

Richland Village Council
8985 Gull Road
Special Meeting
August 24, 2015

Present: President Paul Gobble, President Pro Tem Gail Koporetz, Trustees: Dave Greve, Bob Prentice Virginia Gross, Kim Lewis, Kevin Foust, and Deputy Clerk Michael Scott

Absent: Clerk Wanda Holewa

The meeting was called to order in the Richland Community Hall by President Paul Gobble at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of allegiance was led by President Gobble.

President Gobble asked those in attendance if they needed the microphone and speakers turned on. All in attendance declined.

Public Comments:

Virginia Mejeur, resident on N. 32nd Street, expressed her opinion that the Village of Richland should not contract out its police officers to WMU. Mrs. Mejeur expressed concern about insurance and liability if something were to occur to the police officers or the police vehicles. Mrs. Mejeur commented that she hopes the village goes to court for removing the clerk, so that everyone will see what has been done.

Agenda Items:

1. Trustee Prentice commented on the WMU contract, stating that all expenses incurred by the Village of Richland for sending the police officers to assist WMU, will be compensated by WMU, and that the village will make an additional profit for every hour the officers are assisting WMU. Mr. Prentice also advised that coverage in the Village of Richland will not be affected, as the officers are working with WMU when they are not on duty in the village.
2. Trustee Lewis asked how many years we have been contracting with WMU. Trustee Prentice was unsure of the exact number of years, but was certain that it has been going on for the past 5 years. Trustee Lewis then asked if there has ever been a situation in which the officers were needed in the village, but they were out at WMU. Mr. Prentice responded, stating that he was not aware of a single instance.
3. President Pro Tem commented that the contract allows the village officers to leave WMU at any moment if they are needed to respond to a situation in the village.
4. Trustee Greve asked if the WMU contract was not approved, would this effect the budget. Trustee Prentice answered yes, as some of the profits that the village would receive was put into the annual budget. Trustee Gross asked what amount the village makes. Mr. Prentice stated that the amount varies based on the hourly wage of the office, whether or not the office is working on overtime, and the amount of coverage that is needed by WMU. Mr. Prentice stated that the village would make money even if the officers were being paid double time.

5. President Pro Tem Koporetz explained that the officers use one vehicle to transport all of the needed officers and then the vehicle is parked. The vehicle is not used during the shift with WMU, it is used as purely transportation to and from WMU.
6. **Motion** to continue contract with WMU and the Village of Richland police force.
Prentice/Koporetz: Roll Call: Gobble – yes, Koporetz – yes, Prentice – yes, Gross – yes, Faust – yes, Greve – yes, Lewis – yes: – **Carried**
7. **Motion** to go into closed session to discuss with village attorneys the case of Wanda Holewa vs. Village of Richland, as discussion in open session would have a detrimental effect on the village’s litigating and/or settlement position. Prentice/Gross: Roll Call: Gobble – yes, Koporetz – yes, Greve – yes, Prentice – yes, Lewis – yes, Faust – yes, Gross – yes: – **Carried**
8. Open session resumes at 7:33 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 7:34 p.m. Koporetz/Faust – **Carried**

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Scott
Deputy Clerk