



REPORT TO VILLAGE BOARD

ITEM NAME:	Von Briesen Report
MEETING DATE:	July 14, 2025
PRESENTING COMMITTEE:	None
COMMITTEE CONTACT:	David Baker
STAFF CONTACT:	Jennifer Poyer
PREPARED BY:	David Baker

ISSUE: The Village spent in excess of \$64,725 on legal fees in 2024 in response to a complaint from a Village staff member (employee) about a Village Trustee. Some believe that this large sum of money was spent without properly following the applicable Village Ordinances and Policy. Others believe that the staff member and the Von Briesen Attorney treated the employee as the client, when the Village, through the governing Body, was the actual client.

As a broader policy issue, it may be useful to develop or clarify policy regarding who is entitled to Village paid legal representation in cases of this and similar nature. To illustrate, in a neighboring community, an elected official who has been charged with or accused of an ethics violation is required to pay for his own legal defense, but other municipal employees, who are not charged with any violation are entitled to receive outside legal representation paid for by the municipality.

In recent times, some elected officials in the Village have been provided legal representation paid for by the Village while others have been denied the right to receive legal representation paid for by the Village.

OBJECTIVES: Determine if the actions related to hiring the Von Briesen Law Firm to prepare the “Von Briesen Report” followed Village Ordinance and Policy, including policy in the Handbook. Determine who and under what circumstances Village employees or Village elected officials are entitled to legal representation paid for by the Village.

ISSUE BACKGROUND/PREVIOUS ACTIONS:

PROPOSAL:

ADVANTAGES:

DISADVANTAGES:

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION: For Review and Discussion only at the July 14th meeting. Not agendized for action on July 14. This item will be on the July 28 Village Board agenda for discussion and possible action.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

TIMING REQUIREMENTS/CONSTRAINTS:

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

Remaining CFY

Account Number:

Description:

Budgeted Amount:

Spent to Date:

Percentage Used:

Remaining:

ATTACHMENTS (describe briefly):