish lines of communication regarding future joint services such as possibly a 1st Response on a full-time basis.

EMS Chief Larry Austin said he and three other members are on both the Walworth and Fontana Rescue Squads and he would favor both rescue squads joining together. He said it would simplify the billing for calls, and sharing of members. He also said the major problem would be with the radio system. Walworth is presently on high-band and Fontana is on ultra high-band. In order to combine the radio systems, so each member wouldn't have to carry two radios, the cost would be approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000. He said they are presently planning on some joint practices for this year. Walworth has approximately 350 runs per year and Fontana has just under 200 per year. Chief Austin said the tax base differences between the Villages would probably be a problem but perhaps the way around that would be to create a Fire District. Chief Austin said it would be easier to join the EMS Departments than to join the Fire Departments, however it would be a major undertaking.

Trustee O'Connell said she wants the two communities to begin talks and keep the lines of communication open.

Grabow/2nd Eshoo MOTION to adjourn at 10:35 A.M. Motion passed unanimously

*** Items for Fontana Village Board Meeting May 1, 2006