

MINUTES TOWN OF HULL BOARD
MEETING COUNTY OF PORTAGE, WI
HELD ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2013

Called to order by Chairperson John Holdridge at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Municipal Building, 4550 Wojcik Memorial Drive, Stevens Point WI 54482.

Present: Chairperson Holdridge, Supervisors Dave Pederson, Dave Wilz and LaVerne Syens.

Excused: Supervisor Mel Bembenek.

Others present: Clerk Janet Wolle and Fire Chief Mark Kluck.

Discussion with possible action Town of Hull / Hull Fire Department joining Metro Fire District via a contractual agreement

John Holdridge – need to get rid of my gum, to discuss the Metro or what is the official title? Portage County Metropolitan

Mark Kluck – Metropolitan Portage County Fire Protection District

Holdridge – that is right.

Kluck – automatic aid agreement.

Holdridge – is that like other districts fire districts like the Rosholt and, is that the same structure and the same part of the law?

Kluck – no, no, no – I don't think so John.

Holdridge – huh?

Kluck – that is different. That is where municipalities are actually buying in for their fire protection.

Holdridge – okay.

Kluck – you know the Town of Alban and Rosholt they just pay Rosholt.

Holdridge – Lanark they apparently want to build some substation in Lanark? I talked with Mike Juris last night.

Kluck – yeah Amherst is working on that and Rosholt is working on one in Polonia.

Holdridge – is it under a different statute?

Kluck – yeah.

Holdridge – just for an announcement next Monday at 5 o'clock we will be interviewing assessors. We've had two applicants both of whom have extensive involvement in Portage County with towns and villages. We will interview the first one, which would be Todd Pauls at 5 o'clock and then at 6:15 we will interview Jeremy Kurtzweil to be our new assessor. Phil situation is he always had some health problems and he is considering moving to Eau Claire where his son is and I think it is appropriate for the Town of Hull to look very strongly at an assessor. We have I spent yesterday talking with Juris and Pat Wanserski from Sharon and who else did I talk with? Juris, Wanserski one other Town Chairman and they gave very high marks. And today I talked with Mike Pagel, from Lanark, and they, they both, both candidates are well recommended. So I feel comfortable if we get a new assessor we'll have somebody with some good skills and interact Yesterday or Friday I had a couple of calls from citizens on a letter that was delivered to their home asking people to sort of lobby the town board on the Metro district. And did you deliver some Mark or how.....

Kluck – ah the members

Holdridge – I had 2 calls and a, I think David you had a call.

Wilz – I had a call yesterday.

Pederson – I had one today.

Holdridge – you had one today? Okay. Do you have a copy of the letter? It might be helpful if we.....

Kluck – I do.

Holdridge – knew we were going to get lobbied and what subject is. Both of my contacts I explained the situation and indicated I would get back to them and uh ultimately explain any positions the board has okay. Okay maybe what we should do is Mark do you have a presentation?

Kluck – I do John. Umm, what I would like to do is start out with we had given the board some of it has been a 2 year process. I've given you quite a bit of information over the 2 years and we have had some pretty good discussions about this and last year the board approved John, you and I signed the official Hull letter request asking to join Metro. And in that letter we also gave some reasons and uh how we all thought that was a good idea. We also asked to have the time table moved up and because of the agreement we weren't able to have that done so we needed to wait until February of this year to have that done. Um what I would like to do is make sure clear on what this topic is all about and the changes that have happened since the time we requested that letter and the current time now. And the only change that has been made is that Whiting has been dropped, I guess, as an entity in the agreement um because their fire department and equipment has been taken over by Plover's Fire Department. Plover is now supplying the fire protection and EMS to the Village of Whiting.

Holdridge – why did Whiting do that?

Kluck – well I think what part of it was, and I don't have all of the facts John, I can just tell you what I have heard, is that some of their equipment was no longer operable and to maintain their rating, their ISO rating, and that type of thing they decided to ask Plover to ask for contracts for to their fire station (couldn't understand). It is my understanding they maintain ownership of the equipment, the kind of equipment they have one of their trucks, I think it was a ladder truck, was just beyond repair and couldn't be used anymore. And to maintain their rating when Plover takes over, Plover they used Plover's ISO rating and have Plover's ladder truck available. And they man, also man that station at Whiting – not full time but it is.....

Holdridge – did they have any problem getting volunteers in Whiting? Was that an issue?

Kluck – my understanding is Plover hired, I can't give you exact

Holdridge – I mean when Whiting, when Kontos was Chief, did they have any problem recruiting volunteers?

Kluck – I do not know John.

Holdridge – okay.

Kluck – I am not aware of that. I would imagine they had the same issues we all do. You know the volunteers.....

Holdridge – would you introduce the members of your leadership team?

Kluck – sure. Mark Fritsche, Assistant Chief

Holdridge – okay.

Kluck – Ken are you're here? Ken Sadiogerski, Chief 3; um I'll just start to go down the row here Dan Firkus is a new member probation, Dennis Heinz is Safety Officer, Jack Elsinger is a Lieutenant and Safety Officer, Nick Proulx in the back corner.....

Holdridge – yah we know Nick.

Kluck – um Captain Randy Spurlin, firefighter Kyle Sadiogerski, Captain um Jeff Krueger, a Brandan Hagen, um Derek Zalewski, um Will Lauer and Kelly Kluck.

Holdridge – the re (couldn't understand) they are all fire personnel?

Kluck – yes.

Holdridge – okay

Kluck – yup

Holdridge – any citizens here besides Phil? You are not member of the fire....

Patti Fritsche – no I'm related to him.

Holdridge – okay.

Kluck – um I guess the other thing I want to restate tonight is that we focus on the agreement its self and basically what the agreement is talking about is automatic aid. Ah we currently go to most of the incidents now but this would get us going quicker or get apparatus from other areas coming to us much quicker. What we can do is we can provide the businesses and residents in certain areas of the Town of Hull with what I consider to be the highest fire protection we have available in this county by automatic aid. Nobody has to think of what they want, it is all preplanned out. We've had, oh, forty hours worth of meetings with the other chiefs working out all of the details to see if this would work and it works very good. Um it would create quicker response time per incident, it would make better efficiencies on the fire scene. An example of that is Monday morning 9 o'clock – a lot of these guys have jobs and girls have jobs. If we could put 8 people on a response, that's it and you are attacking a house fire that's not good enough. We sometimes end up having to risk people, or put people at risk that we really shouldn't have to. This agreement would cut that. We wouldn't need to put those people at risk. We would have enough people on the fire ground to meet the NFPA standard and be able to effectively fight a fire. Um, the other thing this would do is we're hoping in the long run, it will lower some insurance rates because, as we discussed in the past, when you go for an ISO and you go to automatic aid um it definitely helps you in translating and we've had, I've had people, in fact this week, tell me that the insurance companies had more than doubled in fact thirty-five hundred dollars increase on somebody's home insurance from one company.

Holdridge – how do we run that down? That's come up numerous times.

Kluck – what we do John is we have a rating right now that is supposed to be an ISO rating of 8. Some of the insurance companies are saying it's a 10. When we contact the ISO board which is located in Chicago, what they will do, is they will come out with a crew, they will do an actual inspection of equipment. There is a lot of paperwork involved. We would tank water, they look at our aid agreements and they would re-rate us. We haven't been re-rated, I think since, Max Rutta did it in '85 I think it is.

Mark Fritsche – I don't remember the year but Max was Chief at the time.

Kluck – um we need to get that done. We put it off last year because of this agreement coming up because the difference between where we are right now and

where we could be with automatic aid from a full time fire department and Plover's Fire Department would be a dramatic increase in our insurance rating. We have already been told that. Um, there's other opportunities that could be in there but ya know we are just focusing on the actual agreement tonight. Um, and that's what we are after. We've answered all the questions that we have had from the board and everything, we've got much more information that we can give you, handouts, and the positives and I can go over what we consider to a positive if you wish. Um

Holdridge – Mark, why don't you briefly go over those?

Kluck – sure.

Holdridge – what sheet are you talking about?

Kluck – it would be Positives for the Town of Hull Fire Department.

Holdridge – is that, I a.....

Kluck – that's probably, it was in your packet I think. Yup that's it. Yup The quicker fire response to certain areas, again if you take a look at the location of the city of Stevens Point fire departments , and a response to the area of Old Wausau Road, they are going to get there quicker. There is just no doubt about it. It's just logistics. We have to respond from our jobs to the Town of Hull fire station, pick up the fire trucks and then respond to the fire. Areas that are also very similar to that the Old Wausau Road area, Old Highway 18 area, uh the area behind Fleet Farm, Maple Bluff, all those areas. They have two stations; they are going to beat us there. A lot can happen from them getting there first. Um, just, ya know, um having the necessary man power on a fire scene. When 8 guys show up we've had one structure fire this year on Brilowski Road in which it takes time for people to respond. We had Stevens Point engine on scene, I think it was second. We didn't need to use them because the fire was controllable but they were there. They bring out a ladder truck, okay; we don't own a ladder truck. When you look at some of the homes that are out there in the Town of Hull now a days, two, three stories, they are huge. We are a total loss for those. We need that help. The sooner we can get it there the more effective we can be.

Holdridge – is that the ladder truck that the Village of Plover and Stevens Point shared to buy?

Kluck – yes.

Holdridge – is that what they call an aerial?

Kluck – yes, yup it is. Um, we get the best fire protection available. Better than we can do right now simply because of the response, we meet the NFPA requirements of man power and apparatus on a scene. It takes the pressure off the Incident Commander because this is all preplanned responses, we know in advance what is coming, where it is coming from, how many people are coming with it and depending on the fire situation we can predetermine how we are going to use those people. Okay. Um, in the area such as ah, Country Club Drive, again Stevens Point Station 2 is going to get there first. If it's not a major incident or a false alarm or whatever you would want to call that, they can slow us down or actually cancel us so we are not racing to the fire station and then racing back out there with fire trucks on bad weather days, creating a traffic hazard, we could slow down a little bit.

Pederson – how exactly would that be accomplished?

Kluck – okay, let's take the Country Club Drive area. If there is a fire at a house on Country Club and if the Metro page where Plover, Hull and Point are paged all at the same time, Point may get there with station 2 equipment first.

Pederson – unless there is a train going.

Laughter.

Kluck – unless there is a train yup, yup.

Wilz – then they would be the last ones there.

Holdridge – it was thirty minutes the other night for me sitting at the railroad tracks (laughter)

Kluck – but again, even if they go all the way around, there is a good chance they would beat us. If a fire is in a dryer, or something like that, which we've had in a basement, they can put that out right there. And then they can radio back to us, who are all responding emergency wise, and say ya know slow it down, we have

the fire down. Go ahead and send the trucks for the reports, it's your area but slow things down. You don't have to go emergent.

Holdridge – when fires are Go ahead David.

Pederson – it goes out as spoken statement to anybody responding?

Kluck – correct.

Pederson – oh.

Kluck – and if it is absolutely they can actually call back to dispatch and have them page out a cancellation call, where ya know for Plover coming way out here to Hull, they wouldn't have to do that. Again, you are talking about people leaving their jobs most of the time for this. It is kind of tough on them.

Holdridge – does the, um, when this happens the call initially comes in to a dispatcher, right?

Kluck – correct.

Holdridge – a central dispatcher. And then that dispatcher depend on, it seems to me you got almost three levels here, the MABAS System, Mutual Aid, Metro System. One of those he activates right, he or she.

Kluck – no.

Holdridge – how does that work?

Kluck – the way it works John is if you had a house fire, when you dialed 911 comes up at the Sheriff's Department Dispatch Center. It says Town of Hull EMS, Town of Hull Fire Department, Portage County Ambulance. If they are in Metro it would say Metro Fire Department so they would press a button, set off the tones, out pager would go off, Points would go off and Plovers would go off. They would announce there is a structure at blah, blah address and give the details if there were any. Ya know if you said the fire is in the basement or whatever. That activates everybody. We head for our station, Plover heads for their station, whether it is Whiting Station or Plover's regular station and Point automatically starts to respond cuz they are full time so they get the jump on everybody. Um,

first vehicle that gets there assumes command. Um, if there is a rescue to be made because somebody is trapped inside, they are going to make it, they're going to make the attempt. If there is actual live fire, they're going to make the attempt to put it out and we all come in as support personnel. Guys like myself and Mark Fritsche and Kenny, we would go directly to the scene and then assume command.....

Holdridge – so the fire personnel would go to our fire house?

Kluck – correct.

