

Minutes of Committee
Monday, September 8th, 2008
7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 1) Draft Report: Neighborhood Electric Vehicles
- 2) Draft Report: Environmental and Sustainability Initiatives
- 3) Status Report: Bensenville Fire Protection District #1
- 4) Other Business
 - a. Parking: Field School
 - b. Parking: Lincoln School
 - c. Yield Sign request

Members Present: Mulliner, Bram, Nybo

Elected Official Present: Marcucci, Spencer

City Staff Present: Neubauer, Panico, Wallace, Streicher (part), Kopp (part), Bacidore (part) Bacidore (part), Borchert (part)

Guest: John Osbolt, Paul DeMichele, George Jeffies, Diana Berglund, Rita McCaffrey, Cathy Frehio, Amy Weiss, Ken Weiss, Peter Giraldi

DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS:

1. Nybo addressed the Committee requesting the matter be tabled for six (6) months even though he agreed with the reports findings. This request was made by Mr. Robert Kopach, who originally brought the item before the Committee. Subsequent to a brief discussion, this report item was tabled for six (6) months.
2. Subsequent to a brief discussion, the Committee tabled this item to allow Bram to prepare a minority report.
3. Mayor Marcucci addressed the Committee and guests present providing a brief overview of the notice of termination of the intergovernmental agreement between the City of Elmhurst and Bensenville Fire Protection District No.1, unincorporated residential area known as "Country Club Highlands" located adjacent to north Elmhurst. The agreement dates back to 1988 and provides for fire protection and emergency medical services to residents in the Bensenville Fire Protection District No.1. The City hopes to reach a new agreement in which the City's taxpayers no longer bear the substantial cost of providing these services and District No.1 is able to pay its fair share along with back payments for services already provided.

The discussion then focused on how to determine what a "fair share" is. Paul DeMichele advises currently \$80,000.00 per year is paid to the City of Elmhurst for fire protection and emergency medical services. It was noted that the City Fire Department responded to 23 calls for service last year. The Fire Department has not incurred any additional costs for equipment or staffing to provide this service. Since the 1988 agreement, a legislative tax cap has prevented a significant increase in revenues to keep up with the rising cost of service. Annually \$200,000 is collected for these services from residents in both District No.1 and District No.2. Based on the number of houses located in both districts, 60% is paid to District No. 2 and 40% is paid to the City of Elmhurst, (District No. 1). The residents present expressed a desire to work together to reach a mutual agreement for continued services from the City of Elmhurst.

The discussion then focused on possible ways to raise the necessary revenue, District No.2 take over and provide fire protection and emergency medical revenues for District No.1, referendum, and tax anticipation warrants. Mr. Borchert and Chief Kopp pointed out that due to mutual aid agreements, the City of Elmhurst Fire Department would still respond to calls for service in District No.1 without an intergovernmental agreement between Bensenville Fire Protection District No.1 and the City.

Subsequent to further discussion, Mulliner and Bram suggested a one (1) year extension to the current agreement. This would allow time to work together with the residents of District No.1 to determine what would be a "fair share" cost and a means to raise the necessary revenues. Nybo proposed a six (6) month extension to reach an agreement. Further discussion ensued regarding a six (6) month vs. a one (1) year extension to the agreement. Subsequent to further discussion, the Committee directed staff to draft a letter addressed to Bensenville Fire Protection District No.1 and a report extending the current agreement.

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4. (A) Bram inquired on the status of the Howard St. parking complaint due to Field School. Neubauer advised it would be necessary to have the complainants address and name to begin the process. Bram advised he would get the information and forward it.
4. (B) Nybo advised that Lincoln School parents would like to attend the next PA & S meeting regarding their request.
4. (C) Nybo requested a “Yield sign” analysis be initiated for the intersection of Eggleston and Parkside, due to a recent accident at the intersection.

The Committee was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.
Submitted by Dominic Panico, Deputy Chief