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February 5, 2026

Ross A. Leisman  
Mika Meyers  
900 Monroe Ave NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Re: Village of Sand Lake – Fire Services

Dear Mr. Leisman:

This communication provides you and your client with accurate information related to the status of the Village of Sand Lake Fire Department.

On January 13, 2026, Nelson Township Supervisor Robyn Britton notified the Village of Sand Lake ("Village") Treasurer that "As of this morning, per our attorney's instructions, all future communication must be handled through our respective attorney's offices." Consistent with what Supervisor Britton asked the Village to do, the Village secured legal counsel (Clark Hill PLC) and asked legal counsel to communicate with your office. We understand that your client has thus far failed to secure alternative arrangements for fire services. However, we ask that Supervisor Britton follow her own instructions to the Village and direct all future communications through legal counsel.

Your client's recent communications suggest that the Village has not been transparent about its intentions and that the Village President may be acting on her own. These representations are false. Since our retention by the Village, I have had the opportunity to talk to you on two brief occasions. During our last conversation on January 28, 2026, I told you that the Village was proceeding with the intent of securing an agreement with a neighboring community to provide fire and related services to the Village. This is consistent with previous communications by the Village to the public and Township officials. The Village's December 15, 2025 Council Minutes clearly express the Village's intent to enter into negotiations with the City of Cedar Springs.

Further, at the same meeting, the Village authorized the Village President to notify Ensley, Pierson and Nelson Townships that the Village would cease providing fire and related services at the end of the current contract term (March 31, 2026). The Village's actions were transparent and unambiguous, and your client has had many months to secure other options. There is no merit to any representation that the Village has not been transparent about its intentions. The Village President acted squarely in response to the public actions of the Village Council.

After the December 15, 2025 Village Council Meeting, the Village President and Treasurer communicated on numerous occasions with Supervisor Britton to answer her questions or respond to unfounded accusations related to fire department operations. Apparently, Supervisor Britton was not satisfied with the responses and sent the January 13, 2026 e-mail to the Village Treasurer requiring all future communications to be handled through legal counsel.

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The Term Sheet prepared by Nelson Township and submitted by Supervisor Britton to Village President Doerr on Sunday, January 18, 2026 did not track the previous conversations between Supervisor Britton and President Doerr. Further, the terms as written are not in the best interest of the Village of Sand Lake and its residents.

Regarding specific statements made recently by Supervisor Britton or Nelson Township representatives, the Village advises your client that:

- The Village President never told anyone that she "expressed an exclusive interest in pursuing a sale to the City of Cedar Springs." As stated, there has never been a discussion about a "sale" of the fire department to the City of Cedar Springs. The Village's December 15, 2025 Council Minutes clearly express the Village's intent to enter into negotiations with the City of Cedar Springs to provide fire and other related services through an agreement, not a sale.
- Any representation that there has been any commingling of funds contrary to law is patently false and the Village has responded to these unfounded concerns.
- The Village residents have operated a fire department and contributed significant amounts to the operation of the department. This contribution has benefited the Village residents, and residents of your client. Any representation to the contrary is absurd.
- On January 30, 2026, Nelson Township Supervisor Britton and Clerk Carr sent a written communication to "Council Members" and urged the Council to review the Term Sheet and consider the ramifications. This presupposes that the Council Members were not aware of the Term Sheet. Supervisor Britton failed to mention that this Term Sheet had already expired by its very terms on January 23, 2026,

In the January 30, 2026 communication, Supervisor Britton and Clerk Carr advised the Village Council to consider the ramifications of its previous decision and warn of the expensive nature the action. They then represent that the Township has worked with "highly experienced" accounting and legal counsel to review all fire department funding, implying a threat to litigate this matter. You also told me that the Township may initiate litigation. We can assure you that the Village also retained highly experienced personnel to represent the Village. We are confident that the Village would prevail on any specious lawsuit, and we would seek all of the costs and attorney's fees from the Township in defending any legal action.

Finally, I will bring any proposed solution to the Village Council at a Council meeting that makes sense for both parties, not the one-sided term sheet that has expired by its very terms. This includes participating in a facilitative mediation with a third-party neutral mediator. We can suggest potential mediators if asked and would consider any potential mediators proposed by your office.

Very truly yours,

Clark Hill



Steven F. Stapleton

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