

VILLAGE AND TOWN OF EAGLE
JOINT MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2008
Minutes

Town Chairman, Kwiatkowski called the joint meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was taken: Kwiatkowski, Malek, Davis, Rasmussen, and West.

Representatives of the Library Board reported that expansion of the library is necessary and within two (2) years, space will only get tighter. It was indicated that the library is a quality of life issue to encourage people to come into the Village and Town. Waukesha County provides standards for libraries; our library traditionally has been below the standards. The library currently consists of 4,000 sq. ft. and is looking to expand to 16,000 sq. ft. Hopefully in March, ballpark dollar figures will be available. Tom Kevin, head of the Federated Library Board stated that the County does not set mandates for size, however they do set goals to aim for. Right now, there is no room for growth; all shelves are full. If all the books that are out at present were returned, there just wouldn't be any room. Also, additional computers for both adults and children are definitely needed; circulation continues to increase. Discussion followed. Supervisor West distributed packets listing various Wisconsin Acts and Statutes relating to libraries and expressed his concern regarding funding, and remarked that we need to look at the overall picture; what about the fire department, downtown area etc. and whether we really want to put all our eggs in one basket. Chairman Kwiatkowski stated that at present, the Boards are looking for general information e.g. size of expansion, timeframe and setting timetables. Basically, the library is looking at 16,000 sq. ft. in the 2.5 to 3 million-dollar range and a 2-3 year timeline.

Jeff Steinbach, 12-yr. member of the Eagle Fire Department was requested to prepare a report for expansion of the fire facility. At the suggestion of Jim Pasterski he pursued the possible purchase of the adjacent apartment building and obtained approximate figures from Schearer Construction who did the previous expansion to the fire house and the School District. They are basically looking at renovation of the existing building, excluding the bay area at a cost of \$1,476,000. Questions were raised as to possible use of the police garage and Town building located on the backside of the building; how soon and when; option of expanding back and not purchasing the apartment building next door (tax issue). Supervisor Davis inquired as to when the expansion would be needed by and how long would the expansion satisfy their needs to which he was told that the facility may be needed in 5 years and Mr. Steinbach was not sure how long the proposed expansion would suffice. Trustee Kussmann agreed with West "to look at the big picture". The library had been working on a needs assessment plan for five (5) years and that the fire department is just talk; things could change. This is a brainstorming stage.

Trustee Couch stated he had reviewed possible expansion to the east (6,000 sq. ft.) of this building (municipal) creating more space and storage area for the Village

offices and police department. Trustee Kussmann remarked: 1) that all taxing bodies need to look at taking a good solid inventory and look at organizing what we already have, once again a needs assessment, and 2) review other institutional facilities and land available.

Jeff Steinbach presented background information for the possibility of a paid on call fire department. Currently there are 35 members; four (4) retirees who combined have 110 years of service. Of those 35, 15 are active; others show up whenever. Of the 300 calls received, 80-85% are EMS. By law, the department is required to have a certain number and classification of personnel in both the 1st and 2nd ambulance. The department is currently familiarizing themselves with the “paid on call” issue, emphasizing that safety is first. If initiated, you would have a fire crew of 6, an ambulance crew of 3, and one officer for a total of 10, with various crews being designated. Steinbach stated that this would be a large commitment for both Boards and also the community. Supervisor Malek commented that once the decision to go to paid on call is made, you can not go back and take it away. Discussion followed regarding budgeting and State mandates. Trustee Kussmann commented on the need to look at the origin of problems – regulations. Different studies indicate that participation does not increase due to being paid on call; the individual is self-rewarded until regulations dictate those rewards. We stated that we are in remiss. We should be looking at state and federal government regulations and the demands being made.

Citizen Comments/Concerns:

Brian Rudy, Town resident, referring to the library expansion, questioned as to why we have a dual system and duplication of services between the schools and community; why not just use school library. He was told that this does happen but it is rare. All parties must agree to all the terms and conditions so to speak. Also, having the general public in schools, coming and going, is a major concern.

Jackie Lewis, Town resident, commented that the library is a very good indicator for our community and how it is perceived. It is the core/nucleus.

Police Chief Ehlers questioned into impact fees and aesthetics of new construction. He would like the “old world charm” preserved. Mr. Rudy stated the new laws on impact fees are being challenged.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Rasmussen and seconded by Malek. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Houk
Town Clerk