

# DRAFT

Minutes of May 13, 2008  
Lake Country/Delafield Fire Department Expansion Committee Meeting  
Nashotah Village Hall  
N44 W32950 Watertown Plank Road, Nashotah, WI

1. Meeting call to order and Pledge of Allegiance  
Meeting called to order by Rich Lartz at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Introduction of committee members  
The following committee members were present and introduced themselves. Julie Petras, Nashotah; Bryce Styza, Chenequa; Rich Lartz, Nashotah; Ed McAleer, Delafield; Susan Wilkey, Chenequa; Rick VanderVeen, Nashotah; Gerry MacDougall, Delafield. Cate Rahmlow, Delafield arrived at 7:05 p.m. Gordon Gunnlaugsson, Chenequa was absent.
3. Election of committee chairperson  
Motion by McAleer to nominate Rich Lartz as Committee Chairperson, second by Petras. Motion by VanderVeen to close nominations. All ayes, motion carried.
4. Committee member's open discussion of merger, funding approaches, and timetable  
Chairperson Lartz explained that there would be three members from each village sitting on the committee. Meetings will consist of discussion between the committee members followed by public comments. The committee will then have an opportunity for further discussion. Lartz also expressed his opinion that funding is the major issue and should be addressed first, but to keep in mind that there may not be an immediate savings.

Petras discussed why merging is a good idea. General comments included sharing equipment, training, and personnel, with the major reason being response time to help save lives.

As with the Chenequa/Nashotah merger, all equipment and buildings owned by the villages will remain each village's property. Only new purchases after the merger would be the property of the merged department.

The new fire department board would be made up of members from each municipality, probably three members from each community. The only people who could not sit on the fire department's board would be firefighters. The Fire Commission would handle personnel issues only. The Fire Board would handle the operations, insurance, and set the paid and on-call salaries.

An annual budget would be presented to each municipality for approval. If one municipality changed anything, the others would also have to agree.

Attorney John Macy from Nashotah did the first agreement and could probably amend it as needed.

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McAleer asked if capital purchases would also be shared. Lartz and Styza said yes, the fire board would come to the municipalities for approval and funding. Both capital expenditures and operations should be considered when calculating percentages on the spreadsheet.

Contracts and Mutual Aide agreements will need to be addressed as side issues. Ambulance contracts were not included in last merger. Delafield has full-time paramedics. Styza suggested further discussions should include how those revenues and expenses would be shared.

MacDougall suggested breaking the funding spreadsheet down into functions the departments have in common, then add on others like the paramedics from there. McAleer thought that would probably distort it, so why not include it all from the beginning. Lartz suggested not using mutual aide calls in the calculation. It was also suggested to project the figure for the next ten years.

Rahmlow wanted to know what everyone wanted from this merger. It was agreed the main concern was increased response time and saving lives.

McAleer asked Lake Country Fire Board President Rod Stotts if he had any other suggestions for calculating a shared formula. Stotts suggested possibly looking at a per parcel assessment. It could be broken down by industrial, residential, vacant, and size. Stotts will call other fire districts for ideas. He also suggested that geographic area could be considered in the calculation.

Styza pointed out that when they did the last merger Chenequa only had 30% of the people, but 75% of the value. Sometimes you have to look at more than just numbers to make it fair.

MacDougall said individual's insurance companies pay many ambulance calls. This could be possible revenue for the department if it could be used for fire calls, also. Delafield Fire Chief Jack Edwards was concerned people may not make emergency calls if they think they will be charged.

Petras asked if current inventories could be submitted for review. In the last merger Chenequa had quite a bit more inventory, but current equipment continued to be owned by the villages.

Rahmlow asked if the committee should come up with goals. She passed out a rough draft for the committee to consider. Motion by McAleer to accept the goals as a basis for further study, second by Styza. All ayes, motion carried.

## 5. Public Comments

Hartland Administrator Wally Thiel commented he was very interested in the discussions and would like to be included in the data that was being collected. Hartland President Lamerand also commented that he agreed with the base discussions. The committee agreed. Lake Country Fire Board President Stotts stated he was impressed with Delafield's entrepreneurial approach.

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Delafield Fire Chief Edwards offered to educate any of the Lake Country personnel or board on their services. They now have a contract with Pro Health for facility transport and will possibly have one with Aurora in the future.

6. Possible further committee open discussion of merger, funding, and timetable  
Rahmlow had talked with someone from the Delafield Oconomowoc merger discussions and they said a big challenge was the initial financing. She suggested maybe gradual charges could be considered.  
Hartland has hook-up fees and McAleer suggested it might need to be considered if all other scenarios are exhausted.  
Stotts stated that everything that is communicated from the LCFD to one village is always sent to the other village. He suggested the same would be done with Delafield so all communication is equal.  
It was decided that Stotts and Stefanski would gather information including inventories, budgets, and information for the funding spreadsheet and mail it to each committee member prior to the next meeting.
7. Committee discussion of meeting frequencies and set next meeting location and date  
The next meeting will be held at the Nashotah Village Hall on June 24, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
8. Adjournment  
Motion to adjourn made by McAleer at 8:25 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

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Respectfully submitted by Eileen Stefanski, Secretary