

Villages of Walworth and Fontana
Ad Hoc Joint Services Committee Meeting
June 23, 2009
6:30 P.M.

Present: Kenny, Nordmeyer, O'Connell, Petersen, Vanderbloemen, Watters. Also present: Joe Abell, Town of Walworth Chair; Jon Kemmett, Fontana Rescue Chief; Andy Long, Walworth Fire Chief; Chris Severt, Walworth Emergency Services Director.

Chair LeRoy Nordmeyer called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

O'Connell/Vanderbloemen motion to approve April and May minutes carried by ayes without negative vote.

Review and Discussion of Paid on Premises:

Nordmeyer asked if there was anything from Metro. Per Kemmett, Metro sent two proposed contracts. There is only a \$1,000 difference between us supplying turnout gear vs. them providing it. The total is \$118,196 with turnout gear. We pay about \$2,000 for turnout gear normally. The Ad Hoc Committee would review the contract next.

Delavan Rescue Squad Inc also presented a proposal with guaranteed coverage from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. We would collect all revenue and then disburse to Delavan a contract fee and 50% of all the call revenue. Petersen explained how we got this document from Delavan Rescue. The owner called him to ask why we weren't considering a local WI company. One of the members of the Board, Irene LaBonne, is a prominent citizen of Fontana. Kemmett thinks this sounds like a better deal for us. Since we began these joint services discussion, both this company and Paratech have started providing this kind of service. Our people can transport with them and control the call or they can transport. They will come down and train with us or allow us to do rideouts with them. When we looked at it from the fire end, Fontana didn't have as great a need. If they were Firefighter 1, they could assist us. Recently the numbers in Fontana have dropped—EMS 41% since last year. The other squad using this concept is Linn Township with Paratech transporting 24/7 for them. Some money comes back to Linn when any of their people respond. Watters understanding from preliminary discussion is that one of our concerns was the ability to respond and respond in a timely fashion. Our people would respond and they would turn into the transporting unit. Paramedic intercept would be used for chest pains/breathing problems. Nordmeyer noted the price is attractive compared with Metro, but it doesn't address the initial concern of timeliness. Watters primary concern is immediate response time. The concept of having staffing during those hours is his concern. These two contracts—the Delavan company and Metro—are two completely different concepts. Severt doesn't believe the Delavan company solves any problems for Walworth.

Watters directive to his Board was to work toward some kind of consolidated service. Are we any closer to that today? Probably not, per Petersen. Watters sees two different topics—POP and consolidation into a joint entity. Do we see hope for a joint entity at this point? Watters noted that you can have two different entities that share a service, but the joining of the entities to provide a service creates something more synergistic. Nordmeyer noted that there's been a lot of resistance from the Fontana Fire Dept. Our goal is to plan for the future. Several other local departments are looking at consolidation, too.

Abell noted the Town is a customer of the Village of Walworth. If staff is in Fontana part of time and part in Walworth, what will happen? Per Severt they would respond from whichever station they're at with whatever equipment is there. You have to get four people to the call per Severt, but they don't have to be on the truck before it can respond. There's no ISO mandate. It's purely for rating your fire dept. NFPA standards are different. Severt understands the Town has met with other fire departments. to possibly split up the Town into four quadrants for fire/rescue service. Severt noted the whole paid on premise concept would be out the window in that case. Now is the time to do it, but this group cannot proceed until we know what the Town is going to do. Response volume will be too low to justify paid on premise if the Town goes with 4 different departments. Until the Town makes up their mind, we're at a standstill. Watters noted the intent of our letter to the Town was to be able to include language that makes the contract assignable if we end up with a joint fire/rescue entity.

Nordmeyer would like a reaffirmation of commitment from both Villages and that they're going to direct their departments to cooperate. Watters reaffirms Walworth's commitment to make this a reality by October. Petersen thinks it's not going to happen by then. Watters also thinks that as leaders we have to have vision and direction for our communities, knowing we'll continue to have decreases in funding from the state government. We need to look at it from the perspective of what we need to do to provide timely, cost-effective services to our residents. He thinks that if our Village Boards collectively agree this is the direction we want to go, it's our responsibility to direct the departments for the greater good of the communities. Petersen suggests we schedule another meeting and between now and then, each of our Boards can take another look at this and confirm that it's the way we want to go. We need to talk to the chiefs of our departments, but he doesn't believe the October deadline is doable. It's what Watters set for his Board, but he understands it probably wouldn't work now. Watters would at least like an affirmation from this committee--each then affirmed his/her commitment. Watters also asked if the Town is interested in a partnership. Abell said they'd likely entertain becoming a partner.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Schut
Clerk
Village of Walworth