

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE  
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
**(Preliminary Minutes)**

JOINT MEETING of the FINANCE COMMITTEE and HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
**January 7, 2026**

The meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Village Clerk Bonnie Liptak at 4:07pm on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

**Human Resources Members present:** Chairperson President Pat Kenny, Trustee Tom Marek

**Human Resources Members absent:** Trustee Arvid Petersen

**Finance Committee Members present:** Chairperson President Pat Kenny, Trustee Tom Marek, Trustee Rob Rowe, Committee Member Mike Sheyker

**Finance Committee Members absent:** Citizen Tom Freytag, Committee Member Bob Klockars, Committee Member Feeney

**Also Present:** Administrator Loomer, Village Clerk Liptak, Treasurer Liz Baumann, Interim DPW Director Perepell, Fire Chief Manthy, Assistant Fire Chief Kemmett, Fire Department Lieutenant Heindl

Joint Human Resources & Finance Committee – President Kenny

**Discussion or Action on Fire Dept. Part-Time Staff Gift Cards**

Loomer stated that this came up last year. The Village issues \$50 holiday gift cards to full time staff, but not to part time staff. The Fire Department has asked to provide \$50 gift cards to Paid on Call and Part Time staff. Loomer stated the amount is not the issue as it is nominal, but rather the effect on employe morale for full-time staff. Marek stated that the gift cards should not be the same amount. Rowe stated that since full time employees receive \$50 gift cards, that year-round part time and paid on call firefighters should receive half the amount which is \$25 for gift cards.

Finance Committee Member Trustee Rowe/ Finance Committee Member Sheyker 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend to the Village Board to approve \$25 Fire Dept. Part-Time Staff Gift Cards and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

Human Resources Committee Member Trustee Marek/ Human Resources Committee Chair President Kenny 2<sup>nd</sup>, made a MOTION to recommend to the Village Board to approve \$25 Fire Dept. Part-Time Staff Gift Cards and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

**Discussion or Action on Addition of Two Part-Time WRS Eligible Fire Dept. Positions**

A WRS Eligible Fire Dept memo was distributed. To meet staffing challenges, the Fire Department is seeking to add two regularly scheduled staff at 30 to 36 hours per week. Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) contributions would be required for these positions as they expected to work more than 1,200 in a rolling calendar year. The expense for these contributions would be \$252.50 per week for two employees.

The Department is recommending the following to meet additional WRS contribution expenses.

- Initiate overnight staffing on February 15th 2026. Six weeks of overnight staffing at 14 hours per day (588 hours) at \$23.36 per would result in \$13,735 decrease in part-time salaries.
- Adding WRS contributions for two employees (72 hours per week) for the remaining 46 weeks would increase benefits by \$11,615 for 2026.

WRS funding for these positions would continue into future years. The benefit to these positions over full time is a significant reduction in health insurance obligations to the Village while maintaining regularly scheduled positions. The Department can adjust the number of overnight hours budgeted in future years to adjust for the additional WRS contributions if needed.

Finance Committee Member Trustee Rowe/ Finance Committee Member Sheyker 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend the Addition of Two Part-Time WRS Eligible Fire Dept. Positions per the Fire Department guidance to initiate overnight staffing on February 15th 2026, and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

Human Resources Committee Chair President Kenny/ Human Resources Committee Member Trustee Marek 2<sup>nd</sup>, made a MOTION to recommend the Addition of Two Part-Time WRS Eligible Fire Dept. Positions per the Fire Department guidance to initiate overnight staffing on February 15th 2026, and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

#### **Discussion or Action on F-Sticker Parking Passes for Staff**

Loomer requested this item be tabled until Finance Committee Klockars is present as this was an item he requested be on the agenda.

#### Adjourn Human Resources

Human Resources Committee Chair President Kenny/ Human Resources Committee Member Trustee Marek 2<sup>nd</sup>, made a MOTION to Adjourn at 4:10 pm and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

#### General Business Finance – President Kenny

#### **Approve Meeting Minutes for November 4, 2025 and December 8, 2025**

Meeting minutes were distributed.

Finance Committee Member Trustee Marek/ Finance Committee Member Trustee Rowe 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to approve the Minutes for November 4, 2025 and December 8, 2025, and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

#### **Discussion or Action on Quotes for new Fire Engine**

Fire Engine Replacement Information was distributed. Fire Chief Manthy stated that the need for a new fire engine was presented to the Board two years ago letting the Board know that the Village has need for a new fire engine and ambulance. The ambulance order was placed last year and should be receiving it in 2027. The two fire engines are aging out, one is from 2000 (manufactured by Pierce) and the other is from 2006 (manufactured by Rosenbaum), both are functioning for right now, but they are 20+ years old and the industry standards, insurance underwriting recommendations and professional associations conduct safety audits, provide guidelines and make recommendations that inform replacement decisions. 15 years frontline and five years reserve is the industry standard, for departments serving communities comparable to Fontana, whereas more urban departments have a 10-year front line and five-year reserve. The Fire Department staff is recommending replacing one fire engine and will base the decision on which one on recommendations from the maintenance engineers and personnel. Each fire engine is different and has different features and maintenance requirements that will be considered as well. The initial thought is to keep the 2000 fire engine because of the maintenance, features and durability factors. The idea would be to not replace the 2<sup>nd</sup> engine, rather to wait and see how things develop with shared resources within neighboring communities. Chief Manthy reported that he and staff have done a lot of research over the past two years and visited various manufacturers and have narrowed the options to three. One of those three was eliminated fairly early on since the price was \$200k more and two years longer on delivery date. The remaining two manufacturers are the ones they would like to consider: Pierce and Sutphen. Manthy stated that they are talking with agencies within the state that utilize the equipment to ask questions and pull more research together to make a good decision. Manthy states that the two manufacturers are relatively close in price: Pierce is priced at \$1,029,224.00 with an advanced payment discount of \$90,761.00 and Sutphen is priced at \$1,110,000. Manthy stated that there are pros and cons to both. Pierce has a bigger footprint in Wisconsin and Sutphen has better warranties and are built for longevity with parts being built with stainless steel. Manthy stated that the