Holdridge – and they'd get some sort of apparatus. You guys might go via your vehicle right to the fire.

Kluck – correct. So that is the way the page happens. Now if they can, if Point would get on scene and get it is popcorn in a microwave but it is putting out a lot of smoke and the people residents didn't know if it was a fire or what it was, then they can go in there, assess the situation and actually cancel everybody.

Holdridge – so they would call the dispatcher and the dispatcher would cancel it...

Kluck – probably re-page out the town to cancel everybody and then, ya know we would show up in our area to do the report and file that information and stuff like that.

Pederson - that decision is made though by somebody who arrives on the scene.

Kluck – correct.

Holdridge – is that what they call a confirmed fire if there is a real fire and it is just not a smoke situation or something that's not (couldn't understand) serious.

Kluck – a working fire.

Holdridge – if that what you call it a working fire.

Kluck – yeah.

Holdridge – okay.

Pederson – does the dispatcher question the caller sometime to find out the extent of the incident?

Kluck – yeah absolutely. They have (clearing throat) I don't know if it is a national check list or it comes up on a computer scene but they have specific questions they are going to be asking in a fire situation, just like they would in any emergent situation.

Holdridge - if that is the Metro response you plug into Plover and Stevens Point, what's the MABAS System?

Kluck - the MABAS system would be the next level of response. We still have the MABAS System in place. Let's say it was a major working fire. Maybe nobody is home and there is fire coming out of windows and everything.

Holdridge – yah.

Kluck – okay, we would go ahead and activate the MABAS System which in our case, in your area would bring in tankers, an additional tanker from Plover, a tanker from Dewey, a tanker from Rosholt because we need water, we can't fit a hydrant down there.

Holdridge – yeah.

Kluck – so we would bring in those. We would bring in probably Park Ridge for personnel support or something like that.

Holdridge – but not the city?

Kluck – no they would always be there on the

Holdridge – it seems to me you got three aspects of fire involvement here, department involvement. You've got the Metro, you got the MABAS, you got the Mutual Aid. Right?

Kluck – Right.

Holdridge – the MABAS is different than the Metro

Kluck – correct

Holdridge – cuz that's not automatic

Kluck – correct

Holdridge – right?

Kluck – correct

Holdridge – somebody on the ground. What about the Mutual Aid?

Kluck – the Mutual Aid would be, it really isn't used a whole lot anymore because the Met, the MABAS is in place but if you got on a fire and maybe you only needed one tanker. Ya I know, we know the worst is and the equipment we are requesting is on what we call a box alarm. That's the first MABAS call.

Holdridge – yeah.

Kluck – so I don't need all those trucks from Plover, Whiting, or Plover, Rosholt, Dewey, maybe I just need one so I would say county dispatch please send me one tender from the Town of Dewey and I wouldn't activate all those other vehicles from all those other places. It really all boils down to what the situation is on the scene as to what level you are going to go to. With Metro, the initial response is automatic and we're using them. We have currently Metro in our box alarms right on our MABAS card. Ah, the fire on the, I think it's the Fritsch residence on Old Wausau Road, Stevens Point was there. The fire up by Mark Fritsche area where it was the Lassa house, Stevens Point arrive on the scene first. Called the first fire alarm, got ready for the attack as soon as we got there and supplied the extra water, they went in. The thing is, I find it hard to believe a homeowner in the Town of Hull would actually care what it says on the firefighters coat, Whiting, Plover, Dewey, as long as they were there to put the fire out, save the property or even a life. And we get that quicker response, it's automatic. That is the key word. It's automatic response. Everything has been preset. Everybody knows what's coming. Every other department knows what they have to send. So

Pederson – can you end up with a situation where, say in John’s neighborhood, it’s kind of tight in there as far as room on the streets and stuff where you would end up with more equipment than you can safely shuffle around.

Kluck – yes, that’s a great question. There are what we call, yah you could, what we have is what we call is a level station and level 2 station. And if we get on a scene that is going to be a tight corridor we would ask uh, maybe Stevens Point to go to level 1 staging which is a block away from the scene. And we may ask Plover to go and Whiting to go to level 2 staging which we would then pick a spot let’s say, I don’t know all the roads over there, but Mary’s Dr and something and they would park 3 or 4 blocks away. And then they stay with their apparatus until we would either ask them to move up or cancel them and send them home.

Holdridge – now this is all predicated on a serious structural fire isn’t it?

Kluck – correct.

Holdridge – because yah know I’ve, we’ve got your monthly reports uh a lot of false alarms.

Kluck – yup.

Holdridge – major structural fire you would page in in some fashion Plover, how far is it to Plover eight miles or so?

Kluck – I think so, 7 or 8.

Holdridge – they’d come up to the Town of Hull.

Kluck – well in certain cases yes, but you got to understand

Holdridge – well let’s stick with this structure.

Kluck – okay

Holdridge – people think of fires that’s what they think of, right?

Kluck – right. Okay, so what you would have, you would have certain Plover personnel responding to Whiting which is closer and they would respond from

Whiting station with equipment to our area. Plover, in certain cases, may not even respond um because of the distance, and it just doesn't make sense.

Holdridge – right, yeah.

M Fritsche – just as an example, in December there was a house fire in the Town of Dewey that was on Birch Drive, up near the Marathon County border, okay.

Holdridge – yah.

Fritsche – And Plover responded up their under the MABAS Mutual Aid Agreement. Plover responded up there with their aerial truck. So the answer is yes they will respond.

Holdridge – and that truck was needed?

Fritsche – yes.

Holdridge – second story or third story.

Fritsche – um, yes. That one there as a matter of fact the fire burnt from the basement up through the first floor, up through the second floor and there was fire in the second floor and not a single firefighter made entry on the second floor. All of the fire was put out with the guys from the basket on the aerial. That greatly enhanced firefighter safety by not having them in there.

Holdridge – so that aerial can run off portable water?

Fritsche – yes.

Kluck – correct.

Holdridge – okay.

Kluck – um, the other advantages there would be less wear and tear on our fire fighters on a scene because we have the man power we need there. Right now again we get 8 people, they're in an air pack, they use up that air pack with all the air, they go rest for 5 minutes, put another one, they are back on the fire scene. We are pushing them very, very hard at times. Again, like you said, on major events.

(pause) The ISO rating, I think the key here is the automatic response. That is the biggest thing. Yah know something out by Randy Kruzicki's house on Old Wausau or ___?__ house we're going to get Point's engine there first, probably 90% of the time. But that doesn't mean they won't go as far as like up where Dave lives on Granite Ridge if that's where the issue is, they're going and they're probably going to beat us.

Fritsche – they will beat us, because on the North Second and Florence fire, at the Lassa residence there, I called that fire in. I spotted it. I called that fire in from the front of the house. I called for Hull to be paged, explained what we had. They dispatched out Town of Hull. I waited for them to get done dispatch Town of Hull and then I took and asked her for box alarm under the MABAS thing. Point responded to that fire. Point was the first engine in on the scene, so it is proven they can get to that area before we can. Therefore if they can make it to Casimir and North Second before we can, they can get anywhere on the west side of the township before we can.

Holdridge – now going back to the Metro and MABAS system, if you just had the MABAS they'd also get would be alerted and brought in to the action, right?

Fritsche – yes they would. The difference between the MABAS System is basically you have to request it.

Holdridge – right.

Fritsche – okay, the Metro system is automatic. All the infantries get paged at the same exact time. The part that benefits the taxpayers is when you get paged out at the same time ISO recognizes automatic aid when you can count the Point is coming with an aerial truck its counted just as though we had our own aerial truck, oaky. But that is what is automatically responding on that call. That's where the significant difference is in the rating that they give you.

Holdridge – we've got to find out who we talk to on ISO, because I got to tell you I remember meeting down at the fire station in fact I think Randy Kruzicki was with me and this was 5 or 6 years ago and we talked about the ISO situation and nothing , nothings happened.

Fritsche – we've been making arrangements to do that last year and then after the letter of intent was sent out because you can only do that once in how many years?

Kluck – 5 or 6 years.

Fritsche – oaky, so we left it not to do it last year to see what the outcome of this was because this would substantially lower our rating and give

Holdridge – well I'm just curious who can answer questions definitively about the ISO system.

Kluck – John I can get you the information.

Holdridge – the contact person?

Kluck – yeah. The contact person.

Holdridge – this is a professional this is a government agency.

Kluck – yes, no, well I don't think it's a government agency.

Holdridge – no its not. It's a professional

Kluck – its insurance service office and they are located in Chicago.

Pederson – that was my question. That is the um the National Fire Protection Agency, is that government or private?

Kluck – that's government, well no I think they are actually private.

Fritsche – they are private.

Kluck – those are the people that set limits on how you can have at a meeting here. They set the thing for meeting the fire

Nick Proulx – fire extinguishers

Jack Elsinger – national standards

Pederson – is that a service to the insurance industry or

Kluck – I

Fritsche – the NFPA is a service to firefighters. It's a service to government. It's a service to insurance agencies. You can request information from them um and it's a national recognized standard.

Holdridge – Phil

Phil Janowski – I have a question. The NFPA we use it when we go for our CEU credits for electricity, they do a lot of electrical things too with that as far as setting standards for national code NFPA 70.

Holdridge – okay Mark uh

Kluck – I guess if you would ask whatever questions you might have we'd be happy to answer it tonight. Um, yah know we are on the impression we already submitted the request to join and that's what we are hoping to get finalized and signed tonight.

Dave Wilz – I have a few questions Mark.

First one falls in line with what Dave was asking before and it has to do with human resources with how many folks, how many volunteers we have to respond. Is there a potential that because we have these other communities and they have activity going on that the opposite could happen to us where we think we can do more for less but all of a sudden you guys and gals are being called out more than they are now? Could we have the reverse situation happen?

Kluck – we are currently, for the last 3 or 4 years, we have been currently going on every Metro call that there has been.

Wilz – okay.

Kluck – we haven't been going on the automatic, the initial first page.

Wilz – right.

Kluck – we are always on the next level.

Wilz – okay.

Kluck – so once they find out, they get on scene and determine they have a working fire, fire shown, that's when they call for what is called the box alarm and we are asked to be there okay.

Wilz – so what is that history shown? You act like you were in Metro with what you are saying. You responded like you were already in that. Is that different than we've ever done before? And if it is was there a bigger increase in human resource demand?

Kluck – no because we are only sending 1 vehicle to those places and I couldn't give you the exact figure, I don't remember, but it is either, I think it is 5 fire fighters is what we are sending Metro.

Wilz – okay.

Kluck – we're not sending them every piece of equipment we have, we have our own area to protect no matter what.

Wilz – I was just think, you understood the question I explained correct?

Kluck – yes.

Fritsche – actually on that particular one they have a structure fire in Whiting or Plover or the City of Stevens Point and they call a box alarm. Right now our one engine responds with 5 or 6 personnel okay. Actually what that does is it pulls our firefighters in to the fire station. Once the truck is gone, the guys are on standby okay. So what that actually does it has a crew set ready to go if there is a second fire in the Town of Hull. So the reason of Metro is not to tap out any fire department completely.

Wilz – you keep your resources.....

Fritsche – and you look at the response (couldn't understand) trucks, not all of the equipment we have is going to a Hull fire because we're getting a tender from Plover, we're getting a ladder truck from Stevens Point, we're getting man power from those two areas.

Kluck – it will actually turn out to be less wear and tear on our vehicles.

Fritsche – we're trying to meet that 14 people on the scene within so many minutes after the initial call per NFPA standards.

Wilz – what you are saying the stress on the labor, on the firefighters, this is going to help alleviate some of that.....

Kluck – yes

Wilz – instead of increase it. That was my question there. And then I know you have been working on making sure how this all works in the last several months with the other fire departments for a bunch of different things, but is there a benefit to train uh that your.....

Kluck – yah know if we have 4 or 5 structure fire a year, I'm talking working fires, yah know that would be tops. That would be high. These guys, we train a lot we train hard. The more fires we can go to the better training they get. And I'm going to go back to an example here at the Dewey fire on Birch Drive where we had 3 of our people that actually got to go in and fight this fire. Now we haven't had a big, what we call a big cooking fire in the Town of Hull in probably 6 months. This keeps them sharp. It keeps their training up. They get to see how everybody else operates on the scene. They can draw from that. They can use that experience. We bring it back-we train everybody on it. It's an actual win for them on a big scale.

Wilz – I think that is a concept that a lot of folks outside of your organization don't understand. Its not that you are volunteering to become a fireman, you want to be able to be proficient at it...

