

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE

Walworth County, WI

Protection Committee

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

(Official Minutes)

The monthly meeting of the Protection Committee was called to order at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, September 29, 2015 by Chairman Dave Prudden.

Committee Members Present: Chairman Prudden, Trustee Petersen, Bob Allen, Joe Corso, Jim Frost, Phil Costa

Committee Member Absent: Robert Moravecek

Also Present: Lee Eakright, Jon Kemmett, President Pat Kenny (arrived at 5:50 pm), Clerk Theresa Linneman, Fire and Rescue Dept. Chief Wolfgang Nitsch, Police Chief Steve Olson, Trustee Rick Pappas, Scott Peterson

Approval of Minutes for Meeting Held August 17, 2015

Joe Corse/Bob Allen 2nd made a MOTION to approve the minutes from August 17, 2015 as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Visitors Heard

None

General Business

None

Fire/Rescue Department

Monthly Report

The monthly report was distributed.

Adopt a Fire Hydrant Program

Prudden proposed an Adopt a Fire Hydrant Program which he stated was previously discussed with Fire and Rescue Dept. Chief Nitsch. The program would allow citizens to claim responsibility for a fire hydrant somewhere within the village, likely near their residence, and keep the hydrant free of snow and brush, and mow around it in the summer. The purpose is to make sure firefighters can get to the hydrants in emergency situations. Prudden explained it is a no liability program and would simply require the interested party fill out and sign a form. Scott Peterson said it is a popular program in grade schools and helps to get children involved in public safety within their community.

Jim Frost/Bob Allen 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of an Adopt a Fire Hydrant Program, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Disposition of Obsolete Fire Department Air Paks

With the purchase of new air-packs last year, the department has roughly 22 old air-packs to dispose of. 5 Alarm Fire and Safety Equipment, LLC, has offered to purchase the old air-packs for \$150 each. They payment would not be cash, but in the form of a credit for merchandise or equipment from 5 Alarm. The total credit would be around \$4,000.

Trustee Petersen/Phil Costa 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of the proposal to sell the air-packs to 5 Alarm Fire and Safety Equipment, LLC, for \$150 worth of credit for each, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Smoke Detector Program for Those in Need

Prudden introduced a proposal to purchase a limited number of smoke detectors that would be donated to residences that are in need. The smoke detectors would be installed by Fire and Rescue Dept. personnel to make sure they actually get installed and are installed correctly, and would require a signed waiver from the recipient. The batteries in the detectors would be sealed in so they could not be removed and used for anything else. Prudden said a basic detector runs about \$12 to \$15 each and smoke detectors with carbon monoxide detection can run up to \$50 each. Petersen suggested looking at True Value as he recently saw sealed smoke detectors with a 20-year warranty for \$20 each. Kemmett said Beloit, which has a much larger population, runs a similar program. Beloit's program is in conjunction with Meals on Wheels and fire personnel will change batteries in smoke detectors when needed. Several suggestions were made on how to run and fund the program, such as partnering with a civic organization like as Meals on Wheels, and also how to attain the smoke detectors. One suggestion made was to purchase the detectors with the credit from 5 Alarm Fire and Safety. The committee decided the options presented will be looked into in more detail and put on next month's agenda for follow up and recommendation.

Emergency Services Response Plan During the Bridge Replacement to Include Paratech Coverage

Due to the bridge closure scheduled from October 15, 2015 through May 16, 2016, there is concern about emergency personnel responding in a timely manner to the south shore area of the village during the hours of 6:00 pm to 6:00 am when the fire house is not staffed. Firefighters that would normally use the bridge to get to the fire house from the south shore will have to use the detoured route to the fire house, get their equipment, and then use the same detoured route to respond to the call. This could end up delaying the response time significantly. Chief Nitsch presented various options such as stationing a rig on the south shore, but said that is not a very good alternative because if there is a call for service on the north shore, the same situation occurs of having to use the detoured route to get to the location of the call. Linn Township and Walworth will be on auto aid, but Nitsch said they are still six or seven miles away. The fire house is currently staffed from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm through the Paratech contract, and the proposal is to staff the fire house 24-hours a day while the bridge is out. That means additional staffing between 6:00 pm and 6:00 am until the bridge is repaired. The cost to staff the fire house for an additional 12-hours per day for roughly seven months is \$121,000, which has not been budgeted for. Nitsch said the village has three or four Fontana Fire and Rescue Dept. employees who would be willing to work to cover the additional shifts, but it would not fill all the necessary slots needed for full coverage and additional help would still be required. He said the most viable option would be to hire Paratech since the employees are already co-mingled in the department; however, because they are also not overly staffed, it will probably require using a combination of both Fontana employees and Paratech employees. The committee discussed using as many village employees as possible or at least offering the positions to them first. Pappas said he would rather use the money to staff an ambulance on the south shore rather than a fire truck. Allen noted the cost is not for the ambulance or fire truck, it is to pay the staff.

President Petersen/Bob Allen 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval of a plan to staff the fire house for an additional 12-hours per day from October 15, 2015 through May 16, 2016, or for the duration the bridge is impassable, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Police Department Monthly Report

Chief Olson presented his monthly administrative report.

Bay View Parking

Lee Eakright of 334 Bay View Avenue questioned why, after 22 years, the No Parking restriction was lifted on Bay View Avenue and was modified to allow parking on one side. Chief Olson said it was recently discovered that while Bay View had been posted as No Parking, it was not actually in the Village Municipal Code. It was brought to the Village Board last month and

Ordinance Section 74-281(p) was created and designates no parking on the north side of Bay View Avenue from Reid Street east to Lake Street. Eakright brought up several concerns with allowing parking on the south side of Bay View Avenue including limited access for emergency vehicles but most notably, when vehicles are parked on Bay View, it creates a hardship for him and his family to back out of their driveway. He distributed photographs that depict his residence and surrounding area. One member questioned why the issue was being addressed at the Protection Committee even though the original ordinance to ban parking on one side did not come through the committee to begin with and another member asked if the change was necessary in the first place. Olson said he had received complaints from Bay View Avenue residents that their guests had nowhere to park due to the parking restriction. Pappas pointed out that it is very close to the lake and one of the only areas to park without having to pay to park. Prudden proposed visiting Bay View Avenue with President Kenny to assess the situation further and come up with possible solutions that could be brought back to the committee for further review.

Trustee Petersen/Bob Allen 2nd made a MOTION to table the Bay View Parking agenda item, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Positive Police Officer Engagement Program – Trustee Spadoni

Trustee Spadoni was not present to present a new Positive Police Officer Engagement Program. Chief Olson said he does not want to give residents the impression that a program is needed or that the department does not already have programs in place. He listed several including a bike clean-up program where unclaimed bikes are refurbished and given away, and Shop with a Cop which takes place annually during the holiday season. He passed around a list of all the programs run by the police department and also reminded the committee they are a small department and can only take on so many programs. Prudden said the committee is always open to hearing new ideas or programs, but they must be the right fit for the department and for the community.

Trustee Petersen/Joe Corso 2nd made a MOTION to deny the Positive Police Officer Engagement Program as previously submitted by Trustee Spadoni, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2015 beginning at 4:00 pm.

Adjournment

Bob Allen/Joe Corso 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by: Theresa Linneman, Village Clerk

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: 01/18/16