



REPORT TO VILLAGE BOARD

ITEM NAME:	Riverside/Kronenwetter Fire Department Relationship
MEETING DATE:	July 14, 2025
PRESENTING COMMITTEE:	None
COMMITTEE CONTACT:	Dan Joling
STAFF CONTACT:	Fire Chief O'Brien
PREPARED BY:	David Baker

ISSUE: Kronenwetter currently contracts with Riverside to provide ambulance service to Kronenwetter's residents. I believe that the Kronenwetter Fire Chief and Riverside Fire Chief would both agree that the relationship between the two departments has room for improvement.

OBJECTIVES: Provide the resources to assess the causes of the conflicts between the two departments and propose a path forward to continuing to provide high quality ambulance service to our residents.

The path forward could include improving the relationship between the two departments, amending the current ambulance contract to address the issues identified by Fire Chief O'Brien, or issuing an RFP to select an ambulance provider.

In my opinion, the potential paths forward at this time do not include Kronenwetter starting its own ambulance service due to our financial and budget difficulties.

ISSUE BACKGROUND/PREVIOUS ACTIONS: Fire Chief O'Brien has identified a list of items that she would like to see addressed in a contract modification. Riverside has acknowledged that some of these items have not been properly executed in the past and has been working to address these issues. Fire Chief O'Brien would like to see some of these items addressed in a revised or updated contract.

Both Fire Chiefs have identified the need to improve the interaction in the field at the transition of patient care from Kronenwetter's First Responders (EMR) to Riverside ambulance EMS personnel.

VanderWaal Law represents Riverside Fire and cannot represent us on this matter. VanderWaal has referred us to an Attorney at Von Briesen who has agreed to represent the Village of Kronenwetter for this matter.

UPDATE FOR 08/25/25: This agenda item was added to provide an update for the action taken at the 7/14/25 Village Board Meeting.

Trustee Joling met with Riverside personnel and then met again with Fire Chief O'Brien, Riverside Fire Chief Briggs, and Riverside Board member Bill Schremp.

Trustee Joling has engaged an experienced investigator at a rate of \$70.00 per hour to further assist in determining the root cause and possible solutions to the difficulties experienced between the two departments.

Trustee Joling and Fire Chief O'Brien are working on a potential addendum to the existing contract to address potential contract issues including questions of potential liability during emergency calls. To date, Trustee Joling has not engaged the Von Briesen law firm to assist with drafting a potential contract addendum.

PROPOSAL: Approve Trustee Joling to head up an effort to investigate the root causes of the conflicts between the two departments, work to improve the relationship between the two departments, and propose a path forward by our August 25th, 2025 Village Board meeting.

Trustee Joling's authorized activities could include, but not be limited to: meetings/interviews with our Fire Chief and Kronenwetter Fire Department Personnel, meetings/interviews with Riverside Fire Chief and Riverside Fire Department Personnel (with their permission), "ride alongs" with Riverside Ambulance, attending or leading joint training efforts to improve the relationship, overseeing attorney and/or private investigator resources if needed to help determine the root causes of the existing conflicts, and overseeing revision of the current ambulance contract.

Trustee Joling was selected for this task based on his willingness to serve and his background in law enforcement, EMR, and investigations.

EMR = Emergency Medical Responder

EMS = Emergency Medical Services

ADVANTAGES:

DISADVANTAGES:

ITEMIZE ALL ANTICIPATED COSTS (Direct or Indirect, Start-Up/One-Time, Capital, Ongoing & Annual, Debt Service, etc.)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Update to Board. Agendized for action, but no action is being recommended at this meeting.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

TIMING REQUIREMENTS/CONSTRAINTS:

FUNDING SOURCE(s) – Must include Account Number/Description/Budgeted Amt CFY/% Used CFY/\$

Remaining CFY

Account Number: 100-51300-302-000

Description: Legal Fees General

Budgeted Amount:

Spent to Date:

Percentage Used:

Remaining:

ATTACHMENTS (describe briefly):