Kluck – correct.

Wilz – and intensities in the repetition and all of the rest of those things.

Kluck – correct.

Wilz – you actually want to do it that is why you are there so, um, in dealing with the other fire departments my understanding of the whole Metro concept, way back when it was introduced several year ago, is that this was fire department and fire department working together. There was a concern then and it was said no it won't happen but I still have the same concern, have you noticed any pressure from local

governments in terms of, well if we get this Metro then maybe we can cut back on our full time firefighters or we can get them to buy a piece of equipment. Have you sensed any of that?

Kluck – I have not and I have talked with them.

Wilz – you have to safe guard that as a representative for Hull because that's not the original agreement is that we would bring our assets together and we would try to do the best work we could.

Kluck – correct.

Wilz – not to put pressure on one community over the other.

Kluck – correct.

Wilz – okay. Um

Holdridge – what would be, you mentioned a fire 6 months ago, a real big fire, a fire, fire.

Kluck – the one up in Dewey.

Holdridge – oh that was in Dewey on Birch Drive.

Pederson – in your incident reports you indicate the number of firefighters that respond. Is that response to the fire location or is it response to the fire house?

Kluck – now if it says 11, um, there are 17 that responded, they came to the fire station. That's the number that came to the fire station.

Fritsche – that would also include personnel on scene.

Kluck – correct.

Fritsche – including Mark, myself or Kenny if we go direct. It would include us in that number count.

Pederson – okay cuz I was just wondering.....

Fritsche – it includes the total number of people that responded, whether they make it to the scene or if they just stood by at the fire station.

Pederson – I was wondering about the fire in Rosholt. I think there were 17 listed and I can't imagine all 17 of our firefighters being over in Rosholt.

Kluck – David I can assure you over years, years and years, that's what is great about MABAS system. We would never leave this township unprotected. We have to have sufficient people. Now we have actually had situations where we've called to a fire department, there have been few and rare, and said we can't send you anymore people. We just can't.

Holdridge – yeah.

Wilz – at least they knew where they stood at that point....

Holdridge – let's go back.....

Kluck – they would have to look somewhere else.

Jack Elsinger – can I throw in something about being on standby and that is when there are a number of us back at the station because we don't make the first out trucks. The officers will put our heads together; okay these guys are going on these units if we get this call, if we get that call. So we are prepared way ahead of time. There is some thinking going on in preparation of if we have to send out another piece of equipment, we want this person driving, we want this person as shot gun. If we get called out for....a lot of times on really bad weather as well. If there is a rescue while there is a fire going on, this is we want the jaws. All of this stuff gets preplanned so we are not wasting our time.

Holdridge – on the Rosholt fire you've got 17, so how many Hull firefighters actually went there? Do you know?

Kluck – 6 went.

Holdridge – 6 went, is that one truck?

Kluck – 6 or 7. No 2 trucks.

Holdridge – 2 trucks went to Rosholt.

Wilz – is there any concern from the other members of the current Metro with Hull joining? Was there anything that came up that we need to be aware of?

Kluck – no there isn't. In fact, they have, they think it would be great for the Town of Hull and um it would be great for their fire department. Every fire department has a couple of specialties yah know; things that somebody else doesn't do. One of those for use is rapid intervention. That's the crew that's on standby in case a firefighter goes down. They are strictly there to do that. We have had both Stevens Point and Plover both out at our training sessions, when we do that, and I can say this, they are impressed with the way we operate in those situations; in our skill level and we have had good state instructors instructing us. We've sent people to the Tomahawk Fire School to do Rapid Intervention and all kinds of things like that. They have no issues what so ever.

Holdridge – is rapid intervention group a set number specific firefighters from Hull?

Kluck – yes.

Holdridge – what do you have 6 or 7 of them.

Kluck – 6 would be the max, 5 minimum.

Holdridge – is there any of the rapid intervention people here?

Fritsche – it's not right with just 6.

The whole department is trained (note from Janet – I did not recognize the voice of the person speaking).

Kluck – the whole department is trained in rapid intervention.

Holdridge – okay, so it is not a core group.

Kluck – no.

Fritsche – we only put 6 on the truck that goes.

Kluck – we don't know how many, who's going to show up if there is vacation, illness or can't leave their job.

Wilz – in the previous agreement you guys were rapid intervention for Stevens Point.

Kluck – correct.

Wilz – correct?

Fritsche – and Plover and Whiting.

Wilz – I know the Stevens Point fire people spoke very highly. They were glad you were the ones.

Fritsche – we also provide it for Dewey, Rosholt, um Stockton.

Wilz – you provide if requested?

Fritsche – if requested.

Wilz – okay.

Kluck – and if we have an issue we usually get what used to be Whiting if now Plover or Amherst to come in, to come all the way in to do this.

Wilz – I saw the demonstration at an open house. The rapid intervention really is “Save the Fire Fighter”.

Kluck – it is.

Wilz – you don't get involved with the fire, you get involved with the personnel in case they need assistance.

Kluck – correct.

Holdridge – have we ever lost a firefighter?

Kluck – no.

Holdridge – have we had any

Fritsche – never when on duty – no.

Kluck – close calls.

Holdridge – yeah line of duty.

Kluck – have we ever had any close calls? Absolutely. Real scary situations.

Holdridge – Dave Page once told me that he went in to a garage that was on fire and there was a car there and he was scared to death, he thought that tank might explode.

Kluck – I believe that, yes.

Holdridge – do you remember that incident?

Kluck – yup.

Fritsche – that was at Harry Koshnick's place. The fuel oil truck that he used for delivering caught fire while they were working in the garage okay. And we did not know it was full of fuel and we ventured in to the garage and when we got along side of the truck you could hear liquor boiling in the tank.

Holdridge – that's unnerving.

Fritsche – that's unnerving yes.

Laughter.

Kluck – we had a situation at Mr. Slusarski on Wood view where they had an Advent wreath burning on an oak table and went to mid-night mass.

Holdridge – yeah.

Kluck – and it put a hole directly in to the basement. Our first in crew went in through the patio doors and when then reached in for the floor it wasn't there and he almost went in.

Fritsche – um, Old Wausau Road, um we had a fatal fire there twenty years ago?

1989 (Janet's note – I did not recognize the voice of the person speaking).

Fritsche – 1989 and we had the same thing happen there. It burned through the floor and the crew went through the back door and the first guy started going down – the guy behind him grabbed him and hung on to him and dragged him back out of there. So yes we've had a lot of close calls.

Pederson – you mentioned some other departments having specialties. What are some of theirs?

Kluck - um

Fritsche – Amherst has confined space _____ rescue; Point is ice water rescue

Kluck – ice water, water rescue, craft rescue, trench rescue, confined space, high angle, ambulance standbys, that's at fires if we need them. That is basically their specialties and they do have the air boat.

Holdridge – the Sheriff's Department has a boat too.

Kluck – what's that?

Holdridge – the Sheriff's Department has a boat.

Kluck – yup.

Holdridge – okay. Maybe what we ought to do, Dave Pederson wrote an inquiry and Mark you answered I think. Maybe we ought to look at that. This one was an email I think.

Pederson – yeah.

Holdridge – do you want to comment on that Mark?

Kluck – um, a couple of the questions that Dave had, I want to make sure I've got that. Um, again one of the questions I wanted to make sure that the board as well as Dave was aware of, this is all geared to fire protection for the Town of Hull. It is entering in for fire protection. We have no clues what the call volume will be in years to come and it varies from year to year, sometimes quite dramatically. Um, an incident would be a working fire was one of your questions.

Pederson – yes.

Kluck – is where we have flames showing and there is an active fire going on inside of the structure. It could be anything from a barn to a house to a

Pederson – could be a grass fire?

Kluck – it could be grass fires as well.

Holdridge – would you go to a grass fire in the Metro system?

Kluck – yes. One vehicle because you are getting one out of Plover, one out of Whiting, oh I should say Plover Station 2 and one or 2 out of Stevens Point, whatever. It depends on who the host department is. If the fire is in the Town of Hull, then they are sending us specific equipment on the initial call. If it is in Plover we would send 1 piece of equipment or if it is in Point's or Whiting's area.

Holdridge – for just a grass fire?

Kluck – just for a grass fire. Now if it escalates in to something bigger, that's when the mutual aid MABAS system goes in to effect.

Wilz – like out at in Linwood last year, was that where that grass fire was? I'm trying to think.

Numerous speakers – Rudolph and one in Stockton.

Wilz – the one where you were in all the shots in the paper.

Laughter.

Fritsche – that was Rudolph.

Kluck – that was Rudolph.

Fritsche – actually that was the Town of Linwood and that was a big one. So was the one in Stockton.

Wilz – I can see them wanting everything we had because we had the stuff. And I can see where a township fire department is better equipped to deal with that kind of situation than a city.

Kluck – absolutely.

Wilz – the city doesn't have a tanker. So they are still firefighters, but they don't have the equipment.

Pederson – is there a point then when the DNR is called in?

Kluck – if it's a wild land fire outside of a village or city the DNR is automatically paged. They technically have by state law control over the situation and we would become their subordinates and yeah know they will give us assignments as they have done in every case.

Phil Janowski – parts of the city, where the equipment actually comes, I'm no expert on it but they could use tanker trucks, for example Ox Bow Drive and then on the west side of town like Sesame Street that area, they still have ah or Pine Bluff up here on Brilowski Road, those areas don't have fire hydrants but they are annexed to the city but yet (could not understand remainder).

Holdridge – well Phil right across from where I live is in the city.

Janowski – yes exactly.

Holdridge – we have 3 houses there.

Wilz – and then over by where I live right on Country Club there are hydrants right there and we are in the township.

Janowski – right.

Wilz – you get a flavor both ways.

Kluck – the other thing to keep in mind is we have never paid for water from the city that we have used for fires or training. We have access. They've given us cart lance access to their hydrants to use for training, for fire fighting, for whatever. Every year they will call me up and they'll go how much water did you use in this year? Last year was 2010 I think I gave them, kind of off the top of my head; I gave them sixty-two hundred gallons. And that could be on fires or training when we train on hydrants. Because we have access to them and we can use them

Wilz – they are there for everybody.

Kluck – correct.

Holdridge – you don't pay for that?

Kluck – no.

Holdridge – don't we get a bill for your fire station?

Kluck – that's water for the fire department, like for drinking.

Holdridge – oh, okay.

Kluck - That's different.

Wilz - That's for property.

- There's water at the fire station?

Kluck – that is another good point. Yeah know we had, there are water issues down there and they said, which I guess it's unprecedented but they said yes we'll let you tap in to our city water, you pay the bills and you can use it and, I don't think you ever see that happening anywhere.

Holdridge – I think it may be a health requirement if you have poor water and you have access that they can't.....

Wilz – we have other areas in Hull where Hull citizens can tap in to city water because it is right across the street.

Kluck – okay.

Wilz – and that’s always available.

Holdridge – I think legally they can’t, they have to go along with that uh... David on your memo do you have any comments?

Pederson – um, Mark summarized the kinds of runs, well the working fires in a number of times we would have responded to Metro and Metro would have responded to us in Hull. So that’s....

Holdridge – over the years, if you took these, what do you go 13 to 10, there is an imbalance isn’t there? We go out to Metro.

Pederson – they must have more fires than we do

Holdridge – well they do.

Kluck – when you take a look at the population wise and structural wise they have what, 3 times the amount we have in Hull, or whatever. Again it’s hard to predict. To say in 2013 maybe we have 10 structure fires and they only have 3. And right now we’ve had them come on 2 of our calls and we have not been asked to go there at all yet. At any Metro call.

Holdridge – you mean for January, this January. The one to Rosholt.

Kluck – that’s not Metro.

Holdridge – yeah know if you look at this, this is one of the concerns we get from citizens is our fire department serving an area and we don’t get reciprocal service. That has been an issue for quite a while. I look at, you took 2011 ah, you have Hull responding 13 times to Metro and Metro 9 times to Hull. What does that mean in practice? Does that mean we actually go in to the Metro area 13 times?

Kluck – and they’ve come out to our area.....

Holdridge – 9 times. Okay.

Wilz – I understand what Mark was saying to John. It's a numbers game. If Stevens Points got 25,000 people living in it and we've only got 5 there's more things that can go wrong in Stevens Point.

Holdridge – that's right but that means our people will be providing more service to them.

Wilz – absolutely.

Holdridge – yeah.

Jack Elsinger – can I address that?

Holdridge – yeah.

