

MINUTES OF TOWN OF HULL BOARD MEETING
COUNTY OF PORTAGE, WISCONSIN
HELD ON MONDAY JULY 8, 2013

1. Call to order by Chairperson John Holdridge, at 8 p.m. at the Hull Municipal Building, 4550 Wojcik Memorial Drive, Stevens Point WI 54482.

Present: Chairperson Holdridge, Supervisors Melvin Bembenek, David Pederson, Dave Wilz and LaVerne Syens.

Others present: Clerk Janet Wolle, Treasurer Jim Kruziki, Fire Chief Mark Kluck, Asst. Fire Chief/EMS President/Administrator Chief Mark Fritsche.

Also present: Dan Hebbe of BMO; Firefighters Jack Elsinger, Randy Spurlin, Andy Kubowski, Keith Sadogierski and Kelly Kluck; Bill Yudchitz and Aaron of Revelations Architect-Builders

2. Discussion with action regarding Hull Volunteer Fire Department joining the Metro Fire District

Report by J Holdridge – Had a court decision in the Kessa Firkus law suit she had against the town.

- Compromise agreement with the insurance company in which they paid her \$60,000
- One of the issues was the failure to rehire her by the FD
- Need to talk about this with the FD leadership

J Holdridge:

Metro

Early May of 2013, outlined some processes, the approach was not just to look at the Metro concept but to look at the whole Fire Department operation.

Frequently asked questions about Fire Departments – session occurred at 2007 Town Officials Workshop

What type of Fire Department can a town organize to meet the statutory requirements of providing fire protection?

- The Town Board under Wisconsin Statute 60.55(1) is required to provide fire protection within the town.
- The Town Board can establish a town Fire Department under 60.55(1)(a)1, under this option the Town Board is the fire board, with the Town Chairperson and Board members determining policies
 - o When we started this we wanted to find out the origin of the Hull Fire Department
 - o We never could find any action that related to a statute
 - o We found the board appointed the Fire Chief and that is what got it going
 - o The first Chief was Ronald Cornwell and he recruited heavily from the mobile home park (Fairview Village)
 - o There are four options and the first option is clearly what we were organized under
- October 1, 1968 agreement between Town of Hull and Town of Dewey for Hull to provide fire protection
- 2008 Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) agreement signed February 1, 2008

- ISO determination of insurance rates

LaVerne Syens, Hull Board member experienced in insurance:

- Talked with Alex Schubert of ISO
- Alex familiar with Stevens Point
- Has been dealing with Tracy Kujawa, City of Stevens Point Fire Chief
- ISO Hull rating 8 to 10
 - ‡ Property located within 5 miles of the fire station are rated 8 Properties over 5 miles from a fire station have a 10 rating
- 1993 last ISO test of Hull FD
- Stevens Point has a 3 rating, they are a paid department and have hydrants
- Discussed the Metro agreement and the effect becoming a member of Metro would have on the ratings of Hull by joining
 - ‡ LaVerne looking for a number on how Hull would be rated
 - ‡ Alex would not commit
 - ‡ In all likelihood the rate would be lowered but it would not go to a 3 rating
 - Rating would not go to a 3 because of the water supply – Hull does not have the adequate water supply without hydrants
- A survey (test) can be conducted on request by Town of Hull, by the Fire Department, by the Town Chairperson
 - ‡ ISO would do the survey without charge
 - ‡ If you would come out and do a survey pre-joining Metro and we would then decide we are going to join Metro, how would you determine the new rate?
 - Look at all of the material they now have in-house of the Fire Departments involved (Point and Plover)
 - If ISO had adequate information on those two departments coupled with the new survey of Hull ISO could come up with new ratings
 - If they did not have sufficient data, they would come out and do another rating
 - The time element ISO normally have between surveys is waived if there is a change in your situation
 - The normal time between surveys right now is 10 and 15 years (ISO wants to get that time down to 5 years)
 - If Hull called, how long before the survey – the survey (test) could probably be done this summer

M Kluck – Hull planned on doing ISO survey last year

- Have all the paperwork involved to do survey
- It involves bringing in Fire Departments from all over the county to help tank water
- Hull would be able to count Stevens Point ladder truck
- Automatic aid – get the fastest Fire Department in the shortest amount of time (this key in changing Hull's rating)

L Syens – the maximum points a municipality could get for automatic aid is .90

J Holdridge – isn't the big issue hydrants, access to water?

M Kluck – there is no way Hull could get to a 3 level.

J Holdridge – also distance from fire station?

M Kluck – correct.

J Holdridge – handed out the Metropolitan Portage County Fire Protection District Automatic Aid Agreement for Fire Protection and Other emergency Services:

2nd **WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Automatic Aid System participants joining in this agreement to continue and improve the nature and coordination of emergency assistance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

1. The geographical area to be governed under this agreement shall be known as the Metropolitan Portage County Fire Protection District, also known as the Metro Fire District.

