

Town of Holland

Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

July 28, 2008

Gene Jentink
Village of Cedar Grove
22 Willow Avenue
Cedar Grove, WI 53013

Re: Renegotiation of the Fire Department Agreement

Gene:

Thank you for agreeing to allow the Town of Holland to defer discussions of the Village's request to open up the Agreement for negotiation. You will recall that I was unable to attend our June Board meeting, so this item was placed on our July meeting agenda. This letter summarizes our discussions and outlines how we would like to proceed with the discussions.

The prior agreement allows for either party to open up the agreement for renegotiation as stated in paragraph 8. We understand that the Village is most interested in opening up discussions on paragraphs 4 and 7, rent and water, respectively. The Town of Holland would also like to open up paragraph 2 of this agreement (operating costs) for renegotiation. The Town of Holland is also requesting that we renegotiate the First Responders Agreement.

The Town Board suggests that we begin this process by putting down in writing the specifics of our respective requests. Therefore, the Town Board will prepare a summary for each our requests, and we are asking that the Village Board do the same. The Summary of Requested Changes should include as a minimum:

1. Statement of the objective(s)
2. Recommended language of the section where changes are being requested
3. Presentation and discussion of facts and circumstances that support the change (make the case for why a change is needed, and why it should be changed as drafted), and include all references to state statutes and state agency rules, guidance, or regulations

A written summary has a number of advantages, which includes:

- Providing for a concise and well thought out presentation of a case for the proposed change(s)
- Allowing those who are not as close to the details to read and prepare for a meeting or response to the request.
- Minimizing the number of meetings needed. Coordinating 12 calendars is always challenging. I'm not sure how many of the Village Board members are employed full time, but all of the Town's Board members are working. The Town also has extra meetings associated with its comprehensive planning efforts, the extraterritorial zoning required by the Village, and its routine committee obligations.
- Focusing on facts that should drive our decisions. This should serve to make the discussions go more smoothly.

The Town of Holland recommends that we target having the summaries prepared and submitted to each of the Boards at least one week prior to the September Board meetings.

Following our respective September Board meetings, it will either be clear that we have agreement or that some points merit responses. These responses probably should also be in writing, and should be made available to the respective Boards prior to the October meetings. At that point, we will probably find a joint meeting to be productive.

Please let me know if this approach meets with your approval.

Sincerely,



Don Becker
Chairman, Town of Holland

c: Richard Katte (Cedar Grove)
Dave Huenink (Holland)