department is looking for approval for up to \$1.2M for the purchase to move forward a purchase order for one of these manufacturers within the next couple of months. Manthy stated that there is a 28–36-month lead time on the purchase and the payment is not due until it is received and though the cost remains fixed, it is tied to the Consumer Price Index. Manthy stated that the technology and features available that can be added on may change during the lead time, so the fire department would like to ask for Village Board approval of an amount that could include some changes to the original purchase order. This would allow the department to get their name on the list for the order. Manthy stated he understands that the next capital borrowing would not be until 2028-2029. Manthy stated that both manufacturers offer a financial benefit to advance payment of roughly 9-10%. Manthy stated that from a repair and maintenance standpoint, the Village mechanic has worked on and is comfortable servicing all engines and so that is not an issue. Marek asked if the Fire Department leadership has a preference. Manthy stated that they are talking with Kenosha who runs Sutphen and after that conversation he hopes to have a solid idea about what manufacturer they would like to go with, and he thinks it might be Sutphen. Fire engines have different warranty structures – the truck itself has a warranty like a 3-year 36k miles warranty like a car, but the components on the rig have a variety of add on features that have their own warranties – tank, cabinetry, electronics. The Village has a great mechanic who is keeping a 25-year-old Engine on the front line. Manthy states that even within the county of Walworth Manthy stated he doesn't know of anyone else who is running a rig that old and Fontana will continue to run it through delivery of the new truck in 2028. At that time, the 2000 rig will be refurbished and in 2006 it will most likely be sold at an auction, as with other departments. Loomer asked the resale value of the 2006 rig. Kemmett stated it is hard to estimate the value of the 2006 engine and that there are companies that refurbish to the point of giving the rig back another 10 years. Manthy stated that the industry standard when purchasing was to go to Request for Proposal (RFP), but that is no longer the standard and now if you do go to RFP the cost is higher because it is more work on the manufacturer's perspective. Standard now is to use group pricing. Manthy stated that he can look into early payment options to save money. Manthy stated that the Town of Walworth, through the Intergovernmental Agreement, has agreed to pay for a portion of the fire engine, based on the formula which includes call volume for that year. Manthy stated that the Town of Walworth has been made aware of the details on the purchase and will be prepared to contribute based on the formula, but they would not be interested in contributing to an advance payment scenario, so the advance payment would be from the Village of Fontana.

Finance Committee Member Trustee Marek/ Finance Committee Member Trustee Rowe 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend to the Village Board approval of Quotes for new Fire Engine up to a maximum amount of \$1.2M, and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

#### **Discussion or Action on 2026 Utility Budget**

The Budget was distributed. Baumann reported that there are no expected changes in the Budget for revenue. Baumann reported that there is room in the budget for a part-time utility clerk for 20 hours per week. Two radios and a metal detector were added to the budget. Perepell stated that the cost for more MXUs and meters was added to the budget which will accelerate the replacement program already underway. The upgraded MXUs and meters will benefit the Village by allowing the Village to move to an antennae system. This antennae system will leverage a digital system, reducing the cost of labor, allow real time detection and alert of high-water usage. The cost also covers the required upgrades for the computers and relays that help monitor the system. There is also a 3% increase in sewer fees that would go into effect January 1, 2026 and be realized with the billing in April 2026. Loomer presented that the antennae system allows for real time reading rather than handheld reading for meters in the field which will save a lot of time.

Finance Committee Member Trustee Marek/ Finance Committee Member Trustee Rowe 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend to the Village Board approval of the 2026 Utility Budget, and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

### **Discussion or Action on How to handle the “penny”**

Department of Revenue guidance on the Elimination of the Penny was distributed. Kenny asked if there was any guidance from other municipalities. Baumann stated that the only thing she has seen is going to electronic payment. The taxes will always include pennies and for the cash operations of the Village – like lakefront purchases like beach, parking and launch already have the tax included. Baumann and Loomer stated that the Village residents have not complained about pennies and most people don't pay their water or tax bills in cash. Baumann asked the Committee to keep in mind what a policy should look like in the event one is needed in the future.

### **Discussion or Action on Amendment to Purchasing Policy to add annual routine invoices**

The proposed policy was distributed. The policy dictates that all purchases require advance approval by the appropriate Department Head or Village Administrator in accordance with the existing policy. This proposed modification creates an exception of budgeted routine annual invoices.

Finance Committee Member Trustee Marek/ Finance Committee Member Sheyker 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend to the Village Board approval of the Amendment to Purchasing Policy to add annual routine invoices, and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

### **Set Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting date was set for Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 4:00 pm

### Adjourn Finance

Finance Committee Member Trustee Marek/ Finance Committee Member Trustee Rowe 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to Adjourn at 5:00pm, and the MOTION carried without a negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Bonnie Liptak, Village Clerk

Note: These minutes are subject to further editing. Once approved by the Finance Committee, the official minutes will be kept on file at the Village Hall.

APPROVED: