



REPORT TO VILLAGE BOARD

ITEM NAME:	Role and Duties of village President During Absence of an Administrator
MEETING DATE:	January 27, 2025
PRESENTING COMMITTEE:	
COMMITTEE CONTACT:	Ken Charneski
STAFF CONTACT:	
PREPARED BY:	Ken Charneski

OBJECTIVES: To determine the basis for which President Chris Voll claims to hold the position of Village Administrator, and determine steps for the future.

ISSUE BACKGROUND/PREVIOUS ACTIONS: With the resignation of Peter Kampfer as village administrator in July of 2024, the Village Board held a discussion at the July 22nd meeting about the matter which can be heard at minutes 1:01 to 1:08. https://soundcloud.com/kronenwetter/2024-0722a?si=f1a4b05b14414b7885816d693312569c&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

The Board determined that for the time being, each department head would be responsible and report directly to the Village Board for the activities of their department. It was decided that a "point man" was needed to make a call on decisions that were outside of the authority of the department heads, and too urgent to wait to be brought to the Board for approval. The approved minutes of the meeting read:

"Administrator Vacancy Motion by Coyle/Myszka to continue to allow Department heads to continue to operate within budget and ordinance rules and statutes, for items that would fall under Administrator approval Village President shall step in per ordinance and policy of the village to include emergency situations while keeping the Village Board in the know of all decisions in a timely basis. Motion carried 6:0 by voice vote."

It does not appear that any member of the Board understood this to mean that Chris Voll was appointed to be interim village administrator, or anything similar to that, but only to make an administrative decision "on certain matters" as Trustee Coyle phrased it, and "in emergency situations" as attorney Turonie described. Any such decisions were to be communicated to the Village Board.

The need for any of these special decisions has not cropped up, as to my knowledge the Board has gotten no notification of anything along these lines. Some decisions may have been made, but proper communication seems to be lacking however, since for example, the Board was not even notified of a lawsuit against the Village filed on December 26 and sent to the interim clerk, and the president, until a trustee found it and felt the need to pass it on to the Board.

On January 12 in a letter to the editor of Wausau Pilot and Review entitled "Your letters: Interim Kronenwetter administrator defends village leadership", Mr Voll wrote in part:

"For six months I have acted as interim village administrator as well as board president, and in those capacities I am privy to internal information or actions that may or may not become public knowledge. The reason that's important is because many people have been jumping to conclusions about situations and

criticizing what they perceive as me not reacting. Far from the truth! I communicate with many people regarding village matters every single day. I am very careful to always weigh how any decision reflects or impacts the village."

The letter was signed: "Chris Voll, Kronenwetter Village President and Interim Village Administrator".

<https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2025/01/12/your-letters-interim-kronenwetter-administratordefends-village-leadership/>

Mr. Voll's claim of being "interim village administrator" and the description of administrative activities that he says he participates in is alarming to many, in that it appears to be an overstepping of authority not granted to the office of Village President, nor was it authorized by the Village Board on July 22. According to Village ordinance and job descriptions, a "Village Administrator" needs to have certain qualifications, whether or not the administrator is "interim".

Mr. Voll made the statement "...I am privy to internal information or actions that may or may not become public knowledge."

This concept of secrecy, or as gatekeeper of "internal information or actions" was also not authorized, and in fact was specifically guarded against by the Board with the provision for transparency in the approved motion. There appears to have been at least one financial decision that likely should have come to the Board, but did not, and we don't know how it was resolved. Nor has there been any "administrator reports" submitted to Board agendas that would normally be required if the Village actually had an interim administrator in place.

PROPOSAL: Discussion by the Board - Let Mr. Voll provide his perspective as to what it was in that motion of July 22 that leads him to believe he holds a position or title of "interim administrator". Given the state of directionless confusion that the Village seems to be currently operating under, the Board should discuss the facts of exactly what role if any, that any elected official should play in the day-to day operations of the Village.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The Board should determine a proper course of action to take to correct the current unauthorized activities.

ATTACHMENTS (describe briefly): None