J Holdridge – the size of this is Hull, Whiting, Plover (Village of) and Stevens Point

3. That the Automatic Aid System participants executing this agreement agree to be dispatched through a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system operated by the Portage County Sheriff's Department and/or Stevens Point Police Department

J Holdridge – the new dispatch center

6. Nothing in this agreement shall limit the ability of any party from agreeing to participate in more specific contracts for services, or mutual assistance and automatic response agreements: nor shall this agreement prohibit any party from providing emergency assistance to another jurisdiction which is not a participant in this agreement.

J Holdridge – this does not limit a municipality like Hull to contract with Town of Dewey, or Village of Park Ridge, etc.

8. Each participating municipality agrees to participate in the State of Wisconsin, Portage County, Division 110, Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), as created under section 166.03(2)(a)(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

J Holdridge – has read and been discussed with Chief Kluck.

9. Fourth bullet point under item 9

1. Develop annual joint training exercises for fire officers and firefighters to ensure efficient and effective operations at emergency incidents

J Holdridge – this seems to be the most important thing firefighters have to get into.

Fifth bullet point

1. To ensure compatibility of equipment, participants should maintain an inventory of equipment available to the other municipality including

J Holdridge – has the Fire Department developed an inventory?

Chief Kluck – yes

Sixth bullet point

- ↓ Participants shall utilize the approved Portage County apparatus numbering system and standardized terminology for apparatus as developed and adopted by the Portage County Fire Chief's Association

J Holdridge – what does the numbering system mean?

M Kluck – Hull's designation by Portage County designation is Station 55. All vehicle numbering begin with 55.

Seventh bullet point

- ↓ Participants shall use standardized response criteria (i.e. pre-established type and number of apparatus that will automatically respond on the type of call) based upon the "three plus one system" resulting in the ultimate response of three engine companies and one Ladder Company to any structure fire.

J Holdridge – what is an engine company and what is a ladder company?

M Kluck – an engine company would be a fire engine from each Fire Department and a ladder company is from Stevens Point and the Village of Plover.

Ninth bullet point

- ↓ Participants agree to the use of specialized unit resources.

J Holdridge – is that a type of investigative unit or involves more than one department specialized to do certain things; specialized to investigate a fire?

M Kluck – correct. But there is also hazmat (Plover); technical rescue (Stevens Point)

Tenth bullet point

- ↓ Participants agree that the automatic aid is reciprocal. While automatic aid does not ensure that a community will receive the exact same amount of assistance as it gives, it does mean that all participants will provide some assistance outside its jurisdictional boundaries and that the level of service delivered within the Automatic Aid Agreement will be comparable.

J Holdridge – that is the concern I think. Concern being heard:

- Hull has a Fire Department and the incidents Hull firefighters will be going to service Plover and Stevens Point because they have far more incidents than Hull has

Eleventh bullet point

- ↓ Participants shall be responsible for completing a National Fire Incident Reporting System (NIFRS) fire report following each incident.

J Holdridge – do you have to complete that now?

M Kluck – yes. The report goes to the state. It is submitted electronically via the computer system.

10. The protocols and procedures established for the response to calls within the Metro Fire District shall be established and maintained by a governing committee consisting of the Fire Chief from each participating department

J Holdridge – right now the ones running this are the Fire Chiefs?

M Kluck – yes.

12. Except as specifically agreed to by both parties for a particular incident, neither party shall be reimbursed by the other party for any costs incurred pursuant to this agreement. In the event of declared disasters, participants may apply for reimbursements from County, State and Federal agencies.

J Holdridge – there would be no reimbursements to Fire Departments unless by County, State or Federal agencies – is this correct?

M Kluck – correct.

14. The Automatic Aid Agreement shall commence upon the approval of each municipality's governing body, and shall automatically renew each year thereafter. The agreement shall continue in force until terminated by formal act of the parties.

J Holdridge – you can terminate this with a 6 month notice (180 days)?

M Kluck – correct.

15. The parties to this agreement agree to abide by all performance standards

J Holdridge – what are the performance standards?

Dave Wilz – item 15 continues the standards are contained within.

✓ These are the performance standards you have been going through

17. This Automatic Aid Agreement shall be reviewed by all parties every two years or as deemed necessary.

J Holdridge – you have an automatic review of this process?

M Kluck – correct.

J Holdridge – Metro is an automatic aid agreement. With dispatch sending out Stevens Point, Plover and Hull out at the same time, how does that speed up the response time? Does that get you out 5 or 10 minutes faster?

M Kluck – yes.

Mark Fritsche - that is one way.

- ‡ The other way is an example of where Dave and LaVerne live in Kirschling Subdivision. Stevens Point Station 2 is closer; it is located 2 blocks away.
- ‡ If Hull is paged at the same time they (city) are paged, we can be sitting in our station and there is no physical way we are going to beat them (city) there for that fire call.
- ‡ Therefore they get quicker response time, quicker fire suppression, quicker rescue in the event needed.
- ‡ Another thing not mentioned tonight when talking about ISO and cooperation, but if there is a structure fire all of the departments are paged at once.
- ‡ One of the main thrusts we have been pushing to get into Metro is for firefighter safety.
- ‡ Three + one (3 engines and 1 ladder) that is what is coming on any structure fire.

