

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

EMERGENCY MEETING of the VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
**Thursday, June 26, 2014**

Village President Arvid Petersen called the emergency meeting of the Village Board to order at 5:00 pm in the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin.

**Trustees Present:** Roll call vote: President Petersen, Tom McGreevy, Rick Pappas, Dave Prudden, George Spadoni

**Trustees Absent:** Pat Kenny, Bill Gage

**Also Present:** Director of Streets Ron Adams, Director of Utilities Dennis Barr, Jade Bolack, Police Sgt. Jeff Cates, Rallee Chupich, Tom Collins, Ray Forsythe, Lynne Frost, Matt Galvin, Tom Hausner, Al Kaminski, Stan-Lee Kaderbek, David Lindelow, Theresa Linneman, State Representative Amy Loudenbeck, Clerk/Administrator Dennis Martin, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Ron Nyman, Micki O'Connell, Police Chief Steve Olson, Ted Pankau, Scott Peterson, Edwin Snyder, III, Edwin Snyder, IV, Terry Tavera, Village Attorney Dale Thorpe, Treasurer Scott Vilona, Craig Webster, Craig Workman, Steele Whowell, Tom Whowell, Todd Wilkins

**General Business**

**Consider Emergency Repair Project for South Lakeshore Drive Bridge**

The emergency meeting was called by Trustees McGreevy and Spadoni at 11:00 am on June 26, 2014 after the Village received a report from its contracted bridge inspection engineering firm, Collins Engineers, Inc., Milwaukee, and a subsequent order from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to immediately close the bridge on South Lakeshore Drive at the Abbey Harbor. Martin stated that the Public Works Committee recommended the hiring of Collins to perform a comprehensive inspection of the bridge after structural concerns were noted by Director of Streets Ron Adams and brought to the attention of the committee. The Village Board authorized an initial inspection that was conducted two months ago, and a subsequent comprehensive study at the recommendation of Collins, which was completed Wednesday, June 25, 2014. Martin stated that the Village has contracted with Walworth County for several years on the Wisconsin DOT required bridge inspections, which reportedly have only addressed the surface level of the bridge. Martin stated that when Adams reported to the committee that he had noted serious concerns when completing a road maintenance project on the bridge, the committee received a recommendation from the Village engineer to contract with Collins for an extensive structural inspection of the bridge. Tom Collins stated that the June 25<sup>th</sup> inspection revealed that the majority of the below surface pilings have buckled and the bridge could be compromised at any moment. Collins stated that they reviewed the investigation findings Wednesday evening and contacted the Village Thursday morning to recommend the immediate closure of the bridge and the sidewalks under the bridge. Collins stated that they determined the bridge structure can currently only handle the dead weight load of the bridge and pedestrians. Following a staff meeting with the Village engineer and attorney, President Petersen directed staff to close the bridge and post signage as soon as possible. The Village was subsequently contacted by the Wisconsin DOT and the emergency meeting was called. Following discussion, Collins Engineers Senior Vice President Stan-Lee Kaderbek stated that he could design a short-term repair project to reopen one lane of the bridge for automobile traffic; that pedestrians can walk over the bridge, but not on the sidewalks under the bridge; and that the Abbey channel can remain open for use except during the repair and reconstruction projects when the new pilings are being installed. In response to liability concerns stated by Attorney Thorpe, Kaderbek stated that as long as someone monitors the level of the bridge and records the elevation measurements three times a day, Collins Engineering will sign off on a statement regarding the safety of the current bridge and allowing pedestrians to walk on it and boaters to drive under it in the channel. Collins Engineers inspector Ray Forsythe stated that the only structural concern, now that traffic has been blocked from crossing the bridge, are the sidewalks under the bridge as they are no longer on a solid foundation. Following further discussion, Kaderbek stated that he can design a short-term repair plan that could be completed in a matter of days, with favorable weather. Kaderbek stated that he could

have a draft of the repair plan to the Village by the next morning. Wisconsin DNR Environmental Review Specialist and Transportation Liaison Craig Webster stated that he will assist the Village and Collins in obtaining the necessary permits, and the DNR stands ready to get the permits approved verbally if necessary in order to expedite the repair and replacement projects, and to keep the Abbey channel open to Geneva Lake. The Village Board members reached the consensus that the repair plan should be designed by Collins Engineers with the subsequent bridge replacement project in mind, that the proposed plan should be presented at another emergency meeting for final approval, that the temporary repair plan should be designed to open one lane for automobile-only traffic by July 3, 2014 and through mid-September, and for the traffic to be controlled by traffic lights on both sides of the bridge. Adams stated that earlier in the day, he contacted Scherrer Construction, Burlington, and Jeff Wilkins had come out to inspect the bridge and indicated that his firm could mobilize for the immediate start of a repair project. Tom Collins stated that the state requires the use of prequalified contractors to work on bridge projects, and the repair project contractor will need the materials and equipment to be readily available. Wilkins stated that Scherrer is prequalified with the state and he could have the necessary steel beams for the repair project delivered to the site within 24 hours. State Representative Amy Loudenberg stated that she has already been in contact with the DNR and DOT administrations, as well as the governor's office, to discuss emergency funding; and her office is ready to assist the Village with any other issue that should arise. Following further discussion, it was clarified that the bridge currently can be crossed by pedestrians and that boaters can use the channel; that boat traffic will be stopped during the construction periods; and that the sidewalks under the bridge cannot be used until the replacement project has been completed this fall. Fire and Rescue Department Assistant Chief Scott Peterson stated that plans will be made for fire and rescue vehicles to be stationed and/or available on both sides of the bridge.

Trustee McGreevy/Trustee Prudden 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to authorize Collins Engineers, Inc., Milwaukee, to work with Scherrer Construction, Burlington, on designing a temporary bridge repair plan to get the bridge open for one lane of automobile traffic through the summer season, and to bring the design proposal and cost estimates back to the Village Board for subsequent approval. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Following discussion, the Village Board directed staff to schedule another emergency meeting on Saturday, June 28, 2014 beginning at 8:00 am to consider the proposed repair plan and the project contracts with Collins Engineers and Scherrer Construction. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the monthly meeting of the Public Works Committee. Spadoni stated that staff should be sure to contact the media and Charter Communications to determine if announcements regarding the bridge can be posted and/or broadcasted. The Abbey Harbor Yacht Club staff will be sending out email and Twitter updates to its members.

Trustee Spadoni/Trustee McGreevy 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION to direct staff to schedule an emergency meeting for Saturday, June 28, 2014 beginning at 8:00 am to consider the proposed South Lakeshore Drive bridge repair plan and cost estimates, and to approve the project contracts to be drafted by the Village attorney with Collins Engineers, Inc., Milwaukee, and Scherrer Construction, Burlington. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

### **Adjournment**

Trustee McGreevy/Trustee Spadoni 2<sup>nd</sup> made a MOTION at 5:31 pm to adjourn the meeting, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Dennis L. Martin, village clerk/administrator

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: 07/07/14