

# VILLAGE OF WALWORTH

## GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, May 6, 2024, 5:30 p.m.  
Village Hall, 227 N. Main St., Walworth WI

### MINUTES

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Reierson at 5:30 p.m.

**Roll call:** Present were Trustees Ken Ellerth, Lawrence Gums, and Kristi Reierson. Also present were President Louise Czaja, Trustee Bob Ball, Police Chief Ryan Milligan and Fire/Rescue Chief Dave Austin.

**Comments from the public:** none

**Approval of Minutes from the March 26, 2023 regular General Services meeting.** *A Reierson/Gums motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2024 regular General Services meeting. Motion carried.*

#### **Discussion, Consideration and Recommendation on the following:**

##### **Fire & Rescue Department Monthly Report**

There were twenty-seven (27) rescue calls [YTD94] and seven (7) fire calls [YTD 35] for the month of March 2024. There were thirty-eight (38) rescue calls [YTD 132] and four (4) fire calls [YTD 39 for the month of April 2024. Chief Austin reported on the following items:

- a. Report of fire/rescue activities: The department noted a consistent and standard mix of calls. On seven (7) occasions a call to Fontana for transport was needed when a crew member was not available.
- b. Applicant to fill open position: members are taking the required tests to qualify for positions.
- c. Scheduling and staffing update: Chief Austin reported that it is a challenging market now and attracting candidates has become more difficult. Gabby Castenada who must yet get full certification is working as an entry level firefighter. *A Reierson/Gums motion to recommend to the Village Board the hiring of Gabby Castenada with a conditional offer pending background check and physical. Motion carried.*
- d. Billing company changeover: Chief Austin along with Deputy Chief Olivia Kovarik, Molly Forestrom and Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Rogers will meet on May 10 with an agent of EMSMC to discuss billing and legal information. The department is on board with the change of billing company and is ready to proceed in 90 days pending the termination of the old contract.
- e. Referendum update: Chief Austin provided an estimate of \$308, 292 to fund two positions, an increased pay rate and volunteer stipend as well as potential full time accommodation for paramedics.

### **Emergency Government Monthly Report**

Trustee Gums reported that a May 9 meeting to review the current plan and discuss adopting the police department plan is scheduled. In addition, he is investigating locations for an emergency operations center. Potential locations include Big Foot Union High School and Walworth Elementary School. Tours of the facilities are pending.

### **Police Department Monthly Report**

The Walworth Police Department responded to and/or addressed 672 calls for service during the month of March 2024. The Walworth Police Department responded to, and/or addressed, 654 calls for service during the month of April 2024. The rate of calls is similar to 2023 which saw a high number of calls. The department reports an increase in domestic calls and theft calls.

Chief Milligan reported on the following items:

- The new radios as part of the county-wide program may arrive in August. Chief Milligan indicated that the department needs two (2) radios with SWAT capability at a cost of \$1942.50 *A Gums/Ellerth motion to pay the invoice for the SWAT capable radios. Motion carried.*
- a. Part-time officer request: A candidate, Robert Noe, has passed background and physical checks. *A Reiersen/Gums motion to recommend to the Village Board the hiring of Robert Noe as a part time officer. Motion carried.*
- b. Coverage/overtime: There is an increase in overtime costs in order to fill shifts.
- c. 2023 Ford F150: The equipment has arrived and installation may be completed late June or early July.

Chief Milligan indicated that the department intends to communicate more with the public and to share information via social media, etc.

### **Court update**

The Municipal Court turned over \$15,213.95 in forfeitures to the Village Treasurer for the month of March 2024. The Municipal Court turned over \$9,029.03 in forfeitures to the Village Treasurer for the month of April 2024.

### **Review and recommendation for publication of the beer/liquor license applications**

Committee members expressed a desire to review the applications. *A Reiersen/Ellerth motion to schedule a special meeting on Thursday, May 9, 2024 to review applications. Motion carried.*

**Schedule next meeting.** The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 3, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

**Adjournment.** *A Reiersen/Gums motion to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Reiersen  
General Services Chair  
Village of Walworth Trustee