

Villages of Walworth and Fontana
Ad Hoc Joint Services Committee Meeting
April 13, 2009
5:00 P.M.

Chair LeRoy Nordmeyer called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. Present: Kenny, O'Connell, Peterson, Nordmeyer, (Walworth has a vacancy on the committee to be appointed). Simonson arrived later. Also present: Fontana Fire/Rescue Personnel Nitsch and Kemmett, Walworth Police Chief Severt, Walworth Fire/Rescue Personnel Long and Jim and Rhonda Schwartz, Fontana Administrator Hayden, Town of Walworth Town Board Chair Joe Abell.

Petersen/Kenny motion to approve February 24, 2009, minutes carried by ayes without negative vote.

1. Paid on Premises

Nordmeyer announced that Walworth's referendum passed. Meanwhile, Fontana may no longer need POP per Petersen. Fontana Fire Chief Nitsch stated that he has firefighters completing a class to be pump operators. Jon Kemmett also said they have gained quite a few new EMTs. In January, 2 completed school, 2 are just completing now and 3 more will soon complete, although they still have some problems with daytime needs. Some of their call volume will be down this year. Walworth Fire Chief Long thought it was very clear from the beginning that all four departments were in need of POP. Nordmeyer thinks POP has validity from the rescue side and fire would just be a bonus. Petersen thought some of the early conversation revolved around the number of people needed to roll a fire truck. Do three people have to be on board to roll a rescue vehicle? No, per Kemmett, it takes one EMTI and one basic EMT. Petersen asked if we would need 3 full time POP people then. Nordmeyer asked if from Walworth or Fontana had any further discussion with Metro. The two depts. have had no further discussion with Metro or between themselves since the last Ad Hoc meeting.

Hayden recollects from the previous meetings that Metro would be 2 full time people and 1 part time person and that the two villages would enter into an agreement to manage the independent contract with Metro. Severt says the Metro contract needs to be worked out on the details. No one person would work more than 600 hours, but it would add up to a full time position. Nordmeyer said when this was originally talked about the goal was to provide better service and save some dollars along the way. The other benefit was the third person to help on the fire side. Nordmeyer also noted that the two stations are separated by a short distance. How could it not be a benefit to have one fire department and consolidate services and equipment? Nitsch doesn't think anyone on their side thinks consolidation is necessarily bad, but until a study is done to figure out the disparities and research is done to find out if it's a good or bad thing to consolidate, we can't really know. Nordmeyer noted the committee asked the four departments to get together, so aren't we doing the preliminary things?

Nitsch believes we're still missing the big step—someone professional to do the necessary research. Nordmeyer thinks a consultant will ask for the same information this committee has requested. Severt asked if this POP would be a 4 into one or a 3 into one. That changes the numbers significantly. The committee needs to decide what Fontana Fire is going to do. Petersen doesn't think we have enough information right now to decide if Fontana Fire is going to participate.

2. Hayden noted that her focus is on POP. Summer is their busy season and Fontana needs to know if they're going to have POP by then. She would like to see a Metro contract to see if it will work for both communities. If Fontana Fire doesn't take a share, then Walworth Fire won't and that's two depts. to share the larger cost. Will a third person be necessary if neither fire departments are involved? Long says Walworth's Fire is still looking for POP, but the cost will be higher than allowed by our referendum that just passed. Part of the issues are equipment issues. Nordmeyer noted that's part of the information they're waiting for—get the list of equipment and plug it into the contract to see what each community contribution would be. Nordmeyer asked Nitsch if he doesn't think we can get this info together and digest it enough to then see if we need a consultant. Nordmeyer thinks we could save a lot of money by cutting officers or their salaries in half. A consolidated department wouldn't need all those officers. He also thinks we can determine what Fontana and Walworth's shares will be based on the information we gather. But if not, we're all smart enough to see that when it happens. He wants to see the 4 departments gather the details needed for the Metro contract and have a draft prepared for the next Ad Hoc meeting. Nitsch says Fontana Fire will sit in on these discussions and make the decision later.

Nordmeyer asked the departments to set a meeting date and send the information to the Ad Hoc committee by email. It should be a posted agenda in case any committee members attend.

O'Connell/Peterson motion to adjourn carried by ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Schut
Clerk