

APPROVED MINUTES

**VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL
January 15, 2014**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hanson called the January 15, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building: 874 Main Street, Antioch, IL.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor and Board of Trustees led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following Trustees were present: Pierce, Sakas, Poulos, Dominiak, Crosby and Johnson. Also present were Mayor Hanson, Administrator Keim, Attorney Long and Clerk Folbrick.

V. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Open discussion involving continuing relationships with the Antioch First Fire District and the delivery of fire and EMS services within the greater Antioch area presently and in the future – Mayor Hanson read his statement into the record regarding the audio recording of the First Fire District closed meeting and video recording of John Edgell's testimony. He indicated the need for an open and candid discussion regarding current and future fire and EMS services in the Village of Antioch.

Trustee Pierce was dismayed and angered by the recordings that were distributed, but asked fellow board members to set aside their anger and proceed logically with facts.

Trustee Sakas was not surprised by the recordings, but felt verified in his assumptions. He indicated that the recording shows problems between firefighters and members of the Antioch Rescue Squad (ARS). He stated that ARS is hemorrhaging money, and in need of fiscal responsibility. Trustee Sakas discussed the need for a referendum if there is to be a consolidated fire district, and that the discussions in the recording look for a way to avoid a referendum. Finally, in the recording, there is an appeal to those present at the fire district meeting not to disclose anything discussed that evening.

Trustee Poulos indicated he would not vote for anything that would open a possibility of working with ARS again, or for the Village to relinquish control of anything where ARS could provide services in the future. He always has, and always will do what is in the best interest of the Village of Antioch.

Trustee Crosby stated that the meeting was a clear effort of collusion, and has a problem negotiating with members that make back-room deals. He discussed free services and the ultimate cost that is paid for the value and content of those services. He would like to see the studies concluded with the options and scenarios being considered, and make a decision from there. He believes Village and Township need to work together, but he will do what is deemed the best option for the Village of Antioch. He indicated that he will not agree to any concept that would put the Township in charge of making decisions, or put them in any kind of control.

Trustee Johnson felt that the subcommittee group was making progress, and he will do what is in the best interest of the Village as well. He feels, however, that a trust was breached and that cannot be overlooked.

Trustee Dominiak thinks we need to continue to move forward, and continue discussions. She indicated that an IGA was to be drafted as a catalyst for a referendum. She expressed concern that there are

APPROVED MINUTES

qualified paramedics in town that are not being utilized because ARS is not welcome in the Village. Mayor Hanson commented that ARS has been around for 70 years with no control by the Village of Antioch, and nobody ever questioned when ARS needed assistance from neighboring communities. Those present discussed mutual aid from other communities, and the possibility of using ARS in a mutual aid capacity. They spoke of previous restrictions to provide services, and the need for future discussions regarding mutual aid. Trustee Crosby thinks that ARS personnel should be put under the control of Chief Nixon. Chief Nixon stated that ARS cannot provide mutual aid services because it is not a governmental agency.

Trustee Sakas said the most talked about option at the subcommittee meetings has been to consolidate into the first fire protection district, which would consist of 3 township members and 2 village residents on the board. The only way to have the rescue squad survive is with business from the Village. He does not believe there is any basis to move forward with any of it.

Trustees Crosby and Dominiak agreed to move forward with the process, get the study results, and make an informed decision on behalf of the Village of Antioch.

Trustee Johnson said consolidation is one option, and the purpose of the Joint Public Safety Committee (JPSC) is to analyze and weigh all of the options. He believes stopping the meetings all together will hurt the overall process, although steps have been taken backwards. Trustee Pierce wants the Fire District to send the message to their staff to treat people with respect and dignity and to be professional on calls.

Chief Nixon addressed Trustee Dominiak's concerns regarding Village and Township services. He stated that mutual aid ambulances are recommended by fire dispatchers, and there is all of the necessary equipment is on the fire trucks to help assist. He discussed that ARS is not an intergovernmental entity, and would not qualify for an IGA. He indicated that ARS could be contracted as a vendor, but then the board would have to allow 2 different vendors. He indicated that ARS was already on a call during the AUGS incident, and mutual aid would never take all of the resources from one entity. He further stated that there have never been any service delays during his operations as Chief.

Ms. Dee Reeves, Antioch Township resident, asked the board if they have listened to the tapes, and expressed concern with the services she will receive as a township resident.

Mr. Matt Tabar, First Fire District Member, discussed the meeting called with ARS, and the intent to discuss the terms of the contract. He thought collective bargaining would apply to contractors, but later learned it applies to employees only. He indicated that they regret the meeting and lack of trust it has created. District members are working to resolve issues and address formal complaints. If a relationship continues, it will be in a profoundly different way than it is being done now. Trustee Crosby said he has confidence in Member Tabar, but thinks the District is lacking in their support of the Village. He is bothered by the discussion held after the meeting on how to spin what happened. Trustee Tabar announced that a second meeting is scheduled and will be held in public.

Those present discussed the formation and organization of ARS as a 501c3 charitable organization, and their past problems with members electing management. They indicated that management should be separate, qualified, and held accountable. Mayor Hanson congratulated District Administrator Ted Jozefiak on his recent appointment.

Attorney Megan O'Malley clarified the process for the election of board members for ARS, which has been changed from village-only members having voting power to all members being able to vote.

Mr. Peter Grant, Township Trustee, expressed his opinion on the recording, and didn't hear anything of substance from the FFD board members that would change current relationships. Trustee Pierce commented that a majority of the tape was ARS trying to drive a wedge between the Township and the Village.

APPROVED MINUTES

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Sakas read aloud a letter into the record announcing his resignation effective January 15, 2014 due to a new employment opportunity with a conflicting meeting schedule. He recommended the appointment of former Trustee Jay Jozwiak to his unexpired term for the next 16 months. Mayor Hanson commented on Trustee Sakas' qualifications, and agrees with the recommendation of Mr. Jozwiak. He thanked Trustee Sakas for serving on the board, and presented him with a token of appreciation. Those present agreed that Trustee Sakas will be greatly missed, and he worked hard for the Village of Antioch community.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel and Pending Litigation, Lease of Village Property, Collective Bargaining –

The Mayor and Board of Trustees did not go into executive session.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Village Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori K. Folbrick, RMC/CMC
Village Clerk