

VILLAGE OF WALWORTH  
VILLAGE OF FONTANA  
Ad Hoc Joint Services Committee  
November 14, 2007  
5:30 P.M.

Matt Long called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Present from the Village of Fontana: Micki O'Connell, Arvid Petersen, George Spadoni

Present from the Village of Walworth: Matt Long, LeRoy Nordmeyer, Rich Simonson

Each member of the group introduced him/herself and explained his/her position and experience. Long noted that Fontana and Walworth have already worked together on several projects: the sewer commission, mutual aid calls, water interconnection and building inspection services, for example. Petersen believes it's "our fiduciary responsibility to look into this". Nordmeyer noted as an example that the cost of fire equipment is astronomical. Long thought there were a lot of emotional issues when this was last discussed at the Board level. He believes this will be a better place to start. Spadoni noted that volunteerism is declining and asked about a Fire Protection District which would be a separate taxing body. He believes there may be no volunteers in 5-10 years and a District would fund all costs. Petersen asked if the first step would be to consolidate our services before a district might need to be formed. A consolidation would reduce the requirements of what we need to fund.

Long recently sat in on consolidation talks for two nearby municipalities. They brought in a consultant who looked at the facts and made recommendations. Do we need this service? The suggestion was made to have a consultant come out and talk about procedure and also a price for the service. A consultant would certainly look at a division of assets and liabilities. Would the Villages be willing to concede control of assets to a newly formed district? Nordmeyer noted we might have to create a commission to oversee whatever service we consolidated.

Nordmeyer handed out a copy of the statutes governing consolidation of services. It looks like a fairly simple formality. He also noted that, except for valuation, the villages are very similar to each other. A discussion followed on what services might be the best to look at first.

Spadoni suggested we set the next meeting and contact a consultant to come out. O'Connell suggested the League of Wisconsin Municipalities might be able to give us an idea of what the procedure involves and refer us to consultants who could help us. Simonson suggested we might need budget information for the next meeting for Public Works, Police, Fire, Rescue, Library and Municipal Court. The objective of this committee is to avoid being political, cutting services or increasing taxes.

A Spadoni/Simonson motion to nominate Long as chair carried by ayes with one negative vote.  
Spadoni/Petersen motion to adjourn carried by ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Schut, Clerk