

**VILLAGE OF NORTH PRAIRIE
SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 29, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by President G. Nickerson at 7:07 p.m. in the Village Board Room. Roll call was taken with the following members present:

President G. Nickerson

Trustees: F. Rewasiewicz, J. H. Taylor, D. Stellpflug, D. Hall and K. Singh.

Clerk: R. Bagley

Absent: Trustee A. Pellegrino

Others Present: Village of Eagle President R. Spurrell

Public Comment- No comments.

Final draft of the Intermunicipal Agreement to establish the Kettle Moraine Fire District after legal counsel reviews.

Village President G. Nickerson discussed the final draft of the Intermunicipal Agreement after typos, spelling and punctuation were corrected throughout the document. If this document is approved by the three municipalities, the payments for the annual budgeted amount will be made to the Kettle Moraine Fire District quarterly. The budget amounts for 2022 are unknown at this time as the Fire Board has not been established.

Trustee D. Hall is wondering how the 2022 Fire District budget can be considered in the municipal budgets if it presented to the municipalities on October 1st, as the Agreement indicates. The Village of NP annual budgets are generally completed around October 1st, with adoption of the budget at the November Board meeting. She would like to see an earlier date listed in the Agreement.

President G. Nickerson stated the 2022 budget for the Fire District will be late this year as the Agreements have not been adopted yet.

Motion by G. Nickerson, seconded by J. H. Taylor, to open the discussion to Village of Eagle President R. Spurrell. Motion carried unanimously.

Village of Eagle President Rich Spurrell stated that the October 1st budget date originally came from the Eagle Fire Department Agreement, and their Fire Board would present the annual Fire Dept. budget by October 1st so that each municipality had time to review it prior to their budget adoptions at the November Board meetings.

D. Hall stated that historically, the Village of NP budget workshops are concluded close to the October Board meeting, and believes that just receiving the Fire Board budget then would drag out the workshops as the Fire budget could be significant. R. Spurrell believes that the Fire Board could have a **preliminary** budget completed earlier than October 1st. He stated it would not be unrealistic to have the future annual budgets ready by September 1st. This 2022 budget will not make Sept. 1st as the Fire Board has not been created yet. Three of the Fire Board members are municipal officials, so they understand the urgency of getting the budgets finalized.

At this time, the Village of Eagle has approved this specific Agreement. Village of Eagle President R. Spurrell is open to having the Agreement budget date revised to a date in September, and can re-approve the Agreement with a Special Board meeting.

Trustee J. H. Taylor mentioned that he would prefer having the Fire District annual budget amount available in September, rather than October 1st. D. Hall would like to see the date changed to September 1st.

Trustee D. Hall also asked if the results of the new Fire District audit or compilation be sent to the Municipalities earlier than the end of June. R. Spurrell stated that the Village of Eagle audit is usually completed by June, and Clerk R. Bagley mentioned that NP audit was not completed until July. The new Fire Board will select an auditor.

Trustee D. Hall also had questions regarding the ownership of equipment, Article 8 in the draft Agreement stating: *"The Fire Board shall keep records showing the dates and cost of each purchase*

of personal property, and the financing formula percentage in effect on the date of purchase". What is the financing formula percentage this is pertaining to? G. Nickerson stated these are the agreed upon percentages set during the creation of the Fire District: Town of Eagle at 42%, Village of Eagle at 21% and Village of NP at 37%, for all new equipment. The percentages may be reviewed in the future, due to growth. The Village of North Prairie would create an addendum regarding the remaining debt service on the two fire apparatus to add to the KMFD Agreement. The loan will be a pass-thru arrangement to the Kettle Moraine Fire District. Any existing equipment which is sold will have the funds returned to the purchasing municipality. Any NEW equipment will be owned by the Kettle Moraine Fire District. Trustee K. Singh does not agree that the funds should be returned to the municipalities if equipment is sold. This was part of the negotiating compromise.

Trustee D. Hall asked if the appropriate insurance will be provided for each existing Fire building. Also, where does the "tenants in common" verbiage come from? It was explained that all municipalities are the tenants in common and due to termination, the assets will be divided according to the current financing percentages for each municipality.

D. Hall explicitly expressed that she is not in agreement with the 37% financing formula for the Village of North Prairie and the Agreement also does not include a regular basis for adjustment. The Village should reflect 27% which she believes the Village would actually use. J. H. Taylor believes the percentages are fairly distributed.

Motion by J. H. Taylor, seconded by K. Singh, that the Village of North Prairie adopt the Intermunicipal Agreement concerning the Kettle Moraine Fire District, Fire Board and Kettle Moraine Fire Commission as submitted July 29, 2021, subject to the Fire Board submitting a budget to the Municipalities no later than September 1st, thereby striking October 1 in Article V: Fire Board, I. Budget, #3 and replacing it with September 1.

Discussion: D. Hall stated that she is 100% in favor of merging the Fire Departments for the benefit of all of the communities.

Motion carried. Opposed: D. Hall.

Recommendation by Village President for citizen member of the new Kettle Moraine Fire District Fire Board, per Agreement, page 4, Article V: Fire Board: B. G. Nickerson is recommending Ed Westrick for this position as he is a long-time resident and former Village Board member.

Motion by G. Nickerson, seconded by F. Rewasiewicz, to approve Ed Westrick to become the new citizen member of the KMFD Fire Board for the Village of North Prairie. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation by Village President for citizen member of the new Kettle Moraine Fire District Fire Commission, per Agreement, page 11, Article VI: Fire Commission: B. G. Nickerson has two qualified candidates: Brian Peters, former Board member, and Joe Whitmore who was a long-term Village Board member and Village President. J. Whitmore has better availability.

Motion by D. Hall, seconded by F. Rewasiewicz, to approve Joe Whitmore as the citizen member of the new Kettle Moraine Fire District. Motion carried unanimously.

Reconsideration of the Agreement for the Operation of the Joint Municipal Court to include the Village of Vernon after additional legal revisions- Trustee J. H. Taylor stated the Committee just met and made the final changes to the Agreement as recommended by legal counsel.

Motion by J. H. Taylor, seconded by D. Hall, to accept the final Agreement for the Operation of the Joint Municipal Court to include the Village of Vernon, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by F. Rewasiewicz, seconded by J. H. Taylor, to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhoda Bagley, Village Clerk/Treasurer