

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

SPECIAL JOINT SESSION MEETING of the VILLAGE OF FONTANA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES with the PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Saturday, April 30, 2005

President Howell called the special joint meeting of the Village Board and the Protection Committee to order at 9:00 am in the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

Trustees present: Roll call vote: Bromfield, President Howell, Petersen, Larson

Trustees absent: O'Connell, Pollitt, Turner

Protection Committee Members present: President Howell, Trustee Bromfield, Sandy, Grabow, Ryndak, Eshoo, Allen

Protection Committee Member absent: O'Brien

Also present: Police Lt. Brad Buchholz, Village Administrator Kelly Hayden-Staggs, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, Police Chief Steve Olson, Village Attorney Dale Thorpe

General Business

Police Department Staffing Issue

President Howell stated the special joint meeting was called to discuss the resignation of Police Department Investigator Jeff Recknagel, and to provide the Police Department and Police and Fire Commission direction with regard to staffing after Recknagel's May 7, 2005 departure. Chief Olson stated that the past practice in the Village of Fontana Police Department when an employee resigns has been to hire one of the department's current part-time officers. Chief Olson stated the department was about to face the "summer crunch" so a decision had to be made with regard to the staffing situation. Olson stated the department's current part-time officers are Aaron West, Aaron Skinner and Eric Kuhart, and Skinner and Kuhart are scheduled for the two LTE positions this summer season. President Howell stated that the PFC needs direction from the Protection Committee and Village Board as to whether Recknagel should be replaced at this time, and if so, a profile stating the desirable qualities for potential candidates needs to be established for his replacement. President Howell also asked if the Police Department could operate with five full-time officers instead of six, with the assistance of two or three LTE officers. President Howell stated that the chief and lieutenant could also take patrols to fill in the schedule after Recknagel's departure. Sandy stated he feels it will be difficult for the department to operate with five full-time officers instead of six, especially in the summer season when there are 5,000 to 10,000 more people in the village on weekends. Sandy stated that it would be a better decision to allow the Police Department and the Police and Fire Commission to settle the hiring procedures and to go with internal advancement to replace Recknagel. President Howell asked Sandy if he performed patrol duties when he was the chief of the Village of Fontana Police Department. Sandy replied that he worked about two to four hours per day on street patrol duties. Chief Olson stated that he and the lieutenant have salaried positions and they are not supposed to perform the duties of the people whom they supervise. Thorpe stated that the duties are not the issue of the state regulations Olson was referring to, it is a matter of determining compensation parameters if the chief and lieutenant are given patrolling duties. President Howell asked if the Village Board and Protection Committee members were comfortable with not immediately hiring anybody to replace Recknagel and directing the Police Department to go with a five-man rotation for the time being. President Howell stated that the situation can be monitored on a month-to-month basis to help alleviate the budget crunch and to determine if a five-man rotation will work. President Howell stated that if the Village of Fontana Police Department requires assistance with investigations or emergencies, the Walworth County Sheriff's Department is available. Olson replied that he doesn't think the five-man rotation will work; however, he stated he

didn't know the proposal was going to be made so he didn't prepare a report prior to the meeting. Hayden-Staggs stated that the issue is also on the agenda for the Village Board meeting on Monday, May 2, 2005, in case it is necessary to continue the discussion at that time. President Whowell suggested that the Village Board and Protection Committee table the issue to give Chief Olson time to prepare a five-man rotation schedule that includes patrol duties for the chief and the lieutenant, and to solicit input from the Walworth County Sheriff's Department.

Protection Committee Member Allen/Member Eshoo 2nd made a MOTION to table the issue for one month, and to direct Chief Olson to prepare a schedule for a five-officer rotation to be presented at the next Protection Committee meeting. The MOTION carried without negative vote.
Trustee Petersen/Trustee Bromfield 2nd made a MOTION to table the issue for one month, and to direct the Police Department to come back to the next joint Village Board and Protection Committee meeting with a five-officer rotation schedule that will work for the 13 weekends during the summer season, and to invite a representative from the Walworth County Sheriff's Department to the next joint meeting to present a report on the assistance the Sheriff's Department can provide the Village of Fontana with regard to investigative duties. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Adjournment

Trustee Petersen/Trustee Bromfield 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 am, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Protection Committee Member Eshoo/Member Allen 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 am, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Dennis L. Martin, village clerk

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

APPROVED: 05/20/2005