Elsinger – yeah know, it's really, I've been on the department for 30 years. It's getting harder and harder to keep people on the fire department because of all the cad requirements. We have a lot more required training, a lot more hours to put in. There is a lot of commitment. We are doing these guys a favor by letting them go to other people's fires. This is what keeps people on our fire department. You are not doing a favor by saying no you cannot go, we want you to do all of that training and then not use it. These guys are here because they want to fight fires. By saying no we don't want you to go is the worst thing we can do. It makes it harder to get people on. The more fires you have the easier it is to recruit good people because they are active and they are using all of that training they have acquired. It's a really important thing to do that.

Wilz – I hear you Jack, and I'm with you on that but what we are talking about is ah, as dedicated as this group is, we hope the other side is as dedicated. We've heard some things from other municipalities and yeah, if they come in we will be able to save some money by laying people off. Well that means that our folks are, yeah know, those things are out there. You need to understand that. Okay. You don't have to manage it but you just need to understand it.

Elsinger – except then we're cutting off our noses to spite our face. I can't help what somebody else is going to do. We want to keep our fire department the best we can, with the best people we can and have the best training. When I'm going in

to a fire I want to know that person behind me knows what they're doing. If they haven't had enough time in a fire to do that, I get a little nervous quite frankly.

Wilz – I hear you Jack. And it's always best to take the high road on all of these things. But these are other concerns too.

Kluck – I understand.....

Wilz – they're not related, they are separate issues.

Kluck – and you know Stevens Point fire department mans the Portage County Ambulance.

Wilz – yeah.

Kluck – and there are times when they do risk...

Wilz – get stretched.

Kluck – they may be out in the Town of Hull on a heart attack or something like that

Holdridge – isn't that a different topic than what we're talking about?

Kluck – I'm just saying it's a man power issue. If they're out with 2 ambulances and we get a call in the Town of Hull where we, Metro and they have to send somebody, what they are going to do is call in and pay people overtime so they can have their members back up where they should be. We don't get that bill. They pay that.

Holdridge – well I've read some of the articles in the Journal and also the Gazette and they are putting the kibosh on a lot of overtime. The Mayor last , I think it was last June, and he reported in the paper he was a million, or was a hundred and fifty thousand short on his budget. And I don't understand how they function since you got to have a balanced budget in government. But that was reported in one of the newspapers. And the big one was the fire department. They have 3 shifts, right?

Kluck – correct.

Holdridge – 41 staff members and so many at a time are on duty where they man, 6 at each.

Kluck – no I think it's 10.

Fritsche – there are 11 on shift with the officers.

Holdridge – and so many in stations 2 and station 1? And then if they have to have more support then they call in guys off overtime. Right?

Kluck – correct.

Holdridge – because, are they still trying to meet that 14 member threshold?

Kluck – yes.

Wilz – and that is what Mark was talking about. Because they also are EMS.

Kluck – correct.

Wilz – so if they get a real busy EMS and all of the firefighters are pulled away for that and then there is a fire alarm now they have to bring other people in.....

Kluck – and they have, they have I think what they call it is a call tree, they ask dispatch to start calling back people, they give them the number that they need. And these people will come in and they will mainly man the next ambulance or ambulances....

Wilz – that needs to go out, yeah.

Holdridge – but going to Jack's point ah, yeah know, that's fine and we certainly need people who are trained and get the training. But you also put those people at risk when they go to a fire, right?

Elsinger – well, that's all part of the job John. They know that.

Holdridge – well, I know that's part of the job. It's like the military yeah know, you're at risk.

Elsinger - (could not understand)

Fritsche – you're at risk when you go out on the street in your own personal vehicle.

Several people talking at same time – could not understand.

Kluck – if we're in Metro, it is less of a risk to everybody involved.

Holdridge – let's go back to this reciprocity because that is an issue out here.

Fritsche – okay, I added the numbers up and in the 3 years plus the month and a half we are in to this year I come up with, if we were in Metro we would have responded to 31 calls.

Holdridge – outside of Hull?

Fritsche – outside of Hull. If we were in Metro, the other Metro groups would have responded in to Hull 26 times. So,,

Wilz – it's pretty close.

Fritsche – it's, it's, yeah it's slighted a little bit on the opposite side but it's not far apart.

Kluck – the only thing that I think that needs to be said is that is the city had an issue in 2011 with an arsonist. I don't think that is not public information. I think it is pretty well known.

Holdridge – yeah it was in the paper.

Kluck – yeah. And I think we could probably say

Nick Proulx – 36 fires over that 2 year period.

Kluck – 36

(could not understand all comments being made)

Wilz – unfortunately yeah

Kluck – and yeah know, I hate to say it, but I think when they originally started they started in the Town of Hull because the first fire we had, when this whole thing started, was the mail box and garbage can up on Reserve Street and it just escalated and there is more opportunities in the city for them (coughing Clerk Wolle) to do seem to get away with it.

Wilz – um, um.

LaVerne Syens – I'd like to make a comment John, um, I've been looking at your activity sheet. The activity sheets I have are July through January of this year, July of '12. Uh, the comment I'm going to make is commending the fire department, the volunteers. In that time frame there were 28 calls or activities that you responded to and of those 28 there were 4 when there were 8 or less firefighters at the scene; one being in the month of August – it was weather spot; then there was, in uh October of '12 there was 6 that responded and let's see NOCOBB detector – I suspect that is a

Kluck – carbon monoxide

Syens – carbon monoxide. And then there was another one where 6 responded to a controlled burn and then there was a faulty detector where 8 responded. And that's it. That's the 4 where there was 8 or less responding so I think we have to commend the volunteers for, yeah know. And in that time frame there was, I didn't look to see what the maximum but there is 18, 17, 16 ah, I'm seeing anywhere from 11 to 21 was highest

Kluck – if you would look at the timing when those incidents occurred you might see the low numbers are during the day when most people are working. Some of these people cannot get out of work.

Syens – I understand that but I still commending you that that many people showed up for fires during that time. Um, I understand the Metro situation as I know it, I haven't been on the board that long so I went through all of the meeting and so on, looking at the future, what does this do to us in regards equipment purchases for the fire department apparatus or normal equipment?

Kluck – yeah know LaVerne I think that is something that I don't think I can answer right now. I think after we are in Metro for a while, if we can get in to it, ah, that's something down the road that can be looked at but again what you need to understand is we have to haul our water, for in the Town of Hull. We don't have hydrants. So we need trucks that carry the water. Okay. Now we can get tanker trucks out of Plover or I think they moved one over to the Whiting station, but we don't get those from the city. So, in order for us to be effective we have to carry our own water. Does that mean we need more trucks than somebody else? Not necessarily. But we need trucks that carry more water. Yeah know instead of 2 trucks that carry each 1,000 gallons, maybe one that carries twenty-five hundred. Yeah know to say now; I don't think we can say that.

Fritsche – there is no requirement in the agreement

Syens - at this point

Fritsche – true.

Syens – okay.

Fritsche – okay, I'm not saying that if the agreement changes it need to have the signatures from all of the participating parties, okay. But right now there is no requirement in here that you help fund anything with any other department. The budgets are separate budgets in their municipalities. The, the agreement that Plover and Stevens Point worked out for the purchase of the aerial truck that was done between those two municipalities it had nothing to do with the Metro agreement. It was a side agreement. But there could be some things like you said with equipment. Maybe we have some bad hose and we need to replace 500' of hose this year and maybe Plover needs to replace a couple hundred feet and that there. So maybe going together and buying at a better price on volume or something might be a beneficial thing in the future but that has not been any of the conversations that we've had....

Kluck – the other thing with the agreement is the board needs to understand, you guys are 1/3, you control this agreement. You are 1/3rd if we would get into Metro. Right now it is 50/50. The Mayor has 50% say and, is it Schlutter, has 50% say. So when you get in to this there is a three-way split.

Holdridge – boy I'm not so sure the city would accept that Mark.

Kluck – it is, that’s the way agreement is written John.

Holdridge – yeah know Mark, I’m reading, I marked this as #A and the second page here says future development. “First step to potential future consolidation merger.” And I think you wrote thing. This a document that is called Automatic Aid Agreement justifications. And I read that and I said whoa, now we are on the path that’s going to be some kind of big merge sort of operation. That’s right here. Kluck – okay, well I see that. That is exactly from them. Correct.

Holdridge – from

Kluck – from

Holdridge – who started this? Was this

Kluck – Village of Plover brought the idea up.....

Holdridge – well I think it was probably the firemen wasn’t it?

Kluck – yeah.

Holdridge – so they got the Plover support

Kluck - they went to the Village of Whiting.

Holdridge – Oaky.

Kluck – and the Village of Whiting gave their support but the village, the boards have control.

Holdridge – yeah, but, I was talking with Mike Juris in Amherst and there is actually a Commission that runs that district down there and those are made up of some elected officials plus the fire chiefs.

Fritsche – that’s different. That’s a fire district.

Pederson – fire district.

Holdridge – so that’s not possible under this arrangement?

Fritsche – not unless you pursue it.

Holdridge – that’s give of the question I’m asking. Wouldn’t you be better off instead of the fire chiefs promoting this and filling up the room here, which is fine we want participation, to have some political leaders who have to develop the budgets involved in this? I mean I look at what we signed, and what we signed was, “By this letter the Hull Town Board makes an official request to join the Metro.”

Kluck – correct.

Holdridge – now we made a request but we haven’t joined yet, right?

Right.

Holdridge - in one of your publications that you responded to Dave, Dave didn’t mention it, but there is a paragraph about this Metro, this, you guys have been involved in Metro for 2 years. And this is the first I’ve heard that you’ve been involved in Metro for 2 years. Am I inaccurate on that?

Kluck – we have not been involved in Metro. We have been going to Metro fire calls

Holdridge – well, I have to look at the wording.

Kluck – on the Mutual aid system, on MABAS system.

Holdridge – I just am leery of getting dragged into something here where all of a sudden the Hull fire department has been distinctive and has had a long history, is all of a sudden in some king of big operation. It’s probably not going to be controlled by Hull. I mean, if any of you have followed the last year and the annexations problem with the city, you can see how the city plays the ballgame.

Luann Elsinger – I have a question.

Holdridge – yes mam. Do you want to give your name?

Elsinger – Luann. Um, just because you join Metro doesn't mean you have to stay in it. I mean it's not like once you join it you are there forever. Is that correct?

Holdridge – yeah, the contract says you have to give 180 days to withdraw.

Elsinger – okay. So if you get involved in Metro and all of these terrible things start happening like John thinks they might happen you can get out of it?

Kluck – correct.

Elsinger – what's the problem?

Holdridge – well the problem is how far have you committed to participate in that.

Elsinger – 180 days.

Holdridge – no, no, no, no if you went in this for 3 years and all of a sudden you saw things happening you didn't agree with and you give them 180 day notice, how much are you committed.

Elsinger – committed by what? What are you committing?

Holdridge – equipment, time, training.

Elsinger – they train anyway. They are just going to fires automatically where they would.....

Holdridge – well I assume one of the components of this is somebody asking, in fact I think they were looking for a site in Whiting to build a new training facility.

Kluck – that has been

Holdridge – that's been killed down there.

Kluck – that's been killed now because Mid-State Technical College got funding to build one.

Holdridge – okay so they're going to build one?

Kluck – correct.

Holdridge – okay. So that’s not going to be a cost of the Metro community.

Kluck – no absolutely not.

Holdridge – okay. That’s what I’m talking about.

Fritsche – may I make a comment John?

Holdridge – sure.

Fritsche – talking about cooperation, in the last week Monday at the board meeting you were talking about some frustrations with the Plan Commission and that..

Holdridge – yeah. Plan Commission frustration with Portage County.

Fritsche – I understand. Um, any way I just want to talk about the fire departments okay. That fire up in Dewey on December 6th with in the afternoon. They knew they were short on man power. It came in as a working structure fire, flame and smoke showing.

Holdridge – okay.

Fritsche – okay. So they paged Dewey. As soon as they got the page they called for a box alarm. Okay. Their Deputy Chief arrived on scene first. I arrived on scene second, up on Birch Drive. He’d already called for the ladder truck out of Plover. You could see the second floor had fire in it.

Holdridge – rather than Point?

