

August 21, 2015

Mayor
Common Council
City of Pewaukee
W240 N3065 Pewaukee Road
Pewaukee, WI 53072

RE: Response to Questions in April 14, 2015 Letter

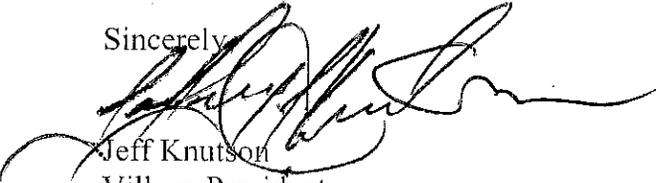
Dear Mayor and Common Council:

Enclosed please find responses to the questions provided to the Village of Pewaukee in a letter dated April 14, 2015 approved for transmittal to the City by the Village of Pewaukee Village Board.

The Village Board requests a response to the second proposal provided to the City via letter dated July 24, 2015.

On behalf of the Village Board.

Sincerely,


Jeff Knutson
Village President

Enclosure

C: Village Board

Village of Pewaukee Village Board response to April 14, 2015 question from City of Pewaukee as approved by action of the Village Board at its meeting on August 18, 2015.

Question 1.

Yes, the village has a specific proposal that was tendered to the City of Pewaukee. We feel the proposal as presented is an equitable way to pay for EMS and Fire services. We cannot tie our cost of our fire services to the City of Pewaukee budget. The City budget is going to escalate dramatically based on the projected population estimates. The village is desirous of purchasing a service without being asked to pay additional costs to add full time Fire Department personnel due to the continued growth of the City (residential, etc.). The Village's residential population has remained stagnant or has seen slight decreases while the City continues to see growth in residential, retail and commercial development. During discussions in 2013, the concept of changing the formula was certainly discussed, but no specific proposals for cost savings were EVER tendered by the city. The city will recall that the talks became bogged down in the village's desire to have specific types of calls (EMS) weighted differently than the more expensive fire calls, and the city responded by simply saying that all calls will be treated the same whether EMS or fire.

Question 2.

Yes, the village of Pewaukee believes that protective services are a quality of life issue. This is why the village supports a municipal police department of officers who are committed to this community for entire careers, getting to know the citizens and neighborhood issues. In surveying several communities in the area, we have found that most community's financial support for law enforcement is well above the ratio you cited in your question and the trend line for the village as it relates to comparative costs between law enforcement and Fire/EMS is not reflective of the year you cited. In 2015 the police budget went down in the village significantly while the Fire/EMS budget went up. In the city, both your law enforcement contract and Fire/EMS budgets went up. We don't know that we can provide full-time Fire/EMS for less, but we do know that we need to explore options that stabilize costs.

Questions 3.

The village may have to explore reprioritizing service levels with existing police staff taking on additional duties (fire inspections)(public education services)or contracting fire inspections to a different entity. Our citizens deserve the best level of services they can afford, and our last option would be a reduction in any service that would diminish service levels during time of emergency.

Question 4.

No question asked in this section

Question 5.

We have not contacted any business to determine ISO ratings since we don't know what the ISO number will be if the Village explores other options. It is worth noting that the village continues to be desirous of an equitable funding mechanism with the city to extend the contract, so to contact businesses prior to any possible resolution would be scurrilous to any negotiation effort.

However, the City might want to note that much of the water supply infrastructure (i.e. fire hydrants) that positively impacts the ISOs PPC ratings (weighted up to 40% of the score) is in the Village, not the City. Even the best fire department will be less than fully effective if it has an inadequate water supply.

Question 6.

No question asked in this section

Question 7.

The Village Board adopted an ordinance several years ago to charge fees to recoup some of the costs passed on by the city under the terms of the contract for fire and EMS responses. The city charges on a per-call basis, with a set number of dollars per type of response. As the city's fire budget has gone up, the per-call charge has gone up and the village ordinance governing some specific fees reflects the increase. These are the ever increasing fees we find troubling to pass along to businesses and residents.

There is really nothing more important than professional emergency services in a time of need; we have NEVER questioned the quality of the services rendered by the city, just the costs.