

Town of Holland

Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

December 9, 2008

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

Re: Renegotiation of the Fire Department Agreement

Gene:

I received your e-mail of December 1 (attached), and placed the item on our agenda for the Town's December board meeting. The Town board suggests that we plan for a joint meeting of the Town and Village boards in January. Trying to make the calendars of everyone on both boards match in this Christmas and New Years holiday season is not likely to work.

We suggest that the safety committees of the Village and Town try to meet yet in December to go over at least the minor aspects of the agreement so that the boards can focus on the areas where there is yet no agreement. It my understanding that the Village's safety committee is made up of Rich Katte and Mark Post. The Town's safety committee is comprised of Dave Huenink and Martin Elmer. Each safety committee can report to their board at the regularly scheduled board meetings for January on what was accomplished in this meeting. Possible meeting dates for these committees are Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, December 16, 17, or 18.

We suggest that the boards meet at the Cedar Grove library at 7:30 PM on January 26 or 27. If those dates do not work for the Village board, please suggest others. Please be aware that the Monday and Tuesday of the prior week will not work for the Town board.

We believe that this initial meeting must focus on sharing of the logical thought process and the facts that support our respective positions on individual aspects of the draft agreement. Our discussions should be directed at fully understanding each other's respective position on each item. To that end, we have drafted a suggested agenda (attached).

Following this meeting, each board will have the opportunity to discuss at their regularly scheduled February meeting what was learned in this joint meeting. These discussions

should be directed towards identifying points of agreement and compromises that might be possible to allow us to reach an agreement. At the January joint meeting of the boards, we should select another date and time for a follow-up negotiations meeting.

Please select a single date in January for the joint meeting, and make any other recommendations as you see appropriate. However, we ask for your prompt attention to our suggestion that the safety committees meet by indicating your position on this request. You may reply in whatever manner is more convenient for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Becker".

Don Becker
Chairman, Town of Holland

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

Draft AGENDA

JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARDS OF THE
VILLAGE OF CEDAR GROVE
AND THE
TOWN OF HOLLAND

CEDAR GROVE LIBRARY – COMMUNITY ROOM

DECEMBER ??, 2009 7:30 PM

1. Opening comments
Gene Jentink
Don Becker
2. Presentation of Supporting Logic and Facts for proposed joint fire department agreement as proposed by the Village of Cedar Grove, with time for questions and clarifications.
The Village board may choose to present the Village board's logical arguments and facts supporting the draft as you prepared it, including both items you chose to include and exclude.
3. Presentation of Supporting Logic and Facts for proposed joint fire department agreement as proposed by the Town of Holland, with time for questions and clarifications.
4. Final questions and clarifications
5. Select date for next meeting
6. Adjourn

Don Becker

From: Linda & Gene Jentink [gjentink@wi.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, December 01, 2008 3:42 PM
To: Don Becker
Subject: Renegotiation of the Fire Department Agreement

Chairman Becker,

In answer to your hand-delivered letter dated Nov. 24, 2008, I will list what articles we as a board feel are unacceptable and must be negotiated.

1. The parties shall share equally the costs of purchasing trucks and will share equally the costs of the Fire Department training wages. Other expenditures will stay the same as in the contract that is in effect at the present time.
2. Rent of the Firehouse. The Rent of the Firehouse will be increased to \$27,000.00 for the year 2009 and shall increase 3% commencing January 1, 2010 and on each January 1st thereafter. There has been no increase for over four years and cost continually increase. The Board believes these are increases that are necessary.
3. Billing for Water. The billing method follows the guidelines set by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and will include separate "hook-up charges" each time a truck is filled but shall not include hydrant rental.
4. Operating Costs. Mutual Aid calls shall not be included in the rolling average of the most recent ten completed years.

These are the areas that the Village Board finds unacceptable and was included the draft copy of the agreement that was forwarded to you.

Please let us know when your Board would be available to consider these options.

Sincerely,

Gene Jentink
President, Village of Cedar Grove