Fritsche – and, their fire their jurisdiction. I wouldn’t have, I’d have called for Point but anyway. So anyway, they called for ladder out of Plover. They also called for tankers from Mosinee. A little bit further north on Hay Meadow was a Mosinee firefighter, lived there, had his fire gear with him, so he came down directly to the scene. So right behind me, Dewey’s engine arrived on scene. Right behind that our engine arrived on scene. Guys from Dewey started putting things together. Our guys pulled hose line put it in the first initial attack crew. Mark and I was leading it, telling them where to go and what to do. The first initial attack

crew had a Mosinee firefighter on the nozzle, and 2 Hull firefighters behind on that 2 ½ inch line. Okay. As more people arrived we started putting incident command system together. Their Deputy Chief was the Incident Commander. One of their officers was the Operations Officer on scene. Mark Kluck from the Town of Hull, was in charge of, our structures we divide in to visions A, B, C, D based upon the size. Our Chief had sides A,B. The Plover Chief, that's the Deputy Chief, had side C, D. Okay. So, as things were progressing, that there, they pulled me off of the hose line crew and put me on as Safety Officer. So here we are on a Dewey structure fire and our incident command structure had a Dewey person for Incident Commander; they had a Dewey person for Operations; they had a Hull officer for one of the flanks; they had a Plover office on another flank; I was Safety officer. So only 2 Dewey firefighters were in the command staff on that fire. The rest were outsiders. On Lake View Drive when we had the fire there, Point arrived shortly after ours did. Bob Finn, Deputy Chief, was made Operations Officer okay. So there has been inter-fire departmental cooperation for many years and that. And ya know. Maybe the municipal governments and governing bodies can take and look at the fire departments for it. From what we see in this agreement, we see an agreement that is you help us, we will help you. I can't take and predict how many calls we're going to have this year. How many calls they're going to have this year. One year it is going to be slighted one way and another year it might slighted the opposite way as far as reciprocation. But what I do see in this agreement is, there is no money exchanging hands between municipalities. It takes and allows us better firefighter safety on a scene because we have proper manning, we have the proper number of people coming on the initial call so we can take and set up our interior crew, we can set up our back up crew, we can set up our RIC team and we can meet out NFPA standards which didn't happen up in Abbotsford. And when they were compared, when they were judged on the standards and that there, my understanding there is \$50,000 or greater in fines that are coming their way.

Holdridge – who is that levied against?

Fritsche – Abbotsford, the city that...

Holdridge – that had the fire department.

Fritsche – I'm not sure if it's the municipality – I'm sure it's the municipality.

Holdridge – oh yeah.

Fritsche – so, it helps us meet that standard. I've been on this fire department for 36 years. There's a lot of times that we were short. We should have called for help sooner. We had to wait and that. I see this agreement as benefitting our guys that are out there fighting that fire because we have people there to watch out backs. We've got the proper personnel on scene. I see this as once we get into this, we have a ISO rating done. I see this as improving the opportunity for the tax payers to take and get a break on their insurance. I see this as an opportunity to join the Metro when there is no money changing hands between municipalities. Okay. Yes, is it going to cost you something? It's probably going to cost you a few extra dollars in gas for 1 truck, okay. But if you think about it, we have our own structure fire; we have 6-7 trucks out there. We have our own structure fire we've got 4 that are going so the other 3 that could have gone are going to be sitting back here if they are needed elsewhere. Okay. And there are other trucks coming in from other municipalities. So, yeah know, it's probably going to cost you a little more in gas money and that there, it's not going to cost you any more in gratuity, that's a fixed dollar amount. If we put in more hours we get less per hour, that's all it amounts to. I see this as a benefit for taxpayers also in response time. That area up on the west side of the township, we know for fact, that they, Point can beat us in to that area. Geographically, yes if there is not a train there, that whole area along Highway 10. You take a look at the area along Highway 10 our 66 a little bit past Fleet Farm here, or past Kwik Trip here and you take a look at the whole western area, that's a sizable number of the population within the township that will benefit from a quicker response time.

Holdridge – now if you took what we call the lost subdivision, do you know where the lost subdivision is?

Fritsche – no.

Holdridge – the subdivision east of Copps on Highway 10.

Fritsche – okay back there off of, yeah. I didn't know it as the lost subdivision.

Holdridge – well that's what our guys call it cuz nobody knows it's in Hull. So if somebody has a fire there, a structure, I'm talking a structure fire and it's a fire that is a fire, okay, and they call in, they call the dispatcher, what will, it sounds as though we're kind of part of the Metro system even though we haven't signed on as part of the Metro system. From what you've written it's been going on. But a, what does that dispatcher do? How do we ensure that that fire department of

station 2, which is closer right, clearly closer, how do we ensure that station, that fire group there, full time firefighters, that they get out there?

Fritsche – if we are in Metro, when you dial 911, your address comes up on the screen. Your name, and it's all done by what we call an ESN number.

Holdridge – okay.

Fritsche – where the boundaries are, the municipal boundaries and stuff like that there. So if you are in the city and you call from home, it will come in that you are in the city and it will list on there that the city fire department will get paged, in this case Metro would get paged. That's how it's going to be. The ESN numbers will change. For fire protection, instead of saying Hull behind one of those person's names it's going to say Metro.

Kluck – how does dispatch or somebody determine which, like you said, which station would go, that's pretty much done by the fire department. If Point hears the call, every firefighter hears the call. The tones go off, they list it, they say it's out in the lost subdivision.

Holdridge – what's the official name of that Janet? There's 2 of them there

Janet Wolle – there's two of them out there. You have Woodland Acres Subdivision and you have um Woodland Acres two. You've got 3 subdivisions.

Holdridge – (laughter) – that's why they call it the lost subdivision.

Kluck – it's all gone a, the firefighters, the officers on the fire department, will make the determination what gets that from what station, because you could have every piece of equipment from station 2 at station 1 for training. Or you could have training going on in station 2. So, they will make the determination who, which vehicle is closest and then go. So you are going to get the closest one.

Fritsche – they have an aerial truck in both stations. They respond with their own fire call, they are responding with 2 trucks which have aerial capability. One ladder truck and one platform truck.

Holdridge – okay.

Pederson – one other advantage I haven't heard to about too much, there is the Abbotsford example. If the fire departments had trained together, they probably would have had a better response. Which is, I think, something that came out of the investigation.

Proulx – a 67 page report we have at the station.

Kluck – what they did, was they had one fire department operating on the back side of the theater and one operating on the front and they weren't communicating what was going on. I think that night, or the night before, we had 2 feet of snow and one of their aerial units was pumping water on its roof. Well you add water to snow on a roof and it's going to get.....

Fritsche – you already had fire damage

Kluck – and the front crew sent personnel inside. If they would have been coordinating things, training together the way they should, they would not have lost that gentleman.

Holdridge – was there an official report on that, what was the evaluation that this should never have happened, the fellow should not have been inside the building?

Kluck – correct.

Holdridge – in the structure?

Kluck – there was poor communication between departments. The right hand didn't know what the left hand was doing and yeah, it was serious. It cost that gentleman his life.

Holdridge – yeah. Did you have something Nick?

Proulx – I can show you what a dispatch screen looks like if you want to see it. It's a couple of buttons, is what it looks like. And what it's going to do is take 3 buttons and put it down to one, so that initial time that we have, when I was on dispatch, you would page. It might take Mark or Mark 3-4 minutes to say we acknowledge the page, please page Stevens Point. That could take upwards to another 2 minutes. That's 5 minutes since that 911 call came in. At that time we could almost have Stevens Points engine on scene, depending on where it is. If

that initial page came out once. With one page, one page does it all. One page you are sending everybody instead of waiting for someone to, Mark to leave work, to get out to his truck to grab his radio. Um, it's quicker, faster. I mean 5 minutes, especially with these newer houses. You should see how they are built. They're matches and glue. I mean, it's, we are not going to risk sending our people in to something like that. If we can get on scene faster, and get the fire knocked down quicker you are looking at less structural damage, less impact on the homeowner.

Holdridge – I'd like to see that at some point. Either bring it in, or, I'd like to take a look at that. Do you have other comments David from your inquiry?

Pederson – no. I think they answered all the questions I had. Well accept for one on the contract agreement that talks about protocol and procedures. Will we be getting copies of those?

Kluck – you certainly may. Yes. Absolutely.

Pederson – okay.

Holdridge – do you have anything Mark?

Kluck – well we've gone as far as we can go with all the pre-planning and everything like that. The next step would be to sign the agreement, we're hoping, and move forward because we need to get into the training/planning. Um, there are certain things that we have to learn and there are certain things that they have to learn such as drafting water of a pond, um, yeah know high rise stand pipes. If you ever get a fire at Wal-Mart, where do you connect to the outside of that building or Fleet Farm and that type of thing? Yeah know. There is a lot of training that has to take place. This is going to be an ongoing process and we're willing to get going on it.

Holdridge – yeah. Do you have a comment?

Syens – yeah as regards to the agreement. Paragraph 5, I'm going to read it: "This agreement shall encourage the development of cooperative procedures and protocols including but not limited to the possibility of joint purchasing, communication, coordination, training, etc." The one that disturbs me right now is the purchasing, the joint purchasing. Plover and Stevens Point, or Plover contributed \$460,000 to Stevens Point to buy a fire truck. Okay. Assuming that

that would come up again under this agreement and 2 or the 3 municipalities voted to buy a million dollar piece of equipment, an apparatus, our share of that would be \$330,000.

Kluck – that’s incorrect. Number one, that agreement that they made, is not part of this at all. It has nothing to do with this agreement.

Syens – I’m using the numbers that Stevens Point and Plover agreed to arrive at a number that was used to purchase, the dollar value of the purchase.

Kluck – but that was an agreement totally separate from this.

Fritsche – that was between Stevens Point and Plover.

Syens – let me rephrase it. It is determined that one of the fire members of the Metro needs an apparatus costing one million dollars. Two of the three entities vote to purchase this apparatus and as a member our share would be 1/3rd of the purchase price of the apparatus or \$333,000.

Kluck – I disagree.

Syens – well, what would our share be?

Kluck – it could be zero. If the town didn’t have the money, this agreement, that line that you just said, that

Syens – okay, the line says it will encourage, the buying equipment.

Kluck – it doesn’t bind you to anything and you could fall back on the 180 days and say we are not going to do this.

Syens – but if it’s enacted before we remove ourselves in the 180 day period, we’re still subject to this agreement.

Kluck – but this agreement says “shall encourage”, it doesn’t bind you or lock you in.

Syens – okay. We can discuss that all night.

Jack Elsinger – doesn't encourage mean we are moving in that direction and you can make up your mind one way or the other?

Holdridge – well I'm, yeah know language is important in the law. There is a difference between shall and would and all of the rest of it. But I'm concerned about the Hull fire department which has been an independent fire department since 1967 becoming part of a system that encompasses much larger operations, namely the Village of Plover which is twice the size of Hull and the city of Stevens Point. And we get to the point where who wags the dog? And I think that's a real concern. Now if people are interested in the Metro for a number of reasons, but I'm concerned about where this, what's the end game here. And Mark kind of eluded to it in that the thing I just read about sometime full consolidation. Yeah know I think this question that LaVerne raises is probably something we need to clarify. I just...

LaVerne – I don't want to come across as being against this

Kluck – no, we know, I understand.

LaVerne – I'm not doing that, but that particular item concerns me.

Kluck – I understand.

LaVerne – it does and that's why I bring it to your attention and maybe the language has to be cleaned up. Because in contract law, if there is an ambiguity contained within the contract it flows against the drawer of the contract. Now I don't know how this would rule. I don't know how a court would rule on this with all of us signing a contract and being a member of that agreement.

Janowski – could that be based on say like for example where the Central Wisconsin Airport is, it's 66% in Marathon County and 44% in Portage County. Couldn't you divide it up based on population?

Holdridge – or equalized value.

Janowski – yeah.

Syens – I think there are a lot of ways that it can be done, but I think the language in the contract should be cleared up so we know if something like that comes up.

Holdridge – these issues come up and probably half of you would still be with the fire department. But who carries the water on this thing; the Board of Supervisors and the taxpayers. You people are not legally liable for this stuff. We know that as part of the law. You are an agent of the town of the town board actually and any charges, any law suits that you get, we just got a recent one, that's the town board that's going to pay, okay. That's where it really stops. That means all these taxpayers in Hull are going to have to foot, potentially now, a lot of time these things never come up. But, on the other hand sometimes they do. We had an issued if any of you followed the annexation and we met a group of Hull people, largely and I don't know if any of you were there, maybe Phil was there, but a lot of the people from the lost subdivision came in and the Mayor stood up and read something that went back that was innocuous and he hung his hat on it and said that the Town of Hull had given permission and at the time when we had the Shave Olsen Committee that put together the whole plan for where the new Holiday Inn is yeah know, that was called Shave-Olsen. Uh, nobody thought about that. But here is the Mayor and he's handling this so what's the upshot, we got a new gas station going in on Badger Avenue, right near the hockey and another new gas station going in on Old Wausau, or Old Highway 18, right across from a lady who has lived in her house for 50 years and that's what happens. And we didn't yeah know we never expect this. So when you start talking about language in this stuff that becomes important if you ever get in to a contract.

