

Village of Clarendon Hills

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Press Release

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Clarendon Hills Village Board Accepts the Results of a Fire Service Study

On Monday, January 21st, the Clarendon Hills Village Board accepted the results of the “Staffing the Clarendon Hills, Illinois Fire Department Final Report” prepared by The PAR Group. The study was initiated in response to diminishing paid-on-call (volunteer) firefighter/paramedics. Despite consistent recruitment efforts, over the last thirty years the number of volunteers has decreased by 33% while fire and emergency calls have increased more than 450%.

In addition to paid-on-call volunteers, the Clarendon Hills Fire Department staff consists of a full-time chief, a full-time fire prevention officer, and two part-time paramedic/EMTs per shift. For each response, the Fire Department is reliant upon the POC staff to arrive at the station so that the fire engine can safely leave the station. The ambulance staffed by the part-time paramedic/EMTs, leaves the station as soon as the call is received.

Currently, the Fire Department is only able to secure six or seven volunteers during the daytime of which only three are within five minutes of the station. In addition, response time during nighttime hours has also been a concern as volunteers need to awaken from their homes, travel to the fire station, and suit up in their protective gear at the station before the fire engine leaves for a call.

Therefore, the results of the study recommend that in order to sustain adequate levels of fire and emergency medical service, the Fire Department needs to alter its current staffing arrangement. The study concludes that employing an additional two or three part-time firefighter/ paramedics during each shift would meet the needs of the department in the most cost efficient and effective way.

The recommendation to hire additional part-time personnel was reached after a thorough analysis of the following staffing options:

- Establishing a full-time fire department
- Contracting with a private provider to supplement current part-time personnel
- Contracting with another municipality for service
- Dissolving the Fire Department and joining the Tri-State Fire District
- Hiring additional part-time personnel

The cost of hiring additional part-time personnel is being further refined by the Village. The results of the study will be discussed at an upcoming public meeting that will take place during 2008. The complete results of the fire service study are also available on the Village’s website at www.clarendonhills.us.

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