

# Town of Holland

**Sheboygan County, Wisconsin**

November 24, 2008

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

**Re: Renegotiation of the Fire Department Agreement**

Gene:

The Town of Holland has tried with this matter to communicate with the faster medium of e-mail, but apparently not all e-mails are making their way to you. Therefore, I am going back to the slower U.S. Mail or hand-delivered mail approach to ensure receipt.

The Town submitted a draft fire department agreement to the Village, containing changes desired by the Town, on about October 1, 2008. I received an e-mail from you on October 21, 2008 that had attached the Village Board's draft fire department agreement. This draft did not come with any explanation of the changes the Village was requesting or any explanation how it might differ from the draft submitted by the Town 3 weeks earlier. Therefore, I replied the same day asking for an explanation in preparation for the November Town Board meeting and our planned joint Village and Town board meeting. See the attached e-mail dated October 21, 2008. Apparently you did not receive this e-mail because I heard nothing back, although I was fully expecting to receive a reply within a couple weeks of your November Board meeting. Your e-mail of November 21, 2008, attached, neither acknowledged my October 21<sup>st</sup> response, nor replied to it.

The Town of Holland Board in our November 10 meeting noted that the Village Board dismissed, without comment or acknowledgement, most changes to the agreement proposed by the Town. The Town Board fully anticipated that the Village Board would add some changes not included in the Town's draft since the Town did not want to presume any changes that the Village may want; and there were some changes of this nature. The sentiment expressed in the November 10 Town Board meeting was an expectation that the Town's request for clarification was being addressed that same evening in the Village Board meeting, and that we expected to hear a reply within 2-3 weeks of that date.

To keep this process moving, the Town of Holland would like to have the joint meeting of our respective Boards or, if you prefer, a joint meeting of our respective safety committees, to focus on the issues that remain unsettled after complete disclosure of the facts and rationale on the part of the Village and the Town in their respective drafts. To this end, the Town of Holland board committed itself in our November 10 meeting to deliver to the Village Board written comments on the proposed changes offered by the Town and on those offered by the Village. These written comments will state why we support or oppose a particular position. These comments will again be focused on achieving an agreement that is equitable to both communities. We agreed to do everything possible to have our comments to the Village Board members at least 1 week prior to the next Village Board meeting.

In preparation for a joint meeting, the Town Board would also appreciate receiving comments from the Village Board that explain why the changes the Town requested were dismissed by the Village Board (where this was the case), and the reasons the changes uniquely requested by the Village are needed, appropriate, and equitable.

I request that you do your best to meet the same schedule with your written comments (i.e., to be received by the Town at least one week prior to the Town's December 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting). If both Boards have a written summary of the full arguments supporting and opposing each suggested change prior to our respective December board meetings, then I would presume that we should be ready for a joint meeting in January. Feel free to suggest possible dates and times in your reply.

You may call me at any time on my cell phone (920-207-6211), e-mail me at [donbecker@alphaterra.net](mailto:donbecker@alphaterra.net), or mail me through the Town Clerk.

Sincerely,



Don Becker  
Chairman, Town of Holland

- c: Cedar Grove Board Members (hand-delivered copy to Village office for each member)
- Town of Holland Board Members (e-mail)
- Greg Navis, Fire Chief, Cedar Grove Fire Dept., 306 S. Main Street, Cedar Grove, WI 53013

**Don Becker**

---

**From:** Don Becker  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 21, 2008 9:51 AM  
**To:** 'Linda & Gene Jentink'  
**Subject:** RE: Fire Department Agreement

Thank you for the draft. Do you plan to provide an explanation supporting each change you have requested? At least for me individually, it will be hard to come to an opinion of whether I support the change or not unless I understand the reasons behind the request. I believe that such an explanation would help us in our discussions and understanding of the proposed language. Also, do you intend to offer any comments on the draft language changes that the Town provided to the Village prior to your last Board meeting?

I agree that we will likely need a joint meeting of the Boards, but I believe it is critical to the efficient use of everyone's time in that meeting to have a good understanding of each organization's proposed changes, and that each of us have had an opportunity to provide additional facts and insights related to the various issues. We have a little ground to cover yet before our boards will be ready to intelligently discuss this matter and to have any hope of reaching a new agreement.

Don Becker  
Alpha Terra Science  
1237 Pilgrim Road  
Plymouth, WI 53073  
Ph: 920-892-2444  
Cell: 920-207-6211  
visit us on the web at [alphaterra.net](http://alphaterra.net)

---

**From:** Linda & Gene Jentink [mailto:[gjentink@wi.rr.com](mailto:gjentink@wi.rr.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 20, 2008 9:25 AM  
**To:** Don Becker  
**Subject:** Fire Department Agreement

The Cedar Grove Village Board read your Agreement and we as a board drafted the attached agreement which we voted on unanimously to accept. Please look it over and at your earliest convenience, I think we should sit down and work out any issues we do not agree on.

Sincerely,  
Gene Jentink

**Don Becker**

---

**From:** Linda & Gene Jentink [gjentink@wi.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 21, 2008 11:45 AM  
**To:** Don Becker  
**Cc:** Ron Hinze; Mark Post; Mark Mentink; Ken Hoopman; Katte Richard; Jeff Duenk  
**Subject:** FIRE DEPARTMENT AGREEMENT

Dear Chairman Becker,

I believe the last communication we had was sending you the Fire Department Agreement drawn up by the Village of Cedar Grove. This draft was approved by the Village Board. If there are any portions of this draft that the Town of Holland doesn't agree with, then please set up a meeting with the two Boards to discuss. If this is acceptable then let us know and we can sign the agreement before the first of the year.

Sincerely,

Gene Jentink  
Village President.