Pederson – I think we need to look at a revision of that paragraph before we make a decision on this.

Kluck – so you are saying were it says “this agreement shall encourage the development”, you're saying you have the feeling of being locked in?

Pederson – it's a possibility of joint purchasing that

Kluck – we're doing joint purchasing on fire hose and equipment right now.

Pederson – but could it be reinterpreted in the future. I understand what we we're doing and it does say save us money.

Holdridge – a good idea.

Syens – and we say it is a good idea.

Pederson – yeah.

Syens – absolutely.

Pederson – but I think the concern is the language of the contract. We need to look at that before we.....

Wilz – Mark, on these one or two items that seem to be hung up, who do we call to ask those questions of?

Kluck – I think the contract was written by a lawyer in the Village of Plover and Tim has the capability put you in with who ever.

Holdridge – or Dan Mahoney.

Kluck – Dan or Schlutter yeah, right.

Holdridge – I want to, yeah know,

J Elsinger – Janet is there a dictionary here?

Holdridge – I want to share some information. Mark can you give one of these to each person? This is our budget situation. Let me pass one down here to our guys. There's two of them. One has to do with our expenditures and how our taxes are raised.

Kluck – okay.

Holdridge – then how our taxes are raised. Here do you want to share that with them.

Handouts being shared. Can hear talking in the back ground but cannot decipher.

Give one to Randy.

More back ground discussion.

Holdridge – do all of you live in the Town of Hull? Pay property taxes? How many don't live in the Town of Hull? Okay. You are a Hull citizen a Hull

resident. Those who live in the Town of Hull, can you tell me when you got your property bill, in December, what percentage of the property tax bill went to the Town of Hull? Raise your hand if you know.

Janowski – I'm going to guess and say between 4 and 8 percent.

Holdridge – no, that's low.

Syens – thank you.

Holdridge – well, that was a good guess though (laughter). Fifteen percent. Fifteen percent of what you pay in property tax only goes to the Town of Hull. Where does the rest go? About 30% to Portage County. About 48% to the school district. Probably 25 something like that, a little less than 25, goes to the Voc. Tech system. So that 15% is supporting all these various functions. If you look at it, let's take the expenditure budget. It's right on the top. And obviously the big expenditure is like, what, 35% for roads. Okay. We've got 80 miles of roads. Roads are expensive. Then you have sanitation. That's that new 5 year contract we just signed to pick up your garbage. And that's 19%. And the Fire Department and EMT is about 10% of what that 15% that you pay. Okay, that goes to fire service and EMT, about 10%. Then the second one has the Town of Hull 2013 budget revenues and you can see how we fund. And the huge funding about what, 60% is from the property tax. And that's how we operate. Okay. So those are important. And uh, so the fire department/EMT is about 10% of our expenditure budget. Now I want to pass out a couple of articles – do you want to pass those out Mark? Let me get some up here. (pause) Phil, do you want to take these? Get these around.

Janowski – pass them out?

Holdridge – yeah do you want to pass them out? (pause) Now the first one talks about the possible closing of the fire station, and they are talking about station 2. Now the city had massive over time for firefighters and the Mayor we're not going to have that kind of over time expense. We're going to stay in balance. Over on the third, or fourth paragraph on that article, that article is dated August 31st, 2011. It's the solution to the budgeting problem. This was promoted by the Mayor of Stevens Point. Now look at the second page. And that's an article from the Stevens Point Journal and it's dated August 20th of '11. And right on the side here I flagged this out. Now this is a quote from the Mayor of Stevens Point,

“Halverson said the department needs to be, needs to reconsider its minimum staffing requirements. The city involvement with the Portage County Metropolitan Fire Protection District means more firefighters are available to respond to ah, making the minimum staffing less critical”. Now that’s just what the Mayor is saying. And I’ve heard this before from him. So I sit here and uh, coming out of some battles with the city when they wouldn’t give us, they didn’t even respect us. At our very first meeting he threatened to clear the meeting, clear the hall because some people clapped a little. He’s going to clear everybody out of there. Okay. So I am very suspicious of the cities involvement. Now I, yeah know I’ve talked with Tracey, what’s her name, Kujawa. I talked with her on Friday. I had a long discussion with her and she feels, she encouraged us to raise the questions about this. That it is an important function. And I particularly talked about this station 2 closing. The arguments are that the station 2 would be a great asset to Hull because it’s in proximity to a lot of Hull residents. And she said no. As best as she can determine there will be no closing of station ah 2. She also reaffirmed that they have 41 full time firefighters. Um, monthly reports, I want to know what the city is doing. It seems to me our major reac.... interaction is going to be with the City of Stevens Point. It probably is not going to be with the Village of Plover. The city is contiguous. They got a full time fire department. They got the equipment. So I talked with her about their reports and what they do. They have monthly reports. She’d be happy to share that with us. And just to give us some insurances and let them know that we are concerned about some of these things. Okay. So she was very supportive. And in fact I would even consider having her come out and talk with us about the whole concept. I think it would make a lot of sense. Now, today and Mark gave us the instruction that we had to have certain stuff in on a certain time, well um, we’ve been busy doing other things, largely trying to get an assessor and some other things. But, what I did is I wrote up my thoughts as being the town Chairman and I called it DRAFT. It’s a draft. It probably would be revised. And I want to at least go over that with you from a perspective standpoint. Do you want to pass those out Phil? (pause) Now some of you may think this is small stuff, okay, but it’s not small stuff if you’re trying to run a town and keep a budget. Budgets are tight and we don’t know what the Governor is going to project for the next 2 years, but we know it’s going to be tight. And the one thing we got to make sure is that we keep our operational functions. Okay. This is to the Hull Board of Supervisors and the Hull Fire Department. And I’m going to just read this so you’re going to have to kind of, I’m a low vision guy so it takes me longer to read but I want to read this so you at least have a sense of where I’m coming from. This is mine. This isn’t the town

board. They haven't taken any position on this. They may or may not support what I am saying.

Note from Clerk Wolle – unless otherwise noted comments in parentheses are from John Holdridge

The Hull Fire Department has a long history of service to the Hull community. Hull Fire Chief Mark Kluck has for several years proposed a regional concept of Fire/EMS service called the (I may have that wrong) Metropolitan Portage County Fire District (is that the right one or is it the other way Portage County Metropolitan District? Kluck – yes. Holdridge - okay) often referred to as the Metro. The following are my thoughts and not necessarily those of the Hull Board of Supervisors. I share these with you.

1. Fire/EMS service is a major public health undertaking. (And I think you have to look at it this way. This is public safety and public health) Some Hull Town Board members have talked about reviewing Hull fire services this year. (We had some of that informal kind of discussion) Other recent initiatives in Hull also focus on Public Safety and Health. Recently the Town Board signed a 5 year contract for curb-side refuse/recycle pickup with Harter's Fox Valley Disposal. Garbage has been and is a major public health concern. (People don't think about it that, but it is a MAJOR public health concerns. Has been historically) For the past several years the Water Study Task Force has studied water quality and quantity in the Town of Hull. The group came up with recommendations which are in the process of being implemented. (Now if some of you live in what we call southeast Hull, which is north or south of Fleet Farm, Kirschling Subdivision, Conifer Acres Subdivision, you are in an area that all of the testing done historically shows high nitrates, okay. And we are going to look at that and try as an end product to determine where those high nitrates come from. That's one of the goals so that's a major sort of undertaking) Another public safety initiative is to ensure the safety of by all users of Hull roads including walkers, bikers, joggers, automobiles and trucks. That plan will be implemented in the Spring. Another initiative is identifying towns of similar size and location contiguous to major cities in Wisconsin. They will be surveyed to identify administrative structures and their service delivery systems including fire services. (See I don't know how Grand Rapids, I don't know how the Town of Washington, over in Eau Claire County, or the Town of Sheboygan in Sheboygan County. These are all towns that are

contiguous to a city and they are in the range of 5 to 7 thousand people. I don't have any idea how they are administered, how they are structured, how they provide any number of services. We don't know. We ought to know. That ought to be something that is out there and we can make judgments based on structure. So those things are all on-going. Okay.

2. History – (this is my history now) since elected in the early 1990's I have seen an evolution in the interaction between the Hull Board of Supervisors and the Hull Fire Department. When I was elected Max Rutta was Fire Chief and the Fire Department was pretty well self contained. At budget the Hull Board looked at Fire Department operations. A public report was presented at the Annual meeting in April. (and that was, as far as I can discern that was about the extent of formal contact with the fire department. There wasn't much more) There was virtually hands off by the Hull Board in terms of Fire Department operations. Over time that has changed. More recently there has been much more scrutiny of budgets over all, including the fire departments. One example of that increased scrutiny is the monthly report provided by the FD on detailing monthly activities. (Now I don't know when that started. Do you remember Janet? Janet – I don't remember. Holdridge – a couple of years we have probably had that. Up until that point we didn't know what was, all of a sudden we got those reports and we, and sometimes that's irritating to people. It may be irritating to the firefighters. Okay. But we are asking questions about what you are doing. Okay. And I think, so, those are initiatives we took and those initiatives were, why did that happen? New board members perhaps. Much tighter budgets that we have had in the past which means that everything is sort of on the table. Okay).
3. Performance indicators – If you look at the Fire Department/Emergency Services one could look at what is sometimes referred to in the field and the central planning function. In the field – services delivered by the Fire Department and EMS to Hull households gets high marks. (In other words when you guys are out there doing what you really encouraged and trained to do, you get high marks from Hull citizens. And that ultimately is what counts with citizens. As Mark said, they don't particularly care if they have Hull on the back or Stevens Point, if they have a fire and you are there, you are going to be their hero). The Hull board sometimes receives letters/comments from Hull households on the excellent services they

receive. In terms of the central planning functions there have been some questions. A) A request for \$125,000 from the Hull Fire Department to build a training facility in Whiting. That would come from Hull's annual budget. The training facility was resisted by Whiting citizens and the proposal was dropped. More recently Whiting contracted with the Village of Plover for fire services. (So that is what they did and that is all accurate I think. They have formerly done that and so forth). B) Request for Hull to pay for ½ of a tanker to be housed in the Village of Plover. (Now they contract with the Town of Plover, Town of Buena Vista). Perhaps that tanker would be used by the Village of Plover to serve contractual towns. How would the town benefit from the use of this vehicle? (What would we get out of that if you got a tanker down there in Plover 8 miles away? And we looked at it and we say that's not reasonable. Okay. It may look good on paper and so forth but we're paying for half the tanker and that's substantial). C) Potential law suit involving a recent member of the Hull Fire Department which involves a workman's compensation claim but also a failure to rehire claim against the Hull Fire Department. From discussion with Hull's attorney it is clear that the potential liability in this case rests with the Town of Hull Board of Supervisors. (So what I take from that, and I've had discussions with O'Brien about this, when we, you do something, or our road crew does something, anybody who is an agent of the Town of Hull, the liability comes right back to the Town Board and that's where the money is. Okay. So we can talk about law suits and law suits are going to come to us as the Town Board. That's true all across Wisconsin. The government body is the one that's charged with those law suits. Okay).

4. Funding of Fire Department Emergency Services – The Hull Fire Department is approximately 10% of Hull's operational budget. Recently the Fire Department purchased a John Deere gator and an emergency siren was installed in northwest Hull. (Now that emergency siren to me was a tremendous benefit of the citizens us there. Okay. I think Mark we looked at the circles, could see there wasn't good coverage up there in case of a tornado or something. That is up there. That is in place. And that was expensive too if I recall). Just looking at the January 2013 bills many of those pertain to the Fire Department including \$4,000 to repair a door and a thirteen hundred for a Christmas party. Salary for all Hull personnel increased 1.25% in 2013 which included an increase in the Fire Department gratuity and salary increases for Fire Department leadership. (So everybody has been treated equitably here. Everyone who works for Hull got a 1.25;

the gratuity went up 1.25; the fire chief and assistants who get a salary also went up that).