J Holdridge - that is the minimum response so you do not have 10 fire trucks there, is that what you are saying?

M Fritsche – correct. If it is full blown and you need more, you call for more.

M Kluck – you would then refer to the MABAS system.

J Holdridge – what happens if the Town of Plover has a fire?

M Kluck – that would fall under the MABAS, not the Metro.

J Holdridge – you are restricted to Stevens Point, Plover, Whiting and Hull under this system?

M Kluck – correct.

M Fritsche – the Village of Plover not the town.

J Holdridge – doesn't the Village of Plover have a contract with the Town of Plover?

M Kluck – they do.

J Holdridge – but it is a geographical area of those four re the Metro.

M Kluck – correct.

J Holdridge – I would recommend we sign the agreement with Metro. We will continue with the outline. I have learned a lot about fire services, contractual arrangements, etc. This was never meant to study the Metro, it was meant to look at Hull's entire Fire Department.

- ‡ If there is a challenge, you have to look at membership and training

Motion Supervisor Pederson, second Supervisor Wilz, **authorize Hull Fire Department join the Metropolitan Portage County Fire District, also known as Metro Fire District.**

D Wilz – from the standpoint of safety for firefighters is reason enough to join Metro.

‡ I went back through and read over the information that was provided the first time the Chiefs met here, the thing that bounced out is “more for less”.

‡ We are getting more for the same amount of money or less and I think as long as the communities and the Fire Departments work with that in mind, we get more training, more safety, more everything and we don't lose sight of that philosophy, this will always work.

‡ If we don't, then we don't need to be Metro, we have 180 days to get out of it. But under those philosophies, and I think this 2 or 3 page agreement, not 33 pages, tells how simple this should be.

‡ If we try to make it more than it is then it is not going to work.

J Holdridge – I see the reciprocity as a key issue here.

D Wilz – you brought up one concern “will our firefighters be pulled more into service than they are used to”.

‡ When I read the section about everybody has to give but some may give more than others and receive more than others, I didn't view it that way.

‡ I thought we might become the beneficiary because the other departments are larger than we are.

‡ I look at the opportunity for our firefighters here, talk about training, being around Point and Plover that has to be a wonderful opportunity.

M Kluck – if you remember back to the February information you requested over the past couple of years, it was pretty much a wash.

D Wilz – they were almost the same.

M Kluck – another factor is we are already going to fires, but under the MABAS agreement.

‡ We would go even if we were not in Metro

‡ We just wouldn't go with automatic aid

‡ Automatic aid is where we could be the better recipient

D Wilz – over time as we waited and with even the initial demonstration that was given to us, I think initially everybody was trying to make it seem like it was more than it really was. It really was a good close handholding exercise, how can we do this a little bit better and hopefully

J Holdridge – it is an automatic aid agreement.

D Wilz – and I think this is a necessary step and I'm glad we are doing this.

Dave Pederson – a real benefit to my neighborhood is a quicker response.

LaVerne Syens – the benefit I see in it is it rolls the apparatus quicker than waiting for the MABAS call to come in. In a structure fire that is pretty important

J Holdridge – is this already to go now with the joint dispatch?

M Kluck – I'm not sure where the joint dispatch is on this, but it is my understanding joint dispatch is supposed to happen on August 1st. Once this is signed and everything is done, I don't see where Hull is going to be able to do this until, I'm going to say, sometime right after Labor Day.

↓ Giving Janet information from the Sheriff's Department

↓ This is the policy to change what is called the Emergency Service Number (ESN)

- If someone calls 911 now, it comes up Hull Fire/Hull EMS/Portage County Ambulance
- This will be **changed to METRO Fire**/Hull EMS/Portage County Ambulance
- This will take a minimum of 30 days

J Holdridge – are the incidents of the firefighters being called out from Hull the same number as Stevens Point is called out with 24,000 people? Hull has 5,500 people.

M Kluck – no. This agreement IS ONLY for SPECIFIC incidents – a structure fire where there is smoke and flames is a METRO call.

- All the calls they get from the university where there is a false alarm, is NOT a Metro call.

D Wilz, just like they will not come if you have to put out a field fire someplace.

M Kluck – a small grass fire.

D Wilz – they will not respond to that.

M Kluck – correct.

L Syens – is that decision made by the dispatcher?

M Kluck – it is. It is from the information they gather through the system. What is told to the dispatchers, if you are in doubt, punch it. It is better to get it all going than being behind the eight ball and then have everybody racing to get there.

J Holdridge – motion has been made and second. All in favor signify by saying aye.
Motion carried unanimously.

Janet Wolle, Clerk