

MINUTES

WINNEBAGO COUNTY EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM BOARD

Rockford Fire Headquarters, 204 S. 1st Street Rockford, IL 61108

February 8, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Todd Stockburger, Adam Truman, Don Shoefflin,
Don Carlson, Chuck Lynde, Carla Redd, EJ Dilonardo,
Gary Caruana, Joel Hallstrom and Michele Pankow
Guest: Dave Rickert, Jeanine Kaplan, Todd Hughes, Sandy
Stansell, Dan Majors
Absent: Joe Corl

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments

IV. MINUTES

Prior to approval of minutes, Chairman Todd Stockburger offered condolences on behalf of the ETSB to Sheriff Caruana and to the family of Mark Karner for their loss. Gary Caruana thanked Rockford 911 for their plans to cover the county's calls and dispatch on the day of Mark's service. Chairman Stockburger said he reviewed the minutes and thanked Sandy Stansell for the very comprehensive minutes. **Motion:** Gary Caruana made a motion to approve the minutes and Chuck Lynde seconded the motion. Motion carried.

V. FINANCIALS

Financials were reviewed. Chairman Todd Stockburger advised the board that they had copies of both the long and short version of the financial reports. **Motion:** Don Shoefflin made a motion to approve the financials and Michele Pankow seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

January Call Volume/Answering Report

The January call volume reports were distributed and reviewed. No comments

VII. OLD BUSINESS

IGA – Operation and Funding of Winn. Co. ETS Renewal

Chairman Stockburger advised that he didn't have any updates at this time. There has been a discussion as far as reworking the IGA. Don Shoefflin said according to the past minutes there has been a lot of discussion on

overpayment and repayments and he asked if there is any discussion on paying back the overpayment to the ETSB, maybe over a period of time. Chairman Stockburger said he and Joe Corl had spoken with ETSB Attorney Kelly yesterday and Kelly recommended soliciting the ETSB to see if there is an appetite for regaining or recouping the money from the county. The attorney also suggested how the ETSB gets the money back; a one-time payment, over a period of time or get IT services for the money due. Chairman Stockburger asked if the board wants Joe Corl and him to pursue that discussion with the county. Stockburger said there would be a couple things to think about; do we want to pursue the \$197K and if we do what kind of terms or how do we get the money back. Would the board want both he and Joe to enter into discussions with the county. Gary Caruana asked what was involved in the overpayment. Chairman Stockburger explained there was overpayment with the 50 percent paid on the County's 911 Director's salary. Historically there has been more and more taken out or paid toward that salary because of the greater salaries paid in the past for previous Directors. Stockburger said that led to a \$197K overage in payment. Stockburger says the percentages are laid out but the dollar amounts are not. Dave Rickert stated that this has happened over a period of 11 years and there is a certain amount of responsibility for the board to review bills and approve financials every month and he thinks the board should not go back 11 years to recoup the money since there is a certain amount of culpability in that the board approves the bills monthly and therefore should move forward from this point to correct it. Rickert said it wouldn't be very productive to go back all those years. Rickert said if the board wants to go forward the county has a process in place now where they will review that and invoice the ETSB monthly. Stockburger said \$197K is a significant amount of money and granted it has been going on for quite some time but suggested that it was incumbent on the board to further address whether something was missed and this includes going to Sikich and Baker Tilly. Stockburger said that Sikich is in the audit process and it would be the time to sit down with their rep to discuss this issue. Carla Redd asked if Sikich has some accountability for this. Stockburger said he and Joe Corl will confer with Attorney Kelly and then have that sit down with Sikich. EJ Dilonardo commented that the board approves the financials every month on the good advice of the people watching over the money including the auditors and he questioned whether anyone would want to be on the board if they had to dig that deep when there are people being paid by the board to look for these kinds of things. Dilonardo also said there were not one but two auditors who missed this and it seems unfair to go back to the county after we acted in good faith based on the advice of these people. Todd Stockburger said last year the Sikich audit found that the county hadn't been paying interest to the ETSB in the amount of several million dollars. Dave Rickert explained that there was a failure to reallocate funds regarding the fund balance and that has since been rectified. Rickert also stated that anytime beyond the 4 years that Sikich has done the audits should not be their responsibility and that falls on the board who approves the bills. EJ Dilonardo strongly disagreed with Mr. Rickert and said