5. Options Services – What are the Options available to the Hull Board of Supervisors and Fire Department as they look at future fire services? Continue as is with MABAS services or join the Metro system. What does that mean in practice? (And that is the question we keep hammering at, yeah know. What’s the difference, what’s the difference, what’s the difference?) Perhaps go the route of the Village of Whiting which dropped their Fire Department and contracted with Village of Plover. Should a contract be explored with Stevens Point to utilize their full-time fire department? I don’t believe the Hull Board of Supervisors knows all the options that might be available should they decided on a different course. What are the future costs and benefits of any option? (These are all questions that, you didn’t get a chance to answer those but you answered some of them Mark).

6. Questions regarding the Metropolitan Fire District
 - a. What is the difference between Metro and the mutual aid system now in place in terms of providing services to Hull households? (I think the big difference is the automatic sending of resources. Is that true? Kluck – yes).
 - b. What is the current status of the Fire Department services to Hull households and what can be expected in the future? (And I would ask that. Do we have a problem with service to our households? Are they getting good service from us, that’s safe and protects their public health as we operate right now? (pause) Kluck – do you want me to answer that? Holdridge – yeah, I mean that’s the question. Are we getting good services..... Kluck – we provide them with the best service we can. Can it be much better? Absolutely. Holdridge – okay. The much better would be the Metro. Kluck – and that would include the pricing of a proper deduction for their insurance rates. Holdridge – I’d like to explore that cuz I think that is important. But we got some indications of that).
 - c. Under the Metro system, who would pay for new equipment (that was the question that was asked before) and how would those costs be divided among Metro members? There are other questions as the Metro is further explored.

Data must drive any decision to alter the present system. (Data must drive it. We must have, I mean we've got data because we've got monthly reports which shows you what is happening on the ground. Okay. That is very, very important in an area when we don't have much money and we got to decide how it goes). In this era of tight budgets the Hull Board of Supervisors needs to be clear on program and financial implications. I look forward to discussion, understanding and consensus building as we evaluate the future of Hull Fire/Emergency services.

Holdridge – one of the things Tracey told me, she said yeah know today the fire department does all kinds of things that are not directly putting out a fire. Maybe we ought to take a look at calling it the emergency service team, or something. Because when you look at what's being done by the fire department, but the EMT which, to me, is a major sort of component of this. It's much more than a structure fire. How many structure fires have we had in the last 6 months? (pause) 4 or 5 maybe.

Kluck – no I don't think that many.

Holdridge – okay. Now when people look at the fire department they think of the burning building and there are all of these other things that you do, from extrication out on I-39 to who knows. You know better than I.

Kluck – correct.

Fritsche – carbon monoxide calls

Holdridge – yeah.

Fritsche – yeah know.

Holdridge – yes. Preventive sort of things you've done and so forth. So, those are my thoughts. And ah

L Elsinger – I have a question.

Holdridge – sure.

L Elsinger – I have a question as a citizen. What exactly is your objection to Metro other than the paragraph that you are, I think, missing reading. But besides that

Holdridge – you mean the quote I had of the Mayor?

L Elsinger – the quote you had of the Mayor and the possibility of having to purchase some joint equipment. What is yours or the board's objection?

Holdridge – frankly I, I will tell you. I've got an open mind on this. But I've got questions.

L Elsinger – I also have a question.

Holdridge – okay.

L Elsinger – um, how long has the board been thinking about Metro? How long has it been since the fire department has given this information to you and you've been sitting on it?

Holdridge – that sounds like we don't have anything else to do

L Elsinger – I just asked a question.

Holdridge – no, no, but your question sort of implies to me that we don't have anything else going on in the Town of Hull. We've got a lot of things

L Elsinger – how long has it been since you've received the information?

Holdridge – but let me say this, we haven't really discussed Metro since, I think, we met back in June of 2011. This board hasn't discussed Metro and I don't think you have hardly brought it up. I didn't know you folks were doing things in Metro.

J Elsinger – how many times have you given this contract to the board?

Kluck – ah, quite a few. You mean the agreement?

J Elsinger – yes.

Kluck - they've had copies. The first meeting we had was back in 2010, I think it was, where we did the, where John Zinda came in and Tim Kluck came in and they did the power point presentation.

Holdridge – when was that?

Kluck – I think it was June of 2010.

Holdridge – okay, that might have been right.

Kluck – okay, and then we had another discussion on it, um last year because of the eligibility we couldn't do anything. But you guys have asked questions over all those years and we have answered all the questions stuff and everything like that, answering all the questions. Um, my concern is that this is going to go on for another whole year and you're always are going to have questions and we're not going to get the deal done. I mean, the idea behind Metro is to benefit the Town of Hull residents and businesses either by quicker response time, additional man power on the scene to effect the fire, or if it comes down to the ISO rating better their insurance rating. I don't think, personally I don't think anything you brought up supersedes that. I think there is so much more benefit to what they could get than some of the concerns you have, you are listing here. Um, yeah I understand LaVerne's concern on the agreement but I do think that the agreement is not a binding you to buy anything with the other agreement. Because it says it shall promote, it shall encourage.

J Elsinger – can I give you the definition of encourage? Encourage, to inspire to continue on a chosen course impart courage or confidence to; embolden; hearten; to give support to; foster. And then you take require, which is what we are really concerned about you have: to have use for as a necessity; need; to demand; insist upon; to command; to order. I don't hear any demands or insist upon. It's encourage. I think we all speak very decent English, we can tell the difference.

Holdridge – well my view, is that I'm interested in being part of the Metro system, but I have concerns and they involve real financial concerns for one thing. Uh, the commitment of our fire department as part of a larger whole when we've had a pretty much self contained fire department over the years. I'm just concerned where this thing leads.

Kluck – can I answer one thing John?

Holdridge – yes.

Kluck – ya know we have sat down as a group and looked at this for the last 2 years. If we didn't think we could do this and still provide the best service possible for the Town of Hull, we wouldn't be sitting here. We're not going out on a limb. We're not glory hunting or whatever like that. We're, I keep going back to it, this is for the residents of the Town of Hull, increased service for them. It will make it better for them. Their insurance ratings, businesses. Right now if you take a look at Morey's Bar, we've got to drive by the fire and then get our trucks and come back when Points right there. And I just like to keep the balance.....

Holdridge – now wait. Morey's Bar . If there is.....

Kluck – and G & S Woodworking, Morey's Bar.....

Holdridge – no, no, no. If Morey's Bar had a fire.....

Kluck – and we were in Metro, Point would beat us there by 5 minutes.

Holdridge – but what if we weren't in Metro? Wouldn't the fire department from over by the university come there?

Kluck – eventually yes it would.

Numerous – after we've requested for backup.

Kluck – the idea between MABAS is you get somebody on scene, you assess what is going on and then you make the call for help. Okay. Now if they say fire is coming through the roof at Morey's Bar, yeah I'll probably get a request before I get there.

Holdridge – right. You might make a decision that just doesn't warrant the city....

Kluck – but why would you want to activate all those people, Plover, Whiting Point if they are not needed.

Fritsche – those decisions are made based upon information you have.

Holdridge – but under the Metro system if you had a fire at Morey’s, you would activate the Plover group, right?

Numerous – yes, all at once.

Fritsche – without it they could say there is a fire at Morey’s, alright? For all I know it could be some papers in the garbage can. Okay. So we are going to respond when we get there and we see there is fire coming through the rough, then we are going to ask for help.

Kluck – then you are also saying that Mark, or Kenny or I or anybody else if we are on vacation, needs to know what is available out there from the different fire departments. Okay. What we are doing by doing it automatically, we are preplanning. We know a ladder truck is coming out of Point. We know what truck is coming out of Whiting. We know what truck is coming out of Plover. It takes the thinking out of it. We don’t have to make those mistakes. It all flows. And that’s what we’ve been doing with all of these meetings, see if it will work.

J Elsinger – can I offer a suggestion?

Holdridge – Jack you are recognized.

Elsinger – go ahead and pass this and make a provision that you need a yearly review of this. Every year you then have 180 days after that, if you decide that this is not working for use, it looks like it’s going to cost us a bunch of money, you are out in 6 months.

Kluck – the thing about costing money, I don’t see where that is coming from. The agreement states free reciprocating at no cost.

Holdridge – I just can’t believe that sometime within the next 5 years you’re not going to need more equipment in the Metro. Okay.

Brandan Hagan – well whether you’re in Metro or not, so what’s the big deal if we had help buying it or not. Do you care about us, or are you more concerned about you? I’d rather have more people behind me....

Holdridge – I’m not....

Hagan – can I talk please?

Holdridge – yes you can.

Hagan – I'd rather have more people behind me supporting me. I live in Hull. I'd rather have someone going to my house right away instead of having to wait 10 more (expletive) minutes.

J Elsinger – hey, language

Hagan – sorry

Holdridge – would you identify yourself?

Hagan – I'm Hull firefighter Brandan Hagan.

Holdridge – Brandan Hagan.

Hagan – I'd rather have someone there 10 minutes sooner than having to wait because we couldn't pass this. My house could be saved. Ten minutes my house is gone. Ten minutes can mean the difference between saving a house and not.

Kluck – I think what Jack is suggesting would be my recommendation to the board. You pass this, you have 180 days. You have the capability to review it on a yearly basis and I think you should. I think you need to be involved in this right up to your ears. If something happens where Plover and Point come out here and say we need a new ladder truck and we want you to pay 1/3rd. You have the option in my opinion to say no. We don't have that kind of funding. We can't do that. And that's the end of it in my opinion. If it's something else, then I agree that we should look at backing out.

Fritsche – the thing that supports that is paragraph 7. Okay? Each participating municipality shall retain ownership of any equipment or property it brings to the performance of this agreement and shall retain ultimate control of its employees.

Syens – that addresses current equipment.

Kluck – ya know John I understand all of the concerns and you have some very good questions and I understand all of that.

Syens – you have to understand Mark, we are fighting a declining revenue and increasing expenses

Kluck – I'm fighting declining firemen

Holdridge – that's something we ought to look at. I mean Park Ridge has got the same problem.

Kluck – well this agreement might make this a little more receptive to firefighters coming over here because they know they have a good safety factor. Cuz right now we don't have it.

Holdridge – joining our department you mean?

Kluck – absolutely.

Speaker unknown – Park Ridge and the Metro too.

Numerous – no, no.

Kluck – well I think this would report would encourage, I tried not to use that word, coming to the Town of Hull fire department and joining.

Speaker unknown – right.

Fritsche – a week ago, last week Wednesday or Thursday I caught the news on Channel 9 they were talking about volunteer fire departments in the area and membership down 18%

Holdridge – see I'm not so sure given the reality of the aging population, that we don't need to look for a new model on how we compensate firemen, how we keep them maybe some kind of system like you have with the EMT. And I don't know what that is. And that is one of the questions I'm going to be asking cities, towns that are contiguous to Sheboygan, Eau Claire and so forth. How do they structure these things? Because they the decline in volunteers is big on fire departments but it is big in a lot of things now. Less people volunteer.

L Elsinger – I would like to get back to the financial point

Holdridge – let me go to Phil and then I will go back to you. Go ahead.

Janowski – I have a question here now. Didn't we become a metropolitan area in the 2010 census and if so, doesn't make that eligible for metropolitan funding so if Town of Hull did do the Metro Fire Department, we could be eligible for more state funding on a metro status. Say like the ones you talked about Sheboygan of Neenah-Menasha or Eau Claire. We're kind of on an upper playing field now compared to like other towns of similar size. The new metro area supposedly from being involved with transportation now extends out to Amherst.

Holdridge – you may be right Phil. I don't know.

Janowski – Stevens Point metro.. So I don't know but possibly if Town of Hull did join this, maybe we could be eligible for more funding to buy more equipment and train and like what he was saying earlier here, any time these guys go to a fire, in my opinion with you being an educator as well, you watch by learning. The firefighters back here learn from every fire they go to and know what can possibly be expected and how you have one jump up on everyone else.

Pederson – Phil do you know where we can get information on that idea of getting funds for being part of metro?

Janowski – well we can find out from people that are metro from the cities that are.

Holdridge – see, I don't know how other cities are organized.

Janowski – I know like NGOs and

Holdridge – are there other communities that have a central city and they have a population of at least 1 large town that are structured in sort of a Metro Fire District? Are there any in the state?

Kluck – I've never looked in to it John to be honest with you.

Proulx – Neenah Menasha

Holdridge – Neenah Menasha, the Fox Valley over there?

Proulx – that’s a township.....

Kluck – town of Menasha

Proulx – yup

Janowski – Town of Pewaukee and the City of Pewaukee and places like that too.

Holdridge – did you have a question?

