

VILLAGES OF WALWORTH AND FONTANA
AD HOC JOINT SERVICES COMMITTEE

May 5, 2008

4:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Micki O'Connell, Rich Simonson, Matt Long. Absent: LeRoy Nordmeyer, Pete Petersen, George Spadoni.

Also Present: Town of Walworth Town Board Chair Joe Abell, Village of Walworth Police Chief Chris Severt, Fontana Police Chief Steve Olson, Fontana Fire Chief Jon Kemmett; Fontana Administrator Kelly Hayden, Fontana Trustee Diane Lewis

Continue Discussion on Consolidation of Services:

Walworth Police Chief Severt reviewed the statistics sheet prepared by Walworth Court Clerk Ellen Reddy. Simonson noted this was to get a feel for level of activity and potential consolidation schedules. Time spent in each court session is usually about an hour. The judge goes over every ticket. If no one is there it's a forfeiture or default judgment. Severt noted a question was asked last time if it would be feasible to hold Walworth and Fontana courts the same day at different times and he thought that would not be a problem. Hayden will merge data from both courts into one spreadsheet for the next meeting and incorporate expenses also. Long noted Schut handed out examples of municipal court agreements. Schut will pick out three village to village or city to village agreements from the Dept. of Justice list of joint municipal courts and get examples. Hayden will look at what needs to be done for dissolution of courts beginning this fall.

Severt noted Walworth and Fontana Fire and Rescue Depts. have met 4-5 times to discuss main concerns and needs of the departments and communities. Concerns were ownership, officers, who keeps what, and who does what. Equipment wise, we sit pretty well. The biggest need seems to be manpower from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. In 2006, 2007 and to date 2008, the 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. time period represents 65-68% of all calls 7 days a week. The average number of calls for both Fontana and Walworth per day is 1.97. On average, five rescue and nine firefighters respond per call, but that number is declining. Both departments thought full time staffing from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. would be needed. Town of Bloomfield uses Metro for staffing and they would use our people first. They offer an opt out contract if the municipalities decide full time staff is not working. Metro is responsible for staffing, benefits, liabilities, and overtime. The pros for FT staffing: response time is quicker; no response time requirements from state or NFPA; first ambulance crew checks situation and cancels call if not needed; staff available for public education, maintenance, fire inspection and clerical duties. Walworth would use current clerical staff cost and 2% dues to put toward combined staffing costs.

Currently Walworth and Fontana don't charge the same amount for services. A common rate and also the percent a billing company takes would have to be decided. Fontana's Rescue is more like an Enterprise Fund. That side of it would need to be cleaned up before a consolidation per Hayden. We can do 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. with 2 or 3 full time people for the 5 day period and backfill with our people—Walworth volunteers respond

to Walworth calls, Fontana to Fontana calls, full time people respond to both Villages. Another plus is that we'd be in a good position for back to back calls, which happen about 2 dozen times per year. McConnell asked how we'd be saving money. Severt thought there'd be no savings initially, but down the road there should be fewer volunteers responding and elimination of duplicate equipment and facilities. For example an engine costs \$200-350,000 for low to midline and lasts about 25 years per standards. NFPA standards are a guideline unless the state adopts them which WI has done.

Severt noted that consolidation is feasible and more necessary immediately from a manpower standpoint than for financial reasons. The Fontana Fire Chief noted we'll save money on quantity pricing by joining our large purchases together for items like turnout gear, air pacs and hose. Savings will be in major equipment. We're not looking at any rig replacement until 2025 and 2026, except Walworth has one possibility in 2009. We currently have about 90 volunteers between the two communities. An employee could be a full time Metro employee during regular hours and then a municipal volunteer for other hours. Metro trains and employee also trains with us. If we feel a Metro employee is unacceptable, we just tell them and they reassign. Severt will provide details in packet form before next meeting. The problem is daytime staffing. Membership isn't into scheduling themselves to commit to certain time periods. If they're available they'll make the call; otherwise not. Why isn't the county taking some leadership on this? Severt noted that the direction is toward countywide EMS; however, response time is terrible if they run out of a central hospital. Long would like to see some budget information in a packet before next meeting. He thinks we need to see some monetary savings for the taxpayer. Severt thinks better service and either the same or decreased costs are primary objectives.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Schut
Clerk, Village of Walworth