

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN

(Final Minutes)

Special Joint Meeting of the
VILLAGE OF FONTANA BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND VILLAGE OF WILLIAMS BAY TRUSTEES
Wednesday, August 23, 2023

Fontana Village President Pat Kenny called the special joint meeting of the Fontana Village Board and Williams Bay Village Board to order at 5:00 pm.

Village of Fontana Trustees Present: President Kenny, Trustee O'Neill, Trustee Pappas, Trustee Livingston, Trustee Petersen, Trustee McGreevy

Village of Williams Bay Trustees Present: President Duncan, Trustee D'Alessandro, Trustee Wright, Trustee Umans, Trustee Vlach, Trustee Russell

Village of Fontana Trustees Absent: Trustee Marek

Village of Williams Bay Trustees Absent: Trustee Jaramillo

Also Present: Village of Fontana Treasurer Liz Baumann, Village of Fontana Administrator Theresa Loomer, Village of Fontana Clerk Drew Lussow, Village of Fontana Fire/EMS Chief Wolf Nitsch, Village of Fontana Fire/EMS Deputy Chief Rick Manthy, Village of Williams Bay Administrator Dave Lothspeich

Visitors Heard

None

Joint General Business – President Kenny

Discussion or Action on Intergovernmental Agreement for EMS Services

Administrator Loomer explained that the Fire/EMS department recently voted to unionize and are currently working with the IAFF District Field Service Representative for the 5th District to help with collective bargaining. The bargaining unit should be submitting their first draft of the contract soon for review by administrative staff and our employment attorney. Administrator Loomer stated that Chief Nitsch is retiring this fall and the Village has been exploring options for his replacement. The current consideration is to continue with a part-time chief for now with the knowledge that eventually a full-time Chief will be needed down the road. Deputy Chief Manthy then gave an update on the ambulance lease agreement between Williams Bay and Fontana. Deputy Chief Manthy explained that the lease has been executed and that the staff is currently working on transferring ownership of the ambulance to Fontana's name. Deputy Chief Manthy explained that the ambulance will still be available for Williams Bay to use as needed for standbys for their football games and any other needs that may arise, however the transferring of the vehicle over to Fontana was needed to allow for both municipalities to have a paramedic level ambulance. Deputy Chief explained the circumstances that allows for the paramedic level ambulance such as the cross credentialing and staffing/qualifications to elevate the ambulance to the paramedic level. Deputy Chief Manthy also explained that this is all governed by various state statutes, one of which requires that the ambulance has the Fontana name displayed on it for identification purposes. Deputy Chief Manthy then provided a staffing update for both Village Boards. Deputy Chief Manthy explained that recently they interviewed 13 applicants for two paramedic openings and one EMT opening within the Village. Of the 13 applicants, three were chosen and given offers. Of the three, one applicant accepted the offer while the other two rejected the offer. Deputy Chief Manthy stated that they will rerun the pool of applicants again to try and fill the remaining openings and can provide another update upon the positions being filled. There were no questions or comments raised regarding this agenda topic between the Village Boards.

Discussion or Action Regarding Expense Rate

Administrator Loomer asked the Village Boards if any of them had any questions based on the reports that have been given out regarding the expenses between the municipalities regarding funds for EMS/Fire services. Williams Bay Trustee D'Alessandro raised a concern about the use of the referendum funds and asked how they are currently tracking. Administrator Loomer explained that the referendum funds only account for operation costs and do not go towards any training or uniforms. Administrator Loomer did state however we are currently

tracking under budget but that will ultimately depend on staffing going forward. Williams Bay Trustee Vlach then raised concerns regarding the 50/50 split of the EMS/Fire Chief's salary since Williams Bay has their own volunteer fire department and asked why they are on the hook for half of the costs for something they don't use. Chief Nitch and Deputy Chief Manthy explained that the department is cross trained and that the positions bleed over. Most likely on any call both EMS/Fire are dispatched. In addition, the Fire portion of the service was always included when offered to Williams Bay initially during negotiations. Williams Bay Trustee D'Alessandro agreed and stated that even when they initially were thinking of Williams Bays working with the Town of Delavan for Fire/EMS needs, the Town of Delavan offered a similar proposal. Williams Bay Trustee D'Alessandro felt that it was an issue that the Village of Williams Bay will have to further investigate to see if it is viable to continue to pay for this service as well as retain a local volunteer fire department. Deputy Chief Manthy offered a solution of potentially incorporating the volunteers into the staff if they wanted to pursue that as a solution, but the Williams Bay Board mentioned they will need to look into the matter more before any decision are made. Fontana Trustee Petersen expressed concerns over a new safety building as well and mentioned that needs to be addressed sooner than later. Administrator Loomer stated that the Village of Fontana is looking to conduct a study to see the viability of a new safety building and is reviewing proposals from PAA, 5 Bugles, and PRA. PAA and 5 Bugles just completed studies for the Town of Linn and City of Lake Geneva. The Williams Bay Village Board was interested in the results of the study. Village of Fontana President Kenny welcomed any of the Village Board members for the Village of Williams Bay to attend future meetings and there were some discussions about potentially forming a committee comprised of the two board members and some staff to work together in these discussions. There were no additional concerns raised by either Village Boards.

Adjournment

Trustee Petersen/Trustee O'Neill 2nd made a MOTION at 5:43 pm for the Village of Fontana members to adjourn the meeting, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Trustee Vlach/Trustee D'Alessandro 2nd made a MOTION at 5:43 pm for the Village of Williams Bay members to adjourn the meeting, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Drew Lussow, Village Clerk

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

APPROVED: 09/11/2023