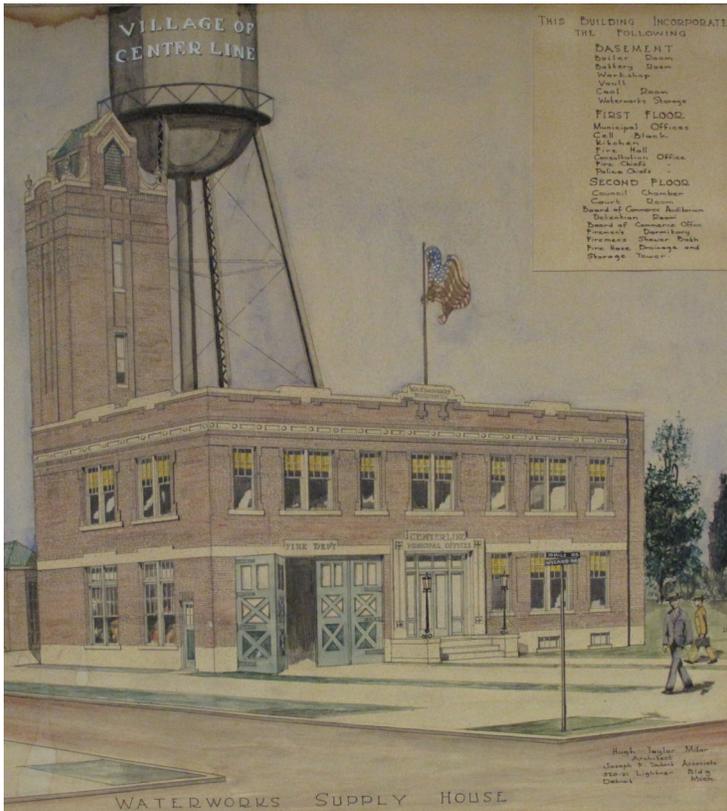


Early History of Public Safety in Center Line (continued)



Artist's rendition of the 1928 municipal building and water tower. The drawing still hangs in City Hall today.

The newly-established Center Line Fire Department responded to all fire calls within Warren Township, billing the Township \$50 per hour for the first hour and \$25 for each additional hour on runs outside the village limits.

Meetings and training drills were frequently held and they also attended the State Firemen's conventions and fire colleges where the latest fire fighting and life saving methods were taught. The Village of Warren formed their own fire department on Dec. 17, 1926 and effective March 3, 1927, they took responsibility for all calls north of Eleven Mile Road.

While the Center Line Village Commission was focusing on providing fire protection during the early part of 1926, they were also looking to hire the first members of the village's police force. Michael Smith was appointed as the first chief of the Center Line Police Department and John L. Ryan was appointed the first patrolman. He was assigned to walk a beat along Van Dyke that ran from 8 Mile Road to 11 Mile Road. At the end of 1926 Michael Smith resigned from the CLPD and George Theut was appointed to serve as Chief of both the CLFD and CLPD. Jacob Theut was appointed to the CLPD in 1927 as a motorcycle patrolman to perform weekend traffic control.

In June of 1928 both departments moved into the new municipal building at 7550 Ten Mile Road. The following year Clement Grobbel and Frank Phaneuf were appointed as patrolmen and the first patrol car (a Ford) was purchased. Chief Theut later asked to be relieved of the duties of Police Chief and Clement Grobbel was then appointed as Chief of Police and Elmer Flechsig was transferred to patrol duty. An additional patrolman was hired and for the first time, Center Line had 24-hour police protection.

When the Village of Center Line became a city in 1936, several personnel changes were made. Frank Phaneuf resigned from the CLPD, Clement Grobbel was transferred to the water department and on July 1, 1937, Elmer Flechsig was appointed as Police Chief.