

Jan. 19, 2021

Meeting minutes for the Fire Dept/1<sup>st</sup> Res. Long-Range Plann Comm.  
NKA 1LRC

The committee's inaugural meeting occurred on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM organized and called to order by Town Chairperson Ken Schaefer. Committee member's in attendance was: Mike Funk and Josh Carney – 2 members appointed to represent the fire department, Sue Schiesl and Haily Joas appointed to represent the 1<sup>st</sup> Responders, Tammy Mackai and Tim Lemke appointed to represent the village and Ken Schaefer and Steve Phipps appointed to represent the town. Members of the public present: Jim Hooyman and Brandon Poehlein. Bill VanHoorn arrived around 6:45 PM.

Steve Phipps indicated the meeting notices have been posted on the town's behalf.

Ken Schaefer was elected as chairperson. Tim Lemke was elected as vice-chair. Steve Phipps was elected as recording secretary.

It was decided the meeting length goal would be 90 minutes.

Public Comment: It was decided public comment would be at the meeting start and would not exceed 5 minutes per person.

Committee is advisory only.

Voting authority of committee members: After general discussion, Steve moved and Josh 2<sup>nd</sup> to allow all 8 members to vote on any or all issues.

GOALS: The committee decided to prioritize the goals as follows:

1. Ownership Structure
2. SPS 330
3. Admin. Rules Bldg requirements.
4. HIPAA and personal privacy for staff and party served.
5. Cost appropriation between entities.
  - a. Water and Contract.
6. Employee Assistance Program.
7. Solving the stalemate issue in a vote of 2.

No decisions made on any goals and no tasks assigned to any members

The next meeting date was scheduled for Tuesday Feb 9 at 6:30 PM.

At 7:45 PM, Steve Phipps moved and Tim Lemke 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn the meeting. M/C.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Phipps  
Recording Secretary

1LRC Minutes

6:30 PM Feb. 9, 2021

Stockbridge Community Hall

approved minutes

The committee's 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting occurred on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:30 PM organized and called to order by Town Chairperson Ken Schaefer. Committee members in attendance were: Mike Funk and Josh Carney – 2 members appointed to represent the fire department, Kathy Stadtmueller and Haily Joas representing the 1<sup>st</sup> Responders, Tammy Mackai and Tim Lemke appointed to represent the village and Ken

Schaefer and Steve Phipps appointed to represent the town. Members of the public present: Bill VanHoorn and Jim Hooyman were present. Tammy Mackai moved and Steve Phipps 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the agenda for the evening. M/C.

Ownership of the fire department and 1<sup>st</sup> responder's was discussed as to the present form, history, options and forms of ownership by different area departments. The pros and cons of the different ownership were discussed in great lengths. Tim Lemke and Tammy Mackai indicated the village board discussed the issue of ownership and seemed to favor making no changes. Haily Joas shared the 1<sup>st</sup> responders discussed the issue and were in favor of municipal ownership. Mike Funk indicated the fire department was willing to discuss the issue. All these issues and reasons were discussed in great length and no decisions and votes were taken. Mike Funk indicated he would ask some area departments for more information about their non-municipal ownership for the committee to review in the future.

Steve P. moved and Haily J 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn the meeting. M/C.

Meeting was adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Phipps

Recording Secretary

February 23, 2021

Approved Minutes.

The committee's 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting occurred on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 6:30 PM organized and called to order by Chairperson Ken Schaefer.

Committee members in attendance were: Mike Funk and Josh Carney – 2 members appointed to represent the fire department, Kathy Stadtmueller and Sue Schiesl, representing the 1<sup>st</sup> Responders, Tammy

Mackai appointed to represent the village and Ken Schaefer and Steve Phipps appointed to represent the town. Members of the public present: Bill VanHoorn and Jim Hooyman and Mike Schiesl were present.

Steve P. indicated the meeting was posted on the town's behalf. Tammy Mackai moved and Steve Phipps 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the agenda for the evening. M/C.

