

**Joint Village Board Meeting with  
Town of Belgium Board and Belgium Fire/Rescue**  
**April 6, 2015**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Village Board President Richard Howells.

**Roll Call of Officers:** Officers present were Village President Richard Howells; Trustees Pete Anzia, Vickie Boehnlein, John Hise, Wayne Lambrecht, Clem Gottsacker, and Jason Acevedo; Town Board Chairman Tom Winker, Supervisors Bill Janeshek and Jim Blick. Also in attendance were Town Clerk Ginger Murphy, Village Clerk Kaity Olsen, Village Attorney Gerry Antoine, Fire Chief Dan Birenbaum, Asst. Fire Chief Leon Anzia, and Rescue/Fire Department members Michele Wester, Josh Borden, Tammy Pfeifer, and Cindy Large. Quorums were declared established.

**Open Meeting Law Compliance Check:** This meeting is in compliance with the Open Meetings Law of the State of Wisconsin.

**Pledge to Flag, Moment of Silence:** All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

**Agenda Items:**

- **Future Use of the Old Village Hall – 195 Commerce St.** – Discussion took place between the Village Board, Town Board and members of the Belgium Fire/Rescue Department regarding what to do with the vacated Village Hall side of the property located at 195 Commerce Street. The general consensus by all those present was to ultimately donate the entire building to the Belgium Fire/Rescue Department. Town board members further stated that they would not be open to any other options. There was extensive discussion regarding the original purchase and construction of the property and building and who paid for what. It appears that agreements were made verbally but never in writing for both the Village and Town. Trustee Boehnlein commented that the Village cannot continue to pay for an unoccupied building and Trustee Gottsacker further commented that the Village does not wish to be a landlord. Village President Richard Howells commented that he believes this needs to be brought before the public for comment. Village Attorney Gerry Antoine noted that legally the Village of Belgium is the name on the deed and therefor, the Village Board has the ultimate authority over Village property. The Village has determined that there is no longer a need for the building and we would legally be able to donate it for public purpose, which would fall within the guidelines of donating it to the Fire/Rescue Department. Fire Chief Dan Birenbaum commented that the Fire/Rescue Department would be able to use the whole building. His concern is that they would be liable for paying the operational costs which would come to about \$17,300.00 at a minimum. He would like to have official agreements from the Village and Town stating that they will each continue to pay operational costs as part of the yearly budget. Fund raising to pay these costs is not an option. Town Chairman Tom Winker suggested that we have another meeting prior to the Town Board meeting on the first Monday in June at 6:00. In the meantime, the Village and the Town will try to gather as much historic documentation as possible regarding the original purchase of the property and building. The hope amongst those present is to have all agreements in place and have the donation made to commence with the 2016 Budget.

**Motion to Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn at 6:45 pm was made by Howells and seconded by Hise. Ayes – all in attendance. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaity Olsen  
Village Clerk

Approved by Village Board 04/13/15