"RECALL EVERYBODY"
(Cont. from 1)

we can come up with a whole new board."

Firing comment "taken out of context"

Director Bill Ingram told the board that, after the last meeting, "someone had heard that I wanted to fire everybody. Now, that statement was made and it was made to two board members ... but it was taken out of context."

In that conversation, Ingram had been referring to the personnel manual that, he says, mentions that employees are part of the solution or part of the problem, so if employees do not do what is right, they should be fired.

Ingram continued, "I'm not asking to fire everybody or close down the district, or whatever.... As a result of that rumor, one of the folks involved ... actually was belligerent and defied me to fire him or her and they would get a hold of their attorney, and the insinuation there was that they'd sue ... to the point where the individual was rude. Again, that was not, at any time, what I was saying we have to do. It was taking our personnel policy manual, in hand, reading it, saying what had happened, where are we going, what do we need to do. That's all."

Pocock then said that he was the one who had said Ingram wanted to fire people. "The reason I brought this up to the other people in the department, to the battalion chiefs, was

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Regarding anyone who wants to come forward to report infractions, Pocock said three attorneys have told him that under the constitutional right against self-incrimination, "you are under no obligation to bring forth any information that pertains to you or anyone else.... I wanted to protect the people so that they would know that they were not under any obligation to bring this forward."

Ingram injected, "Which was contrary to published policy."

Pocock said the board had "to change that so that it doesn't say that anymore, because that's

constitutionally incorrect."

Focusing on the positive

"There are some fundamental issues that we must settle on if we're to start forward, again," Pocock said. "First, there's some things we must not do. We must not convey a defeatist attitude on the idea that replacing the chief was not a good (thing) or good for the department or the citizens of the district. Rather, we must always convey a positive public image by maintaining that we are good and we're gonna get better." He cited some positive issues such as the citation for having the best EMT department in the state.

Pocock continued, "We must not do anything that would detract from our ballot initiative for an increased mill levy of 3 mills, which would amount to \$2 a month per \$100,000 assessed market value of our homes. We must never suggest that the recent unpleasantness with Chief Denboske was in any

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