Ken asked if everyone was in agreement that the option of private ownership was not viable. No one objected to no longer exploring that idea.

The discussion occurred about around joint vs single municipal ownership of the fire department. General discussion followed. Other issues brought up and discussed with no decision include: staff and/or officer qualifications/training, SPS 330, statutes (or lack of) governing creation and/or operating a fire district/company, fire district meaning, consolidation in fire companies, availability of training during non-business hours, employers policies toward staff being called for duty, cleaning up existing agreement between the two municipalities – especially water usage. No decisions made.

It was requested by Ken, if Steve could ask the Town's Assoc. staff attorneys if there were any statutes governing how a municipality is to operate a fire department.

Josh C. moved and Mike F. 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn the meeting. M/C.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Phipps

Recording Secretary

March 9, 2021

Unapproved Minutes.

The committee's 4th meeting occurred on March 9, 2021 at 6:30 PM organized and called to order by Chairperson Ken Schaefer. Committee members in attendance were: Mike Funk and Josh Carney – 2 members appointed to represent the fire department, Haily Joas and Sue Schiesl, representing the 1<sup>st</sup> Responders, Tammy Mackai appointed to represent the village and Ken Schaefer and Steve Phipps appointed to represent the town. Members of the public present: Bill VanHoorn and Jim Hooyman.

Steve P. indicated the meeting was posted on the town's behalf.

Mike moved and Tammy 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the previous month's minutes.  
M/C.

No one signed up for public comment.

Mike Funk and Steve Phipps 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the agenda for the evening.  
M/C.

Ken asked everyone to share any thoughts about the progress of the committee.

General discussion then went into the value of the existing town/village joint agreement and authority of the municipal boards, fire department and 1<sup>st</sup> Responder's staff and their relationship to one another as it relates bylaws, officer selection and governance. Such as whether the joint agreement was binding since the WI Statute it was created under no longer exists per the opinion of the WTA staff attorney. After much general and varied discussion, Ken asked the minutes to reflect it is his opinion the joint boards should be selecting officers although no committee vote was taken on the issue.

Haily read WI S. 61.65. Steve provided a WTA attorney opinion on a question the committee asked about previously. Mike provided NFPA officer standards material.

The committee asked Steve to see answers from the WTA staff attorney for the following questions:

0.5. Is the agreement that was created between the town of Stockbridge and village of Stockbridge under 60.29 then a binding agreement? In full or part? Could part be void?

1. Can the joint municipal boards appoint officers unilaterally? ie. no input from any fire commission if none exists and no members of the fire department.

1.5 Can the joint municipal boards let the fire department staff appoint officers unilaterally? ie. no input from any fire commission if none exists and no members of the municipal boards.

2. Who per WI Statutes approves the bylaws for the fire department? Can the joint municipal boards approve unilaterally? ie. no input from any fire commission if none exists and no members of the fire department.

2.5. Can the fire department members approve the bylaws for the fire department unilaterally if the boards take no oversight/governance? ie. no input from any fire commission if none exists and no boards object.

3. Can a village under 5500 people in population lawfully operate and/or form a fire department (FD) solely on their own or with a town? This question comes from a member(s) wondering if the village has no authority to operate/form a FD at all or with the town due to it being under 5500 in population size. There are 4 questions in this one.

4. If yes is the answer to question 3, what is the statute by which the village would operate/create a FD?

5. Currently the town of Stockbridge and the village of Stockbridge have a joint FD. Is there a requirement to have a fire commission distinct and unique from the municipal boards?

6. Currently the town of Stockbridge and the village of Stockbridge have a joint FD. Can the joint boards consisting of 10 people directly govern the FD? This question originates from member(s) finding something in statute about the governing body (fire commission) of the FD had to be a certain number of people.

Ken asked if everyone was in agreement that the committee should recommend the fire department remain jointly owned? Tammy Mackai moved and Josh Carney 2<sup>nd</sup> for the committee resolve the fire department should remain jointly owned. M/C.

Josh C. moved and Tammy 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn the meeting. M/C.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Phipps

Recording Secretary