

**CITY OF CEDARBURG/TOWN OF CEDARBURG
AD HOC JOINT FIRE/EMS SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES**

July 8, 2021

A regular meeting of the Ad Hoc Joint Fire/EMS Services Committee was held Thursday, July 8, 2021 at Cedarburg Fire Station #2, 1350 Covered Bridge Road.

Roll Call: Present – City of Cedarburg – Council Member Robert Simpson, Scott Gonwa, Daniel Den Boer

Town of Cedarburg – Town Supervisor Bill Wattson, Don Borgwardt, Daryl Herrick (excused)

Also Present - Town Clerk Jack Johnston, Town Administrator Eric Ryer (ZOOM), Fire Chief Jeff Vahsholtz, Deputy Chief Joseph Hintz, and interested citizens.

CALL TO ORDER

Fire Chief Jeff Vahsholtz (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

At Chief Jeff Vahsholtz's request, Town Clerk Jack Johnston verified that notice of this meeting was posted in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bill Wattson made a motion to approve the June 22, 2021, Joint Fire/EMS Services Committee minutes. Robert Simpson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on future Cedarburg Fire Department EMS calls; and action thereon

Chairman Vahsholtz began discussion with an email from Daryl Herrick, who was unable to attend the meeting but asked to have his email shared. Mr. Herrick's email summarized that Cedarburg must decide if they want to keep their existing fire department or consolidate in some manner in the future.

Chairman Vahsholtz provided the Committee with the 2020 Cedarburg Fire Department Annual Report and provided a summary of it to the Committee. Within

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that summary, the Committee addressed EMS calls and mutual aid given and received by the Cedarburg Fire Department.

B. Report on the status of neighboring municipalities; and action thereon

Chairman Vahsholtz reported that the Village of Thiensville had met and discussed the results of the Ozaukee County Fire Study and next steps. Chairman Vahsholtz also reported that the Village of Grafton and Village of Saukville currently share a Fire Chief through an existing agreement and may look towards further consolidation steps in the future. He also reported that the Fire Chief in Fredonia does not appear to prefer consolidation at this time due to cost.

C. Discussion on EMS Services Budget; and action thereon

Chairman Vahsholtz reported that the Cedarburg Fire Department is actively working to generate financials on potentially costs for the Cedarburg Fire Department to operate on its own. These financials could then be compared against consolidation options to determine a recommendation for the best path forward.

Robert Simpson echoed those comments that the numbers need to show if consolidation is the best path forward. He also commented that the North Shore Fire Department's population density and road geometry makes it easier for navigation around the area, while Ozaukee County has a more limited road network. This is true heading north and south throughout the county, especially in the northern part of the County.

D. Discussion on establishing a level of service for Fire and EMS for the Cedarburg community; and action thereon

Bill Wattson stated that "level of service" is based primarily upon two principles: response time and quality of care. First, it should be determined what is an acceptable service level. Secondly, it should be determined what is necessary in terms of infrastructure to support that level of service.

Robert Simpson asked what response times were like in the North Shore Fire Department service area before they consolidated. Scott Gonwa replied that so much mutual aid was provided at that time between those communities, that consolidation was the obvious choice in terms of continuing that level of mutual aid.

After discussion, the Committee came to consensus that a response time target of seven minutes was to be established. The Committee agreed that they must next determine the staffing levels, equipment, and operating plan to achieve that level of service.

E. Identify future agenda items; and action thereon

Chairman Vahsholtz stated that he would try to obtain a study from the City of Mequon to provide to the Committee for their next meeting. He also indicated that staff would work on developing what various staffing models would look like, including paid-on-call.

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Due to training scheduled at Fire Station #1, Chairman Vahsholtz recommended that the next Committee meeting also be held at Fire Station #2 on August 12th at 7:00 pm. There were no objections to that time, date, and location for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Daniel Den Boer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 pm. Scott Gonwa seconded, the motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Jack Johnston
Assistant Administrator/Clerk
Town of Cedarburg