

## **MINUTES OF THE JOINT VILLAGE & TOWN BOARD MEETING Wednesday, December 18, 2024**

Time: **5:00 pm**

Place: **Mukwonago Town Hall, W320 S8315 Beulah Road, Mukwonago, WI 53149**

### **Call to Order**

President Winchowky called the meeting to order for the Village at 6:30pm.

Supervisor Topczewski called the meeting to order for the Town at 6:30pm

### **Roll Call**

#### **Village Board Members Present**

Eric Brill

Darlene Johnson

Ken Johnson

Dale Porter

Scott Reeves

Fred Winchowky

Also Present; Diana Dykstra, and Diana Doherty.

Absent: John Meiners

#### **Town Board Members Present**

Lyle Boucher

Gilbert Yerke

Peter Topczewski

Also Present: Kathy Karalewitz

Absent: Richard Wrasman, and Kay Clabault

Present for the Fire Dept; Chief Stien, Captain Cuomo, and Barlow.

### **New Business**

#### **Discussion and possible action to update the Fire Department Organizational Chart**

For the Town:

Boucher/Topczewski motion to adopt the Organizational Chart dated November 27, 2024.

Unanimously carried.

For the Village:

Reeves/Porter motion to adopt the Organizational Chart dated November 27, 2024.

Unanimously carried.

#### **Discussion and possible action on a request for a modification to the residency requirement language in the Union Contract 4585 2020-2025.**

Chief Stien discussed the contract sets 25 mile radius. He noted since referendum less applicants have applied, and even less qualified. He felt residency would be a draw since they are unable to extend lateral transfers. He feels they need to be more flexible and doesn't see a problem with this added to the contract.

For the Town:

Boucher/Topczewski motion to approve the MOU for residency waiver.

Yerke noted he feels this will have a ripple effect on other positions and may weaken response times.

Chief Stien assured it will not.

On Town motion; Unanimously carried.

For the Village:

Porter motion to recommend removing residency requirement.

Trustee Brill seconded for discussion.

Reeves noted that the residency requirement of 25 miles is in the contract and expires on 12/2025, and is hesitant to change before then.

Porter noted that if these individuals are talented lets not hand tie the department and allow them.

K. Johnson noted that Milwaukee has a 25 mile radius and feels that is generous.

Brill noted he sees both sides, and would like to hear from the Labor Attorney since we are saying our department is so under paid, we will need the labor attorney to draft an MOU and bring to them to review.

Reeves noted he sympathizes but after going through the Police Negotiations would like to hear from Labor Attorney why this can't just be part of the next contract.

Winchowky noted he feels this should be part of contract negotiations, not outside.

Porter motion to amend his original motion to table until we can speak to the Labor Attorney in January. Brill seconded.

Unanimously carried.

**Discussion and possible action regarding establishing a Memorandum of Understanding to allow participation in the International Association of Fire Fighters Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan (IAFF MERP).**

Chief Stien noted union members came to him regarding this issue. It is a medical expense reimbursement plan. They had the Labor Attorney review this. These are pre-tax withdrawals. Attorney Buikema has reviewed and supports it 100%.

Administrator Karalewitz noted that as a medical expense reimbursement, has anyone discussed with the state? That should be reviewed since we use ETF Health Plan.

Doherty noted that the Union did pay for the attorney expense to review this item. No one else in Wisconsin currently uses this plan. Attorney Flannery reviewed this and feels there is no issue as long as there is no cost to the village for administrative costs or contributions.

For the Town:

Boucher/Topczewski motion to approve.

Yerke noted this could wait for negotiations. Motion carried 2-1.

For the Village:

Reeves/Porter motion to approve.

Reeves noted he felt this could wait, but seeing they have a memo from the Attorney he will agree with it.

D. Johnson commented as long as this doesn't get brought up later during union contract to contribute to it.

Chief Stien noted that this was a five year contract and items changed. This has no financial impact on the Village, and no impact on the contract.

Brill noted he will support as long as there is no impact to the Village. There is language that stated it will become null and void if and when it becomes a cost to the Village or Town.

Roll Call: "Yes" Trustee Brill, K. Johnson, Porter, and Reeves. "No" Trustee D Johnson, and Winchowky. Motion carried 4-2.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 6:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Dykstra, MMC  
Village Clerk-Treasurer