

# Memo

To: Village Board

Fr: Neil Cameron, Fire Chief

Re: Fire Department Consolidation Proposal

Date: September 1, 2011

Since the public information meetings held on March 9<sup>th</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup> there has been continued activity with regard to exploring the options for consolidation of the fire department with a neighboring community. In prior discussions it was decided to approach neighboring communities to explore interest levels and obtain preliminary proposals and then identify preferred path forward and enter into specific negotiations that would ultimately be approved by the participating communities. In addition there has been an assessment of needed actions and potential increased costs to strengthen the Allouez Fire department should the Village elect to maintain an independent department.

Over the past several months there has been on-going dialogue with the Cities of De Pere and Green Bay regarding anticipated structure, operation, and costs associated with a consolidating of fire and rescue service with either of the cities. We have reviewed the performance goals the Village has identified for delivery of fire and emergency medical response services and have received preliminary proposals for a combined department. During this process both communities have identified how service would be delivered and key items were identified in a memo dated July 13, 2011.

In reviewing the options it is apparent there are key elements of Green Bay's preliminary proposal that indicate a partnership with the City of Green Bay Fire Department (GBFD) would be the preferred path forward in terms of providing the higher and most cost effective level of emergency response service for Allouez residents. In addition to meeting the core performance standards outlined by the Village of Allouez:

- 1) GBFD has capacity to deliver more comprehensive emergency response on a 24/7 basis including on-duty chief officer response.
- 2) GBFD proposes an advisory oversight committee comprised of both Village and City representatives to work with the consolidated department.
- 3) GBFD has greater capacity to provide training, prevention, and fleet/equipment maintenance services.

4) Start-up costs to consolidate with GBFD are significantly less than the alternatives.

Based upon the assessment of preliminary proposals I am recommending that the Board “approve in concept” the development of a combined fire /rescue department with the City of Green Bay and enter into negotiations to develop a mutually beneficial intergovernmental agreement necessary to establish the partnership for consideration of both the Village Board and City Council.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.