



ASSOCIATED FIRE FIGHTERS OF ILLINOIS

927 S. SECOND STREET
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62704
(217) 522-8180
(217) 522-8244 (FAX)
AFFI WEB ADDRESS www.affi-iaff.org



September 27, 2010

PRESIDENT

PAT DEVANEY
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

SECRETARY-TREASURER

TOM ROATE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

VICE-PRESIDENT AT-LARGE

RUSS HUNT
BOLINGBROOK, ILLINOIS

VICE-PRESIDENTS

DISTRICT ONE
DANNY FORTUNA
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

DISTRICT TWO
CHRIS COATS
PEKIN, ILLINOIS

DISTRICT THREE
ADAM RUDERMAN
DECATUR, ILLINOIS

DISTRICT FOUR
TOM WILLIS
LOMBARD, ILLINOIS

DISTRICT FIVE
STEVE HORNE
HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

NORTHERN DISTRICT
EDDY CREWS
LISLE, ILLINOIS

CENTRAL DISTRICT
CHUCK SULLIVAN
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

SOUTHERN DISTRICT
RICHARD MARTIN
MURPHYSBORO, ILLINOIS

TRUSTEES

NORTHERN DISTRICT
ERIC HABERCOSS
CICERO, ILLINOIS

CENTRAL DISTRICT
JAY SMITH
CANTON, ILLINOIS

SOUTHERN DISTRICT
RICH WILSON
GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS

The Honorable John W. Craig
President
Oak Brook Village Board
1200 Oak Brook Road
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523

Dear President Craig:

A number of remarks made during a recent meeting of the Oak Brook Citizens Finance Committee have been brought to our attention and must be addressed.

As the duly elected chief executive of your village, it is incumbent upon you to repudiate remarks made on the record and whose audio recordings were made available through your village board web site. The content of the audio recordings made September 22, 2010 and which have been distributed nationwide by way of the Internet are an embarrassment to the good citizens of your village. We trust that you share our disgust in the comments made during this meeting.

To wit:

- Members of the citizens committee meeting were heard giggling over the death of Hinsdale Deputy Fire Chief Mark Johnson, who died while on duty at his fire station. It was clear to anyone listening to the audio recording that the life of this distinguished public servant was meaningless to members of your citizens committee.
- Second, one of those who spoke at considerable length about fiscal issues in your village, Constantine Xinos, distinctly uttered the suggestion that firefighters be "knocked off" like victims in a terrorist hostage takeover. Mr. Xinos recommended in no uncertain terms that you and your village board terminate one firefighter each month until your village board demands are met and the resources of your fire department are depleted to a level that would endanger the lives and property of your residents. He advocated a strategy intended to destroy firefighter marriages and force their children into the street. Mr. Xinos further suggested that the dedicated men and women of the Oak Brook Fire Department would allow him to die if he suffered a medical emergency.

As a participant of the meeting, at no time did you attempt to admonish citizen committee members from making light of the death of a firefighter. Furthermore, you did not disagree with or attempt to dissuade Mr. Xinos from advocating for practices that would be devastating for the fire department and village as a whole. Respectfully, it is clearly your responsibility to stop such vigilante talk or immediately respond when it takes place in your presence at a meeting sponsored by the village.

Therefore, the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois wish to give you the opportunity to publicly apologize to the family of Hinsdale Deputy Chief Mark Johnson and to condemn the behavior of those who made light of his untimely death. We also would like to offer you the opportunity to publicly repudiate the suggestion by a participant of your citizens finance group to place in jeopardy the lives and safety of your citizens.

The only responsible manner in which to address contract and financial issues facing your community is at the bargaining table. Moreover, we strongly suggest that threats and intimidation be checked at the door when such negotiations are held.

I, along with other members of the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois, am available to discuss this matter at your earliest convenience. Such a meeting will give you an opportunity to explain or apologize for the rude and unacceptable behavior of some of your citizens committee members.

Thank you for your attention to this most important matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Devaney", written in a cursive style.

Pat Devaney, President
Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois