

Village of Lombard

*Village Hall
255 East Wilson Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148
villageoflombard.org*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 1, 2010

6:30 PM

Community Room

Special Meeting Board of Trustees

*Village President William J. Mueller, Village Clerk Brigitte O'Brien;
Trustee Greg Gron, Trustee Keith Giagnorio, Trustee Zachary Wilson,
Trustee Dana Moreau, Trustee Laura Fitzpatrick and Trustee Bill Ware*

I Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Lombard was called to order by Village President William J. Mueller at 6:30 pm, Thursday, April 1, 2010 in the Community Room of the Lombard Village Hall.

II Roll Call

Present: Village President William J. Mueller, Village Clerk Brigitte O'Brien, Trustee Greg Gron, Trustee Laura Fitzpatrick and Trustee Dana Moreau

Absent: Trustee Richard J. Tross, Trustee Zachary Wilson and Trustee Bill Ware

Staff Present:

Village Manager David Hulseberg

Director of Finance Tim Sexton

Director of Community Development Bill Heniff

Director of Public Works Carl Goldsmith

Deputy Chief of Police Dane Cuny

Fire Chief Ed Seagraves

Fire Marshal Jerry Howell

Battalion Chief Ron Rakosnik

Battalion Chief Mike Torrence

Battalion Chief Chuck Ralis

Lt. Paul DiRienzo

Lt. Jeff Holst

Lt. Art Peters

Executive Coordinator Carol Bauer

III Public Participation

None

IV Agenda

100157

Reduction of Calls

Report submitted by the Fire Department regarding reduction of calls.

Fire Chief Ed Seagraves indicated the Lombard Fire Department is one of the busiest in the county - busier than Naperville and second to Park Ridge in the number of per-station calls. He stated Lombard had the highest EMS calls per ambulance. He noted, however, that calls are down and that is being seen nationwide, but specifically in DuPage County. He felt this was due to residents taking themselves to the hospital or the clinic instead of calling 9-1-1 due to the rise in unemployment or reduced income. He indicated the national trend was a reduction in larger fires. He reported Lombard was fortunate in that the Village does not see malicious fires or malicious false alarms. He felt the Village did not have a lot of bad properties and the codes were enforced. He indicated this was a unique recession in that normally during a recession calls would increase, but they have decreased. He stated in previous recessions, people in

foreclosure would burn their cars or homes, but that is not the case.

Trustee Tross arrived at 6:38 pm.

Chief Seagraves noted charts on pages two and three of his report explaining total calls. He felt the difference causing the reduction in calls was the economy, unemployment and people with no insurance. He stated that all of DuPage County was experiencing a reduction in calls. He reported that 75% of the EMS calls were Lombard residents.

Chief Seagraves noted that the number of calls in a community are predominantly driven by four factors: (1) population; (2) social/economic factors of a community so the more well off the community, the less the calls; (3) how a community is developed so a bedroom community will have fewer calls compared to a town like Lombard with a shopping mall, offices, industrial, 3 main vehicle corridors, a tollway, 3 PADS locations, 3 clinics and no hospital, and 3 large gatherings each year; and (4) the department, as well as DuPage County, encourages residents to call 9-1-1.

Chief Seagraves noted that 9-1-1 is not just used as an emergency number. He indicated the department has found few ways to reduce the number of calls. He reported that Lombard is a community where people want to move, businesses want to locate to and that seniors are either staying here after retirement or moving to Lombard in retirement.

Chief Seagraves noted that the department continues its building and fire code enforcement; maintains strong fire/life safety inspections; controls the type of new development and redevelopment; continues strong public education programs; publicizes the fire investigation successes to deter arson; continues its work with Community Development and Police to identify, monitor and take necessary measures to ensure buildings and structures are compliant with Village ordinances; continues aggressive fire alarm programs and has initiated a fire alarm ordinance. He felt that when a community becomes more densely populated, calls increase. He indicated Lombard had a strong public education program and very few arsons. He spoke about the false alarm ordinance and felt this was another tool in the tool box in an effort to reduce the number of false alarms. He spoke about surrounding communities and the implementation of a false alarm ordinance with accompanying fines.

Chief Seagraves spoke about Radio Frequency Alarm Receiving (RFAR). He indicated converting both fire and burglar alarms from copper phone line technology to RFAR is a proven means in eliminating false alarms and the time it takes to put fire and burglar alarm systems back in service. He noted that the telephone companies are getting away from copper wiring and turning to newer technology.

Trustee Fitzpatrick questioned if a fine can be attached to an EMS false alarm call.

Chief Seagraves indicated it is difficult to determine what is a false EMS call. He stated the Fire Department encourages residents to call 9-1-1 when they have a problem. He reported the ordinance would need to be very detailed and he felt it would not generate a lot of revenue.

Trustee Fitzpatrick questioned repeat callers.

Chief Seagraves indicated the Fire Department can not advise a resident that they will not return.

Mike Torrence noted that it was rare when a child maliciously calls 9-1-1.

Fire Marshall Howell noted that most alarms are malfunctions.

Chief Seagraves noted that as the ordinance is developed it will be brought back to the Village Board.

Manager Hulseberg stated the ordinance would be a tool to work with businesses regarding updating of technology.

Chief Seagraves indicated the alarm system is taken out of service until the malfunction is corrected. He stated that most businesses have worked with the Village on updating.

Trustee Tross questioned the cost for schools and Yorktown to convert to the new technology.

Chief Seagraves indicated the Fire Department and Police Department have met

regarding this matter. It is a voluntary system and each business is given time to convert to the new system. He noted there is a financial advantage to doing this. He stated that if an alarm panel goes out and needs to be converted, the new system pays for itself in less than a year.

Trustee Tross questioned if the Fire Department did not transport a person if there was a charge for the call.

