

**VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE  
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
Protection Committee  
Monday, August 21, 2023**

The meeting of the Protection Committee was called to order at 4:30 pm on Monday, August 21, 2023, by Chairman Petersen.

**Committee Members Present:** Chairman Trustee Petersen, Mark Gerard, President Pat Kenny, Al Kaminski, Rob Rowe (4:35), Joe Corso

**Committee Members Absent:** Jim Carroll

**Also Present:** Police Chief Jeff Cates, Fire Chief Wolf Nitsch, Rick Manthey, Administrator Theresa Loomer, Stephanie Klug, Ron Nyman, Rita Nyman, Dolly Schneidwind, Ed Raynor, Susan Raynor, Kathleen McKeever, Eric Johnson

**Visitors Heard**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the meeting held on May 15, 2023, were distributed to the committee members via email.

President Kenny/Gerard 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes from May 15, 2023, as submitted, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**General Business**

**Discussion or Action on Safety Building Proposals**

Loomer stated that she received two safety building study proposals. One from Public Administration Associates (PAA) and Five Bugles and the other from PAA and Plunkett Raysich. PAA and Five Bugles just completed a study for the City of Lake Geneva and the Town of Linn, so they have a good idea of the region, but she would like to get feedback on Lake Geneva's Chief about his experience with the study and whether he was satisfied with the results. Loomer stated she received an updated proposal from PAA and PRA the day she left for vacation and has not had a chance to thoroughly review both proposals and asked for the item to be tabled until next month.

President Kenny/Kaminski 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to table the Safety Building Proposals until the next Protection Committee meeting, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

**Fire/Rescue Department**

**Monthly Report**

The monthly report was sent via email to the committee members.

**Staffing Update**

Deputy Chief Manthey stated they just finished the Fire/EMS/Paramedic hiring process. They have accepted offers from one paramedic and one EMT. A second paramedic position was not able to be filled and one of the current full-time personnel will be leaving so they will begin the hiring process again to fill both positions.

**Discussion or Action on Williams Bay Intergovernmental Agreement**

Nitsch stated that the Intergovernmental Agreement has been passed by both villages and there is a joint meeting between Fontana and Williams Bay scheduled for this Wednesday. Fontana will

be leasing the Williams Bay ambulance which will make three paramedic ambulances available to both communities.

#### **Discussion or Action on Public Safety Building Updates**

Manthy stated that since a full renovation to create a meeting space was not able to be completed due to budget constraints, they have produced a temporary solution which uses the department's current funding. They will be building two temporary walls in the upstairs loft area that will create a meeting/training space.

#### **Discussion or Action on Upgraded Insurance Service Organization (ISO) Rating**

Chief Nitsch stated that the four-year ISO Audit was just completed, and the village's rating has been upgraded to a Class 3 Community. Nitsch stated this would be the first time in the history of the Fire Department is rated as a Class 3. Nitsch feels that the biggest factor was the department now being full-time.

#### **Police Department**

##### **YTD Report**

The year-to-date report was sent via email to the committee members.

##### **Staffing Update**

Chief Cates stated that there will be two new full-time officers starting in September which will bring the department back up to full staff. Cates would like to add one more full-time officer to the department next year which would bring Fontana up to the same staffing level as the Village of Walworth and the Village of Williams Bay.

#### **Discussion or Action on Study for Stop Light at Fontana Boulevard and Hwy 67**

Cates stated that a study for this was completed approximately ten years ago. A group from The Abbey Villas has brought this issue up to Cates and has also emailed or sent letters to the state Department of Transportation (DOT). Cates recently received feedback from DOT that they are looking into it but first wants to know if the Village of Fontana supports the idea of a stoplight at the intersection of Fontana Boulevard and Hwy 67. Cates stated that in the middle of the summer, the busy season for Fontana, it is difficult to pull out from the Boulevard onto Hwy 67 especially if you are making a left turn to head south. Cates thinks it would be good to have the DOT do the study again during the summer months to establish where the numbers are.

President Kenny/Rowe 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of DOT conducting a study for a stop light at Fontana Boulevard and Hwy 67, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

#### **Discussion or Action on Public Safety Building (PSB) Roof Replacement**

Cates stated that the rubber membrane on the roof was originally a 20-year roof and is now over 40 years old. This membrane has shrunk, causing various leaks throughout the building. Cates had Great Lakes Roofing Corporation provide an estimate to replace the roof and that estimate came back at \$84,000.00. The village is currently spending between \$5,000 and \$10,000 a year on repairs to the roof.

President Kenny/Gerard 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of Great Lakes Roofing Corporation replace the roof on the Public Safety Building at the cost of \$84,000.00, and the Motion carried without negative vote.

#### **Discussion or Action on Traffic Concerns at N Lakeshore Drive and Stearns Road**

Cates stated he received an email from Rita Nyman, resident in upper Gardens, with concerns she and other neighbors have about the intersection at N Lakeshore and Stearns Road. The suggestion was made to put up stop signs like the ones installed on S. Lakeshore and Indian Hills Road. Chief Cates stated that the time to look at this intersection would be when N. Lakeshore gets redone in the upcoming years. Cates suggested before any changes are made, the village look at

statistics like the state and the county do before completing any road changes. Cates said very few, if any car versus car accidents have happened at that intersection and suggested installing Caution Dangerous Intersection signs on N. Lakeshore Drive, that could slow down traffic. Ed Raynor and Dolly Schneidwind stated that getting through the intersection cautiously does not work and that you really must pull out fast to get across. Rita Nyman stated she has feedback and comments from other residents in Upper Gardens who all would like to address this intersection and feel it is unsafe. She mentioned that she tried addressing this issue with the Village Board 5-10 years ago and asked about it again back in June of this year. She and many of her neighbors think the village should be proactive and not reactive if an accident were to occur at the intersection. Kenny believes that the permanent fix will come when N Lakeshore Drive is redone. For now, a temporary fix would be adding signage to try to slow down traffic on N Lakeshore Dr. President Kenny/Corso 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of installation of caution signs on N Lakeshore Drive, before and after Stearns Road, and the Motion carried with a 5 to 1 vote, with Kaminski opposed.

#### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 18, 2023, at 4:30 pm.

#### **Adjournment**

Kaminski/Gerard 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by Stephanie Klug, Administrative Assistant

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

APPROVED: 9-18-2023