

VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS

Port Edwards, Wisconsin

COMMITTEE: SPECIAL MEETING

DATE: 18 April 2023

TO: BETSY MANCL

cc: JOSEPH ZURFLUH

JEN MOORE

TIARA GRUNDEN

SCOTT DREW

CALEB MCGREGOR

ERIK SAYLOR

DAILY TRIBUNE

WFHR/WGLX

NICK ABTS

RAYMOND BOSSERT

JASON WORDEN

DIANE TREMMEL

LONN RADTKE

Purpose of Meeting: Special Meeting for the Firefighter Athletic Association Discussion

Attendance: R. Bossert, B. Mancl, E. Saylor, C. McGregor, J. Moore, T. Grunden, J. Zurfluh, Nick Abts

Absent: L. Radtke

Citizens: S. Drew (ZOOM), Scott Grunden (ZOOM), Jason Worden, Cary Smith, Don Kinowski, Josh Mancl, Tom Bartlett, Eric Hummel

Subjects discussed, Action, Taken & Board Action Required:

Special Meeting

- 1) Call to order. At 6:40pm
- 2) Declaration of a Quorum. Trustees present, Radtke excused.
- 3) Public comment on agenda items.
 - a) Tom Bartlett (retired Fire Chief and Resident) submitted a sheet citing some historical data on the issue and wanted to make sure a clear understanding on the need for the organization was had. He also agreed that some previous misunderstandings possibly have occurred that brought us to this point. Comments filed with the Village.
- 4) Discussion with Village Attorney on the Fire Fighter Athletic Association issue and the Village engagement moving forward. This is an effort to gather data from the subject matter experts to make a possible future decision by the Board.
 - a. The Administrator explained the products included in the packet. The memo from the Auditor, memo from the Attorney and the Administrators courses of action described for possible action.
 - b. In summary the Attorney stated that a clear separation of the Athletic association from the Village is in the best interests of the Village and the Non-profit. It

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clearly identifies the rules and responsibilities of all parties and keeps all interactions transparent. The ability of the Village to inject and direct a separate entity that is recognized by the Federal and State Government is extremely limited. The next point would be to clearly outline the interaction of the fire fighters to participate in this organization and that can be handled thru the employee handbook. When it comes to being involved in financial decisions of the Board as well as the Athletic association

c. Trustee Grunden asked to clarify the clear separation and that the Village should treat this athletic association as a partner that has to ask for permission to use Village property. The administrator and Fire department secretary clarified that no pay was being authorized for dance setup/tear down. Its in the bylaws but never enacted, this language is changing.

D. Trustee Saylor explained that the Bylaws are in DRAFT and needing to be revisited to continue to clean up language that has been found inaccurate or wrong. The intent is to establish firm rules so the arbitrary discretion of the Chief is limited and thus keep a professional environment.

e. Attorney Abts also stated that the Bylaws should be separated from the Association Bylaws. This will clear up a host of issues. In summary a clear separation in the Bylaws and ordinances needs to happen to outline the actions moving forward. Also capture all actions in working as an agreement or contract between the association and the Village.

5) Adjournment. at 7:13 pm by Mancl

Betsy Mancl- Village President

Question if answered should bring this to conclusion.

1. Does the Village have the authority to audit the Firefighters Athletic Association or does the ordinance 5.13 refer to the Fire Department donation funds held by the Village? This is the same as the donation funds for Police, Veterans and Flags.
2. It appears to question at hand is the Fire Fighters Athletic Association a part of the Fire Department or a stand-alone organization? (the Fire Fighter believe it is a stand-alone organization And it appears the Village board believes it is part of the Fire Department)
3. Why the attack on the Fire Department at this time? This does no good! The Fire Fighter roster is at half what they need. Calls are at a all time high. These individuals have stepped up to the challenge. This is a State wide problem for Volunteer and paid Departments. Even with these challenges they continue to do fund raising events.
4. These fund-raising events do more that raise funds. They bring the community together and bring people into the community. As an example, the brat fry during the Village rummage sale includes an open house. This opportunity shows the public what we have to offer as well as educate them on fire safety. The Dance bring the community together to mingle and grab supper. There in no charge to get into the dance making it family friendly. Most people don't see that cleanup following the dance start very early. It includes more than the immediate dance area as the neighborhood around the dance has litter cleaned up as well.
5. Lastly I want to support Chief Worden! This can be a thankless job and very challenging in the best of times. Problems like this hopefully will be few and far between. Keep your head up and we will be there to support you!

Question if answered should bring this to conclusion.

6. CHAPTER 5

5.13 ACTIVITIES ORGANIZATION AND FUND RAISING.

(1) ACTIVITIES ORGANIZATION. Members of the Department may organize an activities organization and elect officers provided that social activities are not funded from Village funds unless approved by the Village Board.

(2) FUND RAISING. The members may raise funds for special activities. Monies raised by members shall be kept in a special fund and used as directed by the membership, and shall be audited annually by the Village Auditor.

(3) PROPERTY OWNERSHIP. The Department membership may own property and equipment purchased by monies earned by fund raising events. If the membership disbands through a majority vote of its members, all apparatus, equipment, buildings and land shall become the property of the Village.