

**VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN**
(Preliminary Minutes)
Protection Committee
Monday, September 20, 2021

The meeting of the Protection Committee was called to order at 5:00 pm on Monday, September 20, 2021, by Chairman Dave Prudden.

Committee Members Present: Chairman Prudden, Trustee Petersen, Al Kaminski, Robert Moravecek, Joe Corso, Jim Carroll, Mark Gerard

Also, Present: Fire and Rescue Dept. Chief Wolfgang Nitsch, Police Chief Jeff Cates, Jon Kemmett, Scott Peterson, Stephanie Klug

Visitors Heard

None

General Business for Consideration

Trustee Prudden asked how the committee would feel if the meetings were moved from 5:00 pm to 3:00 or 4:00 pm. After some discussion amongst the committee, it was decided to change the meeting time to 3:30 pm going forward.

Fire/Rescue Department

Monthly Report

The monthly report was emailed out by Scott Peterson and there were no questions.

Commercial Inspection Discussion

Chief Nitsch stated that they are continuing to have issues with some commercial fire inspections. He brought this up to the committee last fall, and it has not gotten any better. It has reached the point where he will be working with the police department to issue citations to these businesses that have life threatening fire violations.

Proposed Fire Hydrant Equipment Use Agreement

Chief Nitsch stated this agreement is not something new with the Town of Linn, it's the same as it has been for years and years, however, this is the first time that a written agreement has been made. The agreement spells out terms of use including that the Town may use the Village's hydrants during an emergency and with advanced notice during a non-emergency.

Staffing

Chief Nitsch spoke about the issue of the Village working with third party contractors for EMS. Metro is the current contractor for EMS services and their contract is set to expire in May of 2022. Nitsch stated that one EMS paramedic resigned and has another is out with an injury. He contacted Metro to request additional staff to cover the shifts and was told that they don't have anyone to send. Metro understands that by not sending staff they are in breach of contract. There have been six employees in the last five years who have resigned and went to municipal agencies since they are able to offer a benefit package and a pension through the Wisconsin Retirement System. Nitsch feels it time to address the issue again of making EMS full-time village employees.

Corso/Kaminski 2nd made a MOTION to recommend Village Board approval to examine the needs of the community, remove the 3rd party contractor, and make EMS full-time municipal employees, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Police Department

YTD Report

The year-to-date incident summary list was distributed with no questions.

Update on Tabled Items

Chief Cates wanted to touch base on a couple of items that were tabled or discussed between meetings. Bob Moravecek had mentioned putting a flashing light at the Indian Hills and County B intersection. After looking into the intersection more, no part of the intersection is in the Village's jurisdiction. The county highway department was contacted, installed lights on the stop signs at the intersection and there has not been an incident since. The village has an ordinance in place that does not allow video gaming machines. Pre-trials for municipal court are being handled by Thorpe & Christian and the Village was paying over \$56,000 a year. Attorney Thorpe was contacted about this and made the promise to the Village to look at reducing costs and the Village Board accepted that. Cates stated the cost has come down and will reevaluate costs in six months. Commercial businesses operating on Fontana waters needs to be addressed. Trustee Petersen suggested Cates contact Tom Hausner from Geneva Lake Law Enforcement Agency to address this issue. The final item is the flashing light that was at Brookwood prior to S. Lakeshore Dr. being redone. Brookwood Association contacted Cates about getting a light put back up. After discussion with the Brookwood Association, they decided to purchase two LED solar power flashing signs that read Dangerous Intersection with their association funds. The Village has agreed to install them once received.

2022 Budget Items

A new squad car is one item that is budgeted for in 2022. Cates stated that currently Chevy is not taking orders, so a Ford Explorer may be the only option. Switching to the Tahoe is something Cates would like to do since they seem to hold value better. A new speed sign is also an item budgeted for in 2022. The current sign is older, and several bulbs are not working. The siding on the east side of the Safety Building is dry rotted and needs to be replaced. One bid came in at \$10,000.

Staffing

Chief Cates pointed out that the police department has had the same officers for five years. One officer has applied at another department and will more than likely be leaving. This becomes an issue since there are not new recruits applying. When a department loses an officer or one retires, there are not new recruits to choose from but instead they hire from other departments. Cates stated that he will probably be starting the hiring process in the next couple of weeks.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for Monday, October 18, 2021, beginning at 3:30 pm

Adjournment

Corso/Moravecek 2nd made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 pm, and the MOTION carried without negative vote.

Minutes prepared by Stephanie Klug

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: