



11333 N. Cedarburg Road
Mequon, WI 53092
Phone: 262-242-3500
Fax: 262-242-7655

www.ci.mequon.wi.us

Police and Fire Departments

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, December 14, 2021
5:45 PM
Lower Conference Room

Agenda

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) Approve Meeting Minutes
Action requested: review and approve
 - a. Public Safety Committee - Regular Meeting - Nov 9, 2021 5:30 PM
- 3) Resolutions
Action requested: review and recommend approval
 - a. **RESOLUTION 3900** A Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Mequon and the Village of Thiensville in Connection with Fire & EMS Department Consolidation
- 4) Adjourn

Dated: December 14, 2021

/s/ Andrew Nerbun, Chair

Notice is hereby given that a quorum of other governmental bodies may be present at this meeting to present, discuss and/or gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility, although they will not take formal action thereto at this meeting.

Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations for attendance at this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at 262-236-2914, twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting.

Any questions regarding this agenda may be directed to the Public Safety Office at 262-242-3500, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM



11333 N. Cedarburg Road
Mequon, WI 53092
Phone: 262-242-3500
Fax: 262-242-7655

www.ci.mequon.wi.us

Police and Fire Departments

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

5:30 PM

Lower Conference Room

Minutes

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

Present:

Chair Andrew Nerbun

Alderman Mark Gierl

Alderman Dale Mayr

Also Present: Police Chief Pryor, City Attorney Sajdak, and Administrative Coordinator Melina Bowen.

2) Approve Meeting Minutes

a. Public Safety Committee - Regular Meeting - Sep 14, 2021 5:00 PM

RESULT: Accepted [Unanimous]

MOVED BY: Alderman Mayr

SECONDED BY: Alderman Gierl

AYES: Nerbun, Gierl, Mayr

3) Ordinances

Action requested: review and recommend approval

a. **ORDINANCE 2021-1612** An Ordinance Amending Section 2-803 of the Mequon Municipal Code Relating to the Term of Office for Municipal Court Judge
Language within the ordinance was updated to coincide with the four year term of the Municipal Court Judge.

RESULT: Approved by Voice Acclamation [Unanimous]

MOVED BY: Alderman Gierl

SECONDED BY: Alderman Mayr

AYES: Nerbun, Gierl, Mayr

4) Discussion

a. Traffic Speed Analysis on Green Bay Road at Woods Court

The traffic speed analysis showed that there were no crashes in the area of Green Bay Road near the Highland Park subdivision in the last ten years. The City Engineers deployed the traffic cables which showed that the 85th percentile speeds are 42.7 miles per hour and 37 miles per hour for northbound and southbound. The state recommends that limits be set within five miles per hour of the 85th percentile which indicates that the speed limit of 35 miles per hour is set correctly.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Nov 9, 2021 5:30 PM (Approve Meeting Minutes)

Alderman Mayr considered that the speed limit be reduced to 25 miles per hour past the new Highland Park subdivision. A compromised proposal of moving the reduce speed ahead sign further north for southbound traffic and moving the 35 mile per hour speed limit sign further north would be looked into. Director Lundeen will report this information back to Alderman Mayr.

b. I-43 Project Safety Concerns

Complaints related to Port Washington Road being down to one lane in the area of I-43 and County Line Road had been received by Alderman Nerbun. The Police Department has created a special enforcement assignment for the area for visibility and ensure cones and signage are not moved. Officers have a direct contact for DOT so that issues can be addressed in a timely fashion. Public Works Director Lundeen is looking into the receptiveness of forwarding complaints to DOT. It was determined that safety concerns related to the I-43 construction project would be addressed at the Public Works committee meeting in the future.

5) Adjourn

a. Motion to Adjourn

RESULT: **Approved by Voice Acclamation [Unanimous]**

MOVED BY: Alderman Gierl

SECONDED BY: Alderman Mayr

AYES: Nerbun, Gierl, Mayr

Respectfully Submitted,

Melina Bowen



11333 N. Cedarburg Road
Mequon, WI 53092
Phone: 262-236-2941
Fax: 262-242-9655

www.ci.mequon.wi.us

Office of Administration

TO: Public Safety Committee
FROM: William Jones, City Administrator
DATE: December 9, 2021
SUBJECT: RESOLUTION 3900 A Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Mequon and the Village of Thiensville in Connection with Fire & EMS Department Consolidation

Background

Over the last few years, a number of municipalities within Ozaukee County have engaged in a series of informal meetings regarding potential opportunities to share in the provision of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Collectively, these discussions were borne out of a desire to proactively address critical and ongoing staffing shortages that many departments are facing as paid-on-call (POC) entities, as well as the significant level of ongoing capital investment (e.g., stations, fire trucks, ambulances, rescue equipment) that is required to maintain separate fire departments. Years ago, a similar effort was undertaken by several communities within Milwaukee County, who now provide Fire & EMS services through a joint entity known as the North Shore Fire Department.

More recently, these discussions culminated in the completion of a preliminary consolidation analysis amongst ten participating communities in Ozaukee County by the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the results of which were presented publicly in March of this year. Since release of the report, which contained six (6) different consolidation options, representatives from most of the participating communities have been meeting regularly to determine next steps. At this point, there is not clear consensus on whether to pursue a large consolidation amongst multiple departments across the County, and as such, additional discussions have taken place on a more local level between officials in Mequon and Thiensville. Given the ongoing staffing challenges faced by both departments, this group (Chief Executive Officers, Administrators, Fire Chiefs and Deputy Fire Chiefs) has determined that it is now appropriate to pursue formal consolidation of the two departments in the near-term. Accordingly, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and Village, authorizing formation of a Joint Working Group to establish a framework in support of such a merger has been prepared for consideration by the communities' two governing boards.

Analysis

The referenced MOU, a copy of which is attached, formalizes the City's and Village's intent to embark upon a thorough analysis of the items that need to be considered in connection with a consolidation of the two departments. As enumerated, this includes an examination of the governing structure that will be necessary if the two departments are consolidated, and the management structure that will be needed to operate such a unified entity. Additionally, a host of financial issues will need to be analyzed and addressed, including development of an equitable

funding formula, establishment of a new budget and factoring in existing revenues derived from other outside sources, such as ambulance billing and fundraising. Beyond administration, governance and finance, the Joint Working Group will also be tasked with reviewing the capital needs of a consolidated department, including equipment apparatus and station facilities. Other considerations, such as response times, emergency dispatch, and future needs related to community growth, etc. will also be reviewed as part of the Group's overall scope.

As further elaborated in the MOU, the core members of the Joint Working Group may identify additional individuals who may be selected to serve in either a temporary or permanent capacity, as needs dictate. These individuals might include additional representatives from each of the two governing boards, the City and/or Village Attorney, municipal finance staff or outside consultants, to name a few. The MOU also contemplates that regular progress reports will be provided to both the Mequon Common Council and the Thiensville Village Board to update elected officials on the status of these efforts, as well as to identify issues of larger concern that may require additional consideration.

Notably, the MOU does not commit the City nor the Village to consolidating its two Fire & EMS Departments at this time. Additionally, it also provides flexibility for one or both communities to continue participating in other consolidation talks that continue to occur on a larger county-wide scale, or on a more regionalized basis (i.e., Northern and Southern Ozaukee Departments, etc.). Pending adoption of the resolution approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Village, it is anticipated that the Joint Working Group will commence its work at the beginning of January and provide an update to each governing board in March.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Recommendation

A recommendation from the Public Safety Committee is forthcoming on December 14, 2021.

Attachments:

MEQUON THIENSVILLE MOU - 12.14.21 (003) (PDF)

COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF MEQUON

RESOLUTION 3900

A Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Mequon and the Village of Thiensville in Connection with Fire & EMS Department Consolidation

RECITALS

A. The City of Mequon and the Villages of Thiensville each provide emergency medical, fire, and rescue services (collectively herein “Fire & EMS Services”) to their respective residents.

B. The communities provide these services individually, through mutual aid, and shared services agreements, and the communities seek to continue to provide effective and efficient Fire & EMS Services to their respective communities.

C. The communities have determined that current and future budget considerations and staffing constraints pose a challenge to providing effective and efficient Fire & EMS Services, and the two communities agree to study ways that Fire & EMS Services may be provided with synergy, reduced duplication, and increased flexibility.

D. Wisconsin Statute 66.0301 authorizes municipal governments to enter into intergovernmental agreements to share services and/or otherwise provide for the joint exercise of municipal powers.