Chief Seagraves stated that if there was no treatment and no transportation, there is no charge.

Chief Seagraves spoke regarding citizen assists. He noted that in 2009 there were 274 calls for citizen assists which represents 6% of the calls. He stated that residents call for a variety of reasons. Some calls are for a malfunction of home medical equipment such as oxygen tanks. Others call when the electricity is out and home medical equipment fails to operate. And yet others call for assistance in lifting or moving a person who is not mobile on their own or has some disability. He reported there are two types of users - chronic and occasional. He indicated that chronic users can have income restricted issues, no insurance or are those with debilitating problems that require assistance. He stated that the chronic users eventually are moved to a care facility or pass on.

Chief Seagraves indicated that he has never had a firefighter injured on an invalid-assist call. He stated this is not an emergency call and is usually something like helping a person who has fallen back into bed. He stated firefighters are injured while moving patients on stretchers. He felt the environment of the call makes the difference. He stated if the person is large, the engine is brought to the scene to assist.

Trustee Moreau asked if there were other agencies that could help.

Chief Seagraves indicated the Fire Department is used on citizen assists because they are part of the 9-1-1 system; they are available 24 hours per day; they have professional EMS services; they can respond within 10 minutes; they are able to examine a patient for other health and injury issues; they can care and transport immediately; they are trained to recognize abuse or neglect and alert the proper authorities; they are able to look at other safety issues and assist or make recommendations and they are trusted by the person calling. He stated that a resident thinks about calling 9-1-1 if someone has fallen in the middle of the night and they need assistance.

Manager Hulseberg stated as the population continues to age, the calls may increase.

Chief Seagraves spoke about the possible change in health insurance and noted that it is hard to predict how that will affect residents. He did not want these people to fall through the cracks in the system. He explained that if an ambulance is on a citizen assist, they are never out of service. He stated if the ambulance receives an emergency call, they will respond from the citizen assist to the emergency.

Trustee Wilson arrived at 7:20 pm.

Chief Seagraves asked the Village Board to review the report and if they needed additional information, to contact him. He stated he was waiting for direction from the Village Board on the fee structure.

100158**Minimum Staffing**

Report submitted by the Fire Department regarding minimum staffing.

Battalion Chief Chuck Ralis spoke regarding the minimum staffing for the three twenty-four-hour-per-day Fire Department shifts. He stated minimum staffing of the Fire Department's two front line engines, one front line truck, two medic units, and Battalion Chief/Incident Command vehicle is one of the several key factors that address the effectiveness and efficiency of fire suppression operations, emergency medical services and special operations delivery in protecting the residents of Lombard and health and safety of fire personnel. He spoke of the growth in the Village with commercial, institutional and residential buildings. He stated the Fire Department never

forgets safety. He stated that minimum daily staffing is designed so that a team of 16 can efficiently and effectively provide for an early, aggressive and offensive primary interior attack on a working fire. This response is usually the most effective strategy to reduce loss of life and property damage.

Chief Ralis spoke of the various Fire Department Automatic Aid and Mutual Aid Agreements including MABAS, Mutual Aid Box Alarm System. The primary purpose of MABAS is to coordinate the effective and efficient provision of mutual aid during emergencies, natural disasters, or man-made catastrophes. MABAS is not intended to relieve a community of their responsibilities or provide adequate emergency services for all local emergencies, since all communities should have their own first-line of defense. When a community exhausts its resources, MABAS can be activated by the stricken community. MABAS has been in existence since the late 1960's. Day-to-day MABAS extra alarms are systematically designed to provide speed of response of emergency resources to the stricken community during an ongoing emergency. MABAS includes 1,000 fire department, 67 divisions, 35,000 fire personnel, 2,500 engine companies, 470 truck companies and 1,100 ambulances.

Battalion Chief Torrence gave an overview of 2009. He stated in 2008-2009 the minimum staffing was 16 personnel plus two and the Fire Department was running two medic units with overtime. At that time the third ambulance was staffed with overtime personnel 10 hours per day six days per week. Beginning in November 2009 there was a reduction to 15 personnel running 2 medic units and the third ambulance was reduced to eight hours per day five days per week. He spoke of the manning dropping if personnel are at meetings, school, or other reasons. He spoke of the drop in personnel and on occasion the personnel can drop to one for an engine company. He emphasized that this is not a safe situation. He spoke about a house fire early one morning at 148 West Park Drive. He noted upon arrival a person was found in the driveway. He spoke of the Fire Department having to think about a possible rescue as well extinguishing the fire. The fire personnel proceeded with a search and rescue in the event someone else was in the house. They then concentrated on the fire attack. Once the fire is suppressed, the personnel have to ventilate and do the overhaul. The Fire Investigation Unit is called to the scene for follow up and investigation of the cause of the fire. He spoke about incident command.

Battalion Chief Rakosnik spoke about calling out mutual aid and MABAS and the efficient and effective responses.

President Mueller noted that he had heard comments from the neighbors regarding this fire and what a great job the fire department did.

Trustee Tross questioned the minimum manning.

Chief Seagraves indicated that the budget included 16 personnel, but currently it is 15. He spoke about firefighters being off for medical reasons.

Trustee Tross questioned if it was 15 or 16.

Chief Seagraves indicated 15, but they would be fully staffed at 16.

V Adjournment

The Special Meeting of the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Lombard held on Thursday, April 1, 2010 in the Community Room of the Lombard Village Hall was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

It was moved by Trustee Moreau, seconded by Trustee Fitzpatrick, adjourn. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Trustee Greg Gron, Trustee Richard J. Tross, Trustee Laura Fitzpatrick, Trustee Dana Moreau and Trustee Zachary Wilson

Absent: 1 - Trustee Bill Ware