

Villages of Walworth and Fontana
Ad Hoc Joint Services Committee Meeting
May 21, 2008

Chair Matt Long called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He noted there was not a quorum at the last meeting so the “minutes” were for information only and not approved as official minutes. McConnell, Nordmeyer, Simonson, Spadoni and Long present. Fontana President Ron Pollitt sat in for Pete Petersen.

Fontana Administrator Kelly Hayden reported on the merged data for municipal court income and expense. Hayden noted she made a correction to Fontana’s dollar data today. She had also emailed a time line and will put together a sample agreement for Walworth and Fontana soon. Drafts will be looked at by this committee first and then go to the respective July Board meetings. This should provide adequate time to form an agreement before nomination papers would need to be taken out in early December by a municipal judge candidate. Potential savings would come from paying for one judge and required education, one clerk, and computer equipment for one office, about \$19,000 here. Prosecution expense should also be a savings, possibly another \$10,000. Simonson asked if the agreement would go to each Village’s attorney for review before final approval.

Severt looked into the ISO information for the Fire and Rescue departments. For a low ISO rating, being within 5 road miles from the station is the big concern. We would meet that distance requirement. Fontana’s rating is 4 now and should be better if services are consolidated. Walworth may go lower upon consolidation. An ISO evaluation rates amount of hauled water (water on wheels), water flow able to be maintained after getting to the scene, flow test through hydrants, personnel, training and dispatch.

Village of Walworth Emergency Services Director Severt provided a packet of Walworth’s numbers for Fire and Rescue services. Hayden has sent out a blank copy of this form to Fontana Fire Chief for Fontana’s numbers. We know staffing will be a cost increase, although offset by some current volunteer expense, but shared equipment and facilities is where we will save the dollars. Long believes savings will show up sooner if we look at a shared location right away, getting rid of excess equipment. And to have an ambulance ready to go during the day should be a huge increase in service. He also thinks there’s a sense of urgency that should be understood by both political bodies of getting people to respond to daytime calls and that we need to understand a consolidation doesn’t solve this problem. Fontana board members agree there’s a need, but the community may not understand.

Assignments for next meeting: Does everyone have Genoa City/Bloomfield information? If not, ask Donna or Kelly. We’ll try to get a rough document together based on the information they’re using. Severt and Kemmett will prepare a list of fire and rescue equipment and the year manufactured. Long thinks we’re looking at a 2009 consolidation at the earliest. We’ll do a timeline for the next meeting similar to the one for municipal court.

The next meeting will be June 17th at 5:00 p.m. in Fontana.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Schut, Clerk