to say that the responsibility falls on the board when they have put measures in place to review this and that it went through two companies to do so is not right. Dilonardo said he trusts the Chiefs and the Sheriff to do their jobs, so he doesn't need to do their jobs. Carla Redd stated that the salary for Scott Meyers was much higher and Todd Stockburger said Scott Andrew's salary was too in comparison to the salaries paid after them, so those salaries carried over and caused the overpayment. Stockburger said Attorney Kelly suggested when the budget comes back around that the board should entertain an amendment to specifically list the exact dollar amounts for salaries so it can be seen by the board. Chairman Stockburger told the board that he believes that these issues would not have been found without the position of ETSB 911 Business Manager and Elizabeth Russell watching over the expenses. Dave Rickert said that he and Elizabeth work together closely on the expenditures and everything gets listed out on the reports. Joel Hallstrom made a motion that both auditors are approached to see what can be done to recoup the money. (A lengthy discussion ensued) EJ Dilonardo agreed with Hallstrom especially to show that the board is doing something to rectify. Stockburger said this issue should not be left on the table. Dilonardo questioned what the headline would say if this was left with no action taken. **Motion:** Michele Pankow made a motion that Chairman Stockburger and Vice Chair Joe Corl talk with Sikich and Baker Tilly to pursue some sort of recourse or course of action needed to recoup the money. The Motion was seconded by EJ Dilonardo. A roll call vote was taken: Caruana – y, Truman – y, Hallstrom – y, Corl – y, Dilonardo – y, Shoenlin – y, Carlson – y, Redd – y, Lynde – y, Pankow – y, Stockburger – y.

ETSB Vehicles

Dave Rickert advised that the purchase of the vehicle cleared the finance committee and it is going in front of the county board on Thursday.

Surcharge Expenditure Policies

Chairman Stockburger stated that he sent out an email with a draft policy attachment to board members: Joe Corl, Joel Hallstrom, Don Shoenlin, Elizabeth Russell and Jeanine Kaplan to review. Stockburger said he would be scheduling a time for the committee to gather to discuss. Stockburger said it includes a template from Attorney Kelly to use as an example.

NG911 Project Update

Sandy Stansell informed ETSB members that NINGA has a meeting scheduled on Thursday. There are weekly updates and Solacom has tentative plans to cutover DeKalb to phase 2 sometime in April which pushes Winnebago into June. Stansell said they are making strides and the project is moving forward. The obstacles have been with the providers and circuits and getting that technical piece in place. NINGA has been meeting regularly, having these important discussions and putting pressure when it's needed are moving the project along. Todd Stockburger said that he received a call from the auditors asking why the phone bill is so high and he explained it is

high until we are able to go phase 2 and at that point we can peel some of those lines away.

Telephone Line update

No report. Sandy Stansell said just before she retired there was a move to switch out phone lines for fiber as far as the radios. Stansell asked Todd Hughes if the lines were ever changed out with fiber. Todd Hughes advised that they had been switched to fiber. Stansell said there are savings realized through that change or move to fiber. Stansell thanked Hughes for the update.

CAD/RMS Governance Agreement & Rules Committee Update

Todd Hughes said there is a new Central Square rep assigned to facilitate discussions with Boone County and Belvidere. They are still working on a quote for Jail Management software. Chairman Stockburger asked about RMS CAD License and how additional licenses are needed. The county needs 21 licensures. The licenses are needed for mobile clients. Stockburger said the ETSB has covered the cost of licenses in the past. Stockburger suggested that this discussion be included on next month's agenda. Dan Majors said that holding this over for March would be fine.

City/County IT Services

Chairman Stockburger suggested that this item could be written into the surcharge expenditure policy so more in depth discussions could take place at that meeting and time.

CAD System Management Committee

Committee met two weeks ago at the County 911 Center. Another date will be forthcoming.

Cuehit Software

Chairman Stockburger said they have received many good comments back from the public. The Cuehit is serving a purpose in seeing how the TC's are doing with the calls. Chief Redd has shown an interest for her department to use Cuehit as well.

County 911 – Fire Dispatch – Update

No report.

VIII. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. – which will be held at Rockford Fire Headquarters at 204 S. 1st Street Rockford, IL 61104

Motion: A motion was made by Don Carlson to adjourn and seconded by Carla Redd. Motion Carried.