L Elsinger – yes, I understand the concern about the budget and you said the financial aspect of it, but besides the paragraph which we were all discussing with the shall and encourage, what are the other financial concerns about the Metro or what he things, specifically?

Holdridge – well if you get this up and running, there is going to be an impulse to continue it. And the impulse to continue it, ya know, can anybody say you are not going to need future equipment? We could have a need, new, different equipment right now that we might need.

Kluck – yeah.

Holdridge – and we, uh, so the impul.... The momentum is probably to continue in the Metro as long it’s, ya know that people are relatively accepting of it.

L Elsinger – is it because you’d be going to more fires?

Holdridge – for new equipment?

L Elsinger – yeah.

Holdridge – I don’t know. I just, the practice would be that at some point you’re going to need more equipment.

Kluck – I think the other way to look at it, John, is a lot of people understand we going to have to shovel money to some other community. What about them shoveling money to us for a new tanker?

Holdridge – I’d love to see that. I’d love to have that tanker we were going to buy with the Village of Plover sitting right here.

Fritsche – it's my understanding that it's inside that agreement, but that doesn't say you can't be encouraged that way

Kluck – yah know, that is not part of the agreement, but it doesn't mean that day couldn't come.

Wilz – I think there's a couple of things there.....

Syens – (laughter) Mark (Fritsche) wants to hear that on both sides of the _____

Holdridge – go ahead Dave.

Wilz - offering a little bit here. The whole concept when introduced, more for less, I'm with that all of the way. The idea of everybody coming together with what they've got to produce a bigger result, certainly, I'm behind that all the way, especially with the recruiting and the man power and using all of that. I think what I am hearing here are really two different things and some of the crowd here isn't aware of the first thing I'm going to speak to and I got to be careful how I say this but, we have not had a very good run with the city of Stevens Point since I've been on the board in six years. Okay. So, yah know maybe we have to kind of set that a side and understand that for what it is. That isn't a firefighter issue. Okay.

Kluck – correct.

Wilz – it is not a firefighter issue, but it is a real issue to us.

Kluck – correct I understand.

Wilz – because we have not, yah know, intergovernmental cooperation has been all one sided.

Kluck – and I understand that Dave. We have, our fire department has as much control over annexation as Stevens Points does – which is zero.

Wilz – I know. Yeah. And like when Luann was saying, well how long have you had this? We've had such real recent problems with the city, and I'm talking weeks and months that it is like who in their right mind would want to even have an agreement with those people (laughter)? But the concept is still good. I think

we need to get those things resolved and maybe, your suggestion of someone, or us jumping in both feet here and tackling those intergovernmental issues which are not a fire issue, but are really, really important for this thing to work. We're just scared as heck. I'm not scared of the concept at all, I'm scared of who's our business partners, when we should be concentrating on how are we trying to provide the best possible service and get our people safely there and safely home, and all of the rest of that. And that is where our focus should be but, um, I think we have to get those one or two questions answered so that, cuz we've had legal documents before come back to us and this is just, you say how long have this document? Well we've had legal documents come back to us, reported to us, in the last 30-60 days that said we were breaking the law by an agreement that we signed back in 1990 and the interpretation of it, and we don't even know what they are talking about. Okay, so, but it was always over a word like shall or will be and their attorney's turned it one way and, so, well, those are real things we dealt with.

Holdridge – there's actually in regard to the city use of some park land for development, a legal investigation that we are sponsoring, that we are asking for more information from the city. And this may be a real deal, I mean if they have taken park land that was given to them and turned it over to a development, developer and there is no track on this, there is no recording of deeds or anything, then that is a real major legal issue. That's on going right now with the city. Now one of the positive things I got out of this was talking with Tracey on Friday. And she was very forth right, we talked through this thing. And frankly, I'd like to have her come out and sit down with us and talk about this and gain some confidence and explore the ISO business, because that has been one of your big selling points, is we're going to save on your insurance. Right? That makes a lot of sense to our householders. David had a call from a fellow that was talking about the same thing.

Wilz – about the same thing. You sent him a letter and he believe he was going to save a thousand fifteen hundred dollars and he wanted us to act on it. I'm going did they deliver that message in that letter?

Background discussion – cannot understand.

Wilz – I'm say, I'm saying, he was being told or it was implied that he, by us doing this, he would save all of this money. I go, I don't know that anybody can say that.

Fritsche – from the fire department side, if we get a better ISO rating, it gives people options.

Wilz – oh sure.

Holdridge – oh yah.

Fritsche – where you go for insurance, that’s your choice. You might want to stay with this guy even though he is more expensive cuz I dealt with him for the last 20 years. Okay. But it is available and would be available for all of Hull

Wilz – you make a choice.

Kluck – yea know the gentleman I was talking about earlier, about the insurance thing that I dealt with a couple of weeks ago, um, called me this week to let me know that his insurance rate has gone up from twelve hundred to thirty-five hundred dollars with his insurance company. I didn’t give him a whole lot of information other than my opinion which was, I wouldn’t deal with that insurance company anymore I would go look elsewhere. I gave him the insurance company that I deal with and his insurance rate dropped back down to thirteen hundred dollars from thirty-five hundred.

Holdridge – now, is this a homeowner?

Kluck – in the Town of Hull.

Fritsche – if you remember, what was it about 3 months ago, 5 months ago, Ted Stoltz came in to a board meeting and said “I’ve got my insurance bill, when the heck are you going to go that ISO?”

Holdridge – yea I know.

Fritsche – remember?

Kluck – it was the same insurance company, believe it or not. But I guess, I’d like to, if I could offer a suggestion to have the board table the decision for 30 days and I will do what I can to schedule a meeting, it might have to be separate, to get Tracey in here and I’d also ask Tim to come in.

Holdridge – I'd just as soon stay with Tracey.

Kluck – okay. In return what I would.....

Holdridge – yeah know there is a little crowding there between you being a fire chief and him being a fire chief. Now you don't hear that, but it is out there. Okay. And a point of fact, I think our interaction , in this northern part of the Metro area is probably going to be primarily, not exclude, primarily with the city of Stevens Point. Don't you think?

Kluck – um, um

Holdridge – That's the one I, and the advantage of Tracey, she doesn't report to the Mayor. She reports to the Police and Fire Commission.

Kluck – but I would also recommend that, if you could assign somebody John, to look at that question

Holdridge – the ISO.

Kluck – not the ISO but the

Wilz – this is the standard contract that everybody

Holdridge – oh, the contract.

Wilz – John, I would make a motion to table this for a minimum, I guess a maximum of 30 days and let Mark and your schedule get Tracey in so she can hear it from that side, which is very important

Kluck – sure

Wilz – and then in the mean time we take this contract and run it by O'Brien or one of his designees, for our concerns about these things and let the legal end carry us in it.

Holdridge – okay.

Wilz - I think it all can be handled by the fire department, this would be great. But unfortunately attorneys have to get involved (laughter)

Holdridge – I think you got to seriously look at this, and Tracey brought it up, having some political group interacting with the Fire Chiefs because the political group is the one that then spends the money. And she brought that up. She said she regularly meet with the Mayor so he understands what is going on. You ought to really think about that. Not just leave it with the fire chiefs. Include the fire chiefs with a representative, an elected representative from each one of these bodies as part of the Metro. I mean, that would make real smart, I hate to say quote “political”, but it would.

Wilz – and then if that would function, then you wouldn't have to, you wouldn't have 3 communities trying to sell their boards on what the met about because they would all be there um, all the time.

Holdridge – ya know the crunch is going to happen when you start having to spend real money, and then you start deciding who's going to pay what. That's going to happen, I think, at some point.

Wilz – I also think that the concept, that you guys have come up with, and I'm talking about Whiting and Plover and then Stevens Point, compared to other communities. Ya we can look at those, but it that is what works here for now, that's a great place to start. We need to do that. We can find out what other communities do later but I think we'd rather move forward here and get this thing resolved and cleaned up, so my motion is to table for a maximum of 30 days.

Pederson – I'll second.

Holdridge – just talking, there is nothing wrong with us being pioneers. Okay. There's nothing wrong with that. All in favor of the tabling motion signify by saying aye.

Board members – aye.

Holdridge – opposed. Okay. So we will be talking Mark and.....

Kluck – I'll get in touch with Tracey....

Wilz – we'll get the legal stuff.....

Firefighter Derek Zalewski, my parents Rick and Sue live in the Town of Hull.

Holdridge – okay. Where do you live?

Zalewski – outside of Hull.

Holdridge – okay.

Zalewski – my question to the board is, being a firefighter on this department, is all you guys live in the Town of Hull. Now we go to our training, I don't know about you, but my parents have expressed, they are actually out of town right now, that's why they are not here. They've expressed that they would push for us to go to Metro and I don't know why you guys, but my dad said, ya know, going to bed at night, a fire happens, we see it all the time, we read about it all the time, fire happens and someone doesn't wake up. Now you got Stevens Point who's going to be coming immediately to get you out of that house. Is that not a concern of any of you guys?

Numerous people talking.

Holdridge – we're all concerned (pounded gavel). Why do you.....

Zalewski – have any of you guys at anytime, nobody can predict a fire. This is a safety for the community, for you guys and safety for us. And that is a concern of mine, big time.

Holdridge – yes.

Zalewski – we're the ones who put our lives on the line and risk going in to highways and houses that are on fire and I want to know that our training with Stevens Point/Plover is the best. And it is. I've known a lot of these guys personally and talked to them a lot. My biggest concern is, I understand the financial stuff, okay, but is that not rest on you that, what happens if it's my house, not just somebody in the community.

Holdridge – yeah.

(Don't know who is talking) No life is worth any amount of money.

Janowski – another question I have too is, yeah know, going in to that Metro here now, now our county EMS ambulances is run by Portage County.

Holdridge – right.

Janowski – what’s, yeah know with this Metro thing it could also possibly include like Stockton and Amherst. Now

Wilz – no, no

Janowski – now what is the possibilities, I mean if that’s if the elect to, what’s the possibility having Portage County look at this stuff too and then

Holdridge – you interact with the ambulances probably a lot, don’t you?

Fritsche – Portage County runs ambulance service for the county. And the county is contracted with Stevens Point fire to run the EMS service. Okay. The guys on the ambulances, there’s 2 ambulances staffed out of Stevens Point and there is also one staffed out in Amherst. But the 2 in Stevens Point, that’s 4 of the 11 people that are on shift. Okay. They are also firefighters so they respond with the engine company or the ladder truck to every fire that comes in whether it be a car fire or what – they are firefighters.

Kluck – right.

Fritsche – but if they get an ambulance call curing that fire it’s put away and they jump in the ambulance and away they go. Okay. Their firefighters also maintain their paramedic level once they get off the ambulance and on the fire trucks.

Holdridge – are all of those firemen, those 41, are they also EMTs?

Talking in the background.

Fritsche – not everyone of them. I don’t think the _____ are required to keep that anymore, are they?

Proulx – the future is all paramedics.

Holdridge – okay, so any new hires

Fritsche – so it will be in the future, they will all have to maintain that, even when they are on the fire side of things, so. But, there staffing level does fluctuate based on the number of calls.

Wilz – but to answer your question, it has been brought up in the Wisconsin Town's Association, should the county look at a countywide fire response. Is there a way to do that? Whether there's built stand alone, geographic places....

Don't know who is talking – you see it in other states and it seems to function very well.

Wilz - but again like I said, whether it's that concept or a concept down in Neenah-Menasha, I still think the Metro is going to work here and that's where we need to start with and we can take it to wherever it needs to go. But we have to get some of this other stuff and 30 day – I understand the frustration, 30 days is necessary sometimes to get it right because there's other things we don't think about. And I think that Mark and Mark and everybody in the fire department, I would think feel that the board strongly appreciates the commitment and supports this fire department. But, this one we have to get right and you guys have worked on it very, very hard up to this point. So we have a few things to clean up and we got to hear it from the other side. Um, and that's how it works.

Holdridge – I can say that I haven't looked at this really since that meeting in August of 2012 until you provided this recent information. We haven't talked about it at a public meeting.

Wilz – but you've been working on this.

Kluck – yup.

Wilz – so

Holdridge – they've been doing stuff.

Wilz – this last piece of information, which we just received, is really the culmination.

Holdridge - Motion to adjourn.

Pederson – Move to adjourn.

Syens – Second.

Holdridge – Motion carried. Thank you all for coming.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Janet Wolle, Clerk

Complete transcript of February 11, 2013 board meeting.

The text has been reduced in size for board minute binder