

**Special Village Board Meeting
March 04, 2019**

Board Present: Trustee Benkowski, Trustee Stillman, Trustee Wanggaard, Trustee Martin, Trustee Wishau and Trustee Prott.

Absent: President Dobbs was excused.

Staff/Others: HR Director/Asst. Village Administrator Toni Muise, BC Henningfeld, and Chief Roeder.

1. Call the meeting to order.

Trustee Wishau called the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m., at Village Hall, located at 5043 Chester Lane, Racine, Wisconsin.

2. Fire Safer Grant.

BC Henningfeld explained the Fire Safer grant and NFPA standards. He stated that currently the Fire Department is running inefficiently and the grant is an economical way to hire on new firefighters. Currently the Fire Department responds to calls with 10 personnel, which is under the recommended standard of 15. If 6 firefighters were brought on, and with the help of South Shore, the 15 firefighters needed for one house fire would be fulfilled. The cost would be broken down over a course of three years:

- Year 1 Village pays \$154,502.01 and the Federal Share is \$393,306.03 (75%).
- Year 2 Village pays \$159,505.14 and the Federal Share is \$393,306.03. (75%).
- Year 3 Village pays \$406,171.77 and the Federal Share is \$183,542.81. (35%).
- Year 4 the cost is fully the Village's responsibility and would be in excess of \$600,000.

Current response time is 5 to 7 minutes and 9 to 12 minutes for special ambulance calls to the east side of the Village. They discussed the staffing needs for the potential new development along I-94. Chief explained that for larger fires, help will be needed from our neighbors and as growth happens in other communities, as it has been, they will be busy with their own community. Although the Village has not seen an increase in population, the current population is aging and EMT calls are more prevalent as a result. They also discussed where the 6 additional personnel would be housed, quarters are tight but it is doable. Down the road the Village will need to look at relocating some of the departments. Further questions were asked regarding funding such as lowering overtime costs, and possibly increasing fees. An analysis needs to be done showing the real impacts.

3. Adjournment.

Motion by Trustee Wanggaard to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Martin. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karie Torkilsen
Village Clerk