



Meeting: Village Board
Meeting Date: 5/14/12
Agenda Item: 8b

Mission Statement

Delivering quality services in a courteous, cost-effective and efficient manner.

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING STAFF REPORT

REPORT TO: Burt R. McIntyre, President
Village Board of Trustees

REPORT FROM: Paul F. Evert, Village Administrator

AGENDA ITEM: Village Administrator's update on the bidding process for Ritter participation

ACTION REQUESTED: ___Ordinance ___Resolution ___Motion **X**Receive/File

POLICY ISSUE

Should the Village Board fund an equal share of a consultant's study that will develop the model for a combined metro fire department for the communities of Allouez, Ashwaubenon, Bellevue, De Pere, Green Bay and Howard now that the responses to the RFP sent out indicate a cost of at least \$90,000 and the Village of Ashwaubenon has indicated they will not be participating?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Ritter Forum has been meeting since 2009 to discuss ways for municipal fire departments within Brown County to become more effective and efficient. Several cost-saving initiatives, such as joint purchasing, automatic aid agreements and joint training, have been implemented. In March of 2010, the Metro Chiefs met to discuss whether continued collaboration and/or consolidation efforts would save additional revenue.

The Metro Chiefs Task Force met over the course of the next year to continue to study the merits of a consolidated metro department. The feasibility study conducted by the Fire Chiefs was narrowly focused on items of duplication to determine whether economies of scale could be extracted from the organizations that were being considered. It was determined by the Chiefs that each community must maintain their ability to manage their risks, i.e. the type and level of staffing. In other words, if the Village of Howard determined that paid on call was an effective staffing model, that's the type of service that the Village would be provided by the metro department. The Chiefs all felt that in looking forward and all things considered, the further study of a consolidated metro fire department had merit.

In January of 2012 the Village Board agreed to make \$2,000 available toward a study. The Village of Ashwaubenon indicated it would not participate. The Ritter Forum then met, approved a fairly lengthy RFP and has since received bids for the work. The bids were from TriData Division, System Planning Corporation: \$123,073,; McGrath Consulting Group: \$178,500; Emergency Services Consulting International: \$97,472 exclusive of expenses; ICMA Center for Public Safety Management: \$125,000 + \$10,000 travel; Fitch & Associates:

\$97,350. In speaking with the Administrator of Bellevue it appears they will be unlikely to participate.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff is recommending terminating the Village’s involvement with the Ritter Forum. It simply does not appear that the Village of Howard Fire Department has that much in common with De Pere, Green Bay, and Allouez. Howard is the only one of these four communities that contracts out its EMS and relies primarily on volunteer firefighters. It is difficult to imagine a scenario in which the Village would not lose a tremendous amount of local control if it somehow merged its firefighting with these other three communities. Also, including Howard makes the least geographical sense of the four communities.

POLICY ALTERNATIVES

1. Terminate involvement with the Ritter Forum
2. Continue involvement with the forum and prepare to spend between \$25,000 and \$35,000 to participate in funding the consultant that is hired.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT:</u>	
1. Is There A Fiscal Impact?	<u>Yes</u>
2. Is it Currently Budgeted?	<u>No</u>
3. If Budgeted, Which Line?	----