

VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE
Walworth County, WI

Lakefront and Harbor Committee
Wednesday, October 31, 2012
(Official Minutes)

The monthly meeting of the Lakefront and Harbor Committee was called to order at 4:30 pm on October 31, 2012 by Chairman Rick Pappas.

Committee Members Present: Trustee Rick Pappas, Don Holst, Ed Snyder, Joel Bikowski, Bob Chanson, Lee Eakright

Committee Member Absent: Steve Beers

Also Present: Darrell Frederick, Village Clerk Dennis Martin, Tom Whowell

Visitors Heard

None

General Business

Approval of Minutes for Meeting Held August 29, 2012

Snyder/Eakright 2nd made a MOTION to approve the August 29, 2012 minutes as presented, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Lifeguard Contract Recommendation for 2013 Season

The annual contract proposal for lifeguard services calls for a \$200 increase from last year.

Snyder/Eakright 2nd made a MOTION to recommend approval of the \$37,520 contract with the Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Summer P/L 2011 Final and 2012 Preliminary

The committee reviewed revenue and expense total figures for the lakefront operations from 2009 to the present. Pappas stated that he will request that Administrator/Treasurer Kelly Hayden also breakdown the spreadsheet to provide monthly totals. Pappas stated he would also like to review the breakdown of the fees paid at the launch ramp by boat size and by residents versus nonresidents. Pappas stated that Hayden is reviewing the options for the credit card processing company for the lakefront pay stations to determine if the village can reduce the percentage of the total parking fees that are paid to the credit card company. Holst stated that he will provide Hayden with information on the credit card firm that works with the Lake Geneva Yacht Club.

Fuel Barge on Public Piers

Pappas stated that the intent of the agenda item was to determine if the committee is interested in specifically prohibiting the fueling of watercrafts tied up to Village piers from a fuel barge. The current Section 54-49 of the Municipal Code prohibits fueling watercraft with a portable can or container while located at the village owned lakefront or at any municipally owned pier, but it does not specifically address fuel barges. Pappas asked if the other committee members were interested in considering an ordinance amendment that would prohibit fueling from a barge to prevent spillage into the lake. Eakright asked why the village would want to prohibit the fuel barge on Geneva Lake from selling at the Village owned piers and lakefront. Eakright stated that the barge owner has obtained the necessary permits to operate and there must be safety standards. Tom Whowell stated that Gordy's and the Abbey Harbor have to be annually inspected for compliance with state safety regulations. Whowell stated that there are safety devices in place to prevent any major spillage or accident at the licensed gasoline facilities on the lake, and there are no safety measures or state inspections for the fuel barge. Snyder stated that the Abbey Harbor fuel tank is located above ground on shore and other environmental safety devices are incorporated on the fueling lines. Following discussion, the committee members directed staff to

inquire if the local ordinance can be legally amended to prohibit watercraft from being fueled from a barge while tied up at a Village pier or mooring, and to provide at the next meeting drafts of ordinance amendments that would address the safety concerns. Chanson stated that it may be easiest to amend the ordinance and the village mooring lease contract language to simply state that there is no fueling permitted for watercrafts tied up to a village pier or mooring. Eakright stated that he will contact the owner of the fueling barge that was on the lake last season and inquire on what safety standards and inspections were required.

Pappas/Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to table the item and to direct staff to research and draft possible amendments to Section 54-49 of the Municipal Code. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

DNR Mandate to Release Water

Pappas stated that the agenda item was to provide an update on the ongoing negotiations between the Geneva Lake Level Corporation and the Wisconsin DNR. The Lake Level Corporation Board of Directors has hired attorney Bill O'Connor who has been trying to get the DNR to lift its order for the Geneva Lake dam to remain open. The level of the lake is down several inches and the environmental and economic concerns are escalating as the level continues to drop. Whowell stated that the biggest problem is the DNR's misinterpretation of the impact the lake dam has on the entire White River. Whowell stated that the only area in contention and relevant to the situation is the first 300 yards of the river, which has not been a river for more than 100 years. Whowell stated that the overall Geneva Lake watershed is being put in jeopardy by the DNR order. Snyder stated that Pottawatomi Creek is very dry and the running water is not even half as wide as the creek bed during peak season. The committee discussed the possible impact of the lower water level on the village moorings and crib beds. The committee asked Darrell Frederick of Austin Pier Service to review the village pier slips when removing the piers this fall and let the village know if some of the first few slips spaces located close to the shore will be in jeopardy next season. The committee also asked Frederick to review the potential crib damage that ice this winter may cause because of the low lake level caused by the DNR order.

Snyder/Bikowski 2nd made a MOTION to recommend that the Village Board continue to support the Geneva Lake Level Corporation's efforts to oppose and repeal the Wisconsin DNR order to leave the Geneva Lake dam open, and to recommend that up to \$5,000 be allocated to the Lake Level Corporation for the legal fees. The MOTION carried without negative vote.

Commercial Launch Responsibility for Honor Box

Pappas stated that commercial launch businesses are supposed to be paying the honor box when using the village launch ramp when it is not manned. So far this fall, only Ship Share Marine has made any payments to the honor box. Eakright stated that he has observed many local commercial launch businesses using the ramp since October 15, 2012, when the village no longer has an employee at the launch on a daily basis. Pappas stated that the Village ordinance only requires launch fees during the season which goes from April 15th to October 15th. Pappas stated that next season the commercial launch owners should be sent a notice that states they are supposed to be using the honor box whenever the launch is not manned.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday, November 28, 2012 beginning at 4:30 pm.

Adjournment

Chanson/ Snyder 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 pm, 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 Lakefront and Harbor Committee, the official minutes will be kept on file at the Village Hall.

APPROVED: 11/28/2012