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING RECITALS, IT IS RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Mequon, Wisconsin, that:

1. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Cities of Mequon and the Village of Thiensville described above in the form attached, is approved.

2. The Mequon officials identified in the Memorandum of Understanding are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the same on behalf of the City.

Approved by: John Wirth, Mayor

Date Approved: December 14, 2021

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Common Council of the City of Mequon, Wisconsin, at a meeting held on December 14, 2021.

Caroline Fochs, City Clerk

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is made as of this ____ day of December 2021, by and between the City of Mequon (“Mequon”) and the Village of Thiensville (“Thiensville”) (collectively, “the two communities”).

RECITALS

A. Mequon and Thiensville each individually provide emergency medical, fire, and rescue services (collectively herein “Fire & EMS Services”) to their respective residents, businesses and institutions, utilizing a combination of their own Fire & EMS Services staff, mutual aid, and shared services agreements.

B. Mequon and Thiensville both seek to continue to provide effective and efficient Fire & EMS Services to their respective residents, businesses and institutions.

C. Mequon and Thiensville have both identified significant challenges to the continued provision of effective and efficient Fire & EMS Services including current and future budget considerations and staffing constraints.

D. The two communities participated in a county-wide study with other municipalities that provide Fire & EMS services, including Cedarburg, Fredonia, Grafton, Saukville, and Port Washington, among others, to examine ways that Fire & EMS Services may be provided with synergy, reduced duplication, and increased flexibility.

E. The county-wide study, completed by the Wisconsin Policy Forum (WPF) in early 2021, recommended a range of six (6) options that participating communities could consider to sustain or improve upon the existing levels of service, while controlling costs.

F. Following a thorough review of the recommendations contained within the WPF study, and ongoing consultation with officials from the other participating communities, a group comprised of the Chief Executive Officers, Administrators and Fire Department Command Staff from both Mequon and Thiensville recommend that the two communities further explore a two-way consolidation, as enumerated in the WPF study.

G. Efforts directed towards establishment of one, unified Mequon and Thiensville Fire & EMS Department do not preclude one or both of the communities from continuing to participate in potentially larger consolidation discussions with the other communities that participated in the WPF study.

H. Section 66.0301 of the Wisconsin Statutes authorizes municipal governments to enter into intergovernmental agreements to share services and/or otherwise provide for the joint exercise of municipal powers.

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING RECITALS, and in consideration of the promises and obligations set forth herein, the City of Mequon and the Village of Thiensville agree as follows:

1. The City of Mequon and the Village of Thiensville shall formally establish a Joint Fire & EMS Working Group (“Joint Working Group”) comprised of each municipality’s Chief Executive Officer, Administrator, Fire Chief and Deputy Chief to establish the necessary framework by which the two departments can consolidate into one, unified entity under the jurisdiction of a combined governing board.

2. The Joint Working Group may from time to time include other representatives of either the City or Village (e.g., an additional elected official, City/Village attorney, finance director, consultant, etc.) that the Joint Working Group’s core members may deem necessary to support the establishment of such a unified operating entity.

3. In establishing the framework by which the Mequon and Thiensville Fire & EMS Departments may consolidate into one, unified entity, the Joint Working Group will examine the following topic areas, among others, within its work:

Governance
Administration/Management
Finance (Budgeting, Revenues, etc.)
Staffing
Equipment
Facilities
Emergency Dispatch
Response Times
Future Growth/Needs

4. The Joint Working Group will provide periodic updates (not less than quarterly) to each of the governing boards in the two communities to apprise elected officials on the Joint Working Group’s progress towards establishing one, unified department, as well as challenges or considerations that may warrant larger or further discussion and/or deliberation.

5. The results and recommendations of the Joint Working Group’s efforts are not binding but serve as key decision-making data should Mequon and Thiensville decide to pursue consolidation(s). Further, this MOU shall impose no legal obligation on either of the two communities; rather, it expresses the intent of the two communities. Either or both of the two communities may withdraw from this MOU at any time by providing written notice to the other.

CITY OF MEQUON

VILLAGE OF THIENSVILLE

John M. Wirth, Mayor

Van A. Mobley, President

ATTEST:

ATTEST:

Caroline Fochs, Clerk

Amy Langlois, Clerk