

MINUTES

WINNEBAGO COUNTY EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM BOARD

Rockford Fire Headquarters, 204 S. 1st Street Rockford, IL 61104
September 12, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a. m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Gary Caruana, Co-Chair Michele Pankow, Todd Stockburger, Joel Hallstrom, EJ Dilonardo, Shawn Connors, Mike McCammond, Dave Loria, Adam Truman. Absent: Carla Redd and Joe Corl

Guest: Elizabeth Russell, ETSB Attorney John Kelly, Sandy Stansell, Rick Ciganek, John Girone, Steve Schultz, Adam Eich, Jen Fey, Ed Kurzac, Todd Hughes, Mike Dyson, Tyler Jones and Tim O'Keefe

III. Minutes

Shawn Connors made a **motion** to approve both sets of minutes; August 8, 2023 and August 30, 2023. Dave Loria **seconded the motion**. Correction on August 30 minutes: Let the record show that Board Member Dilonardo was not present at the Special meeting held on August 30, 2023. **Motion: Motion carried by a unanimous vote and both sets of minutes were approved.**

IV. Financials

Prior to motion Steve Schultz advised board members that as he observed in prior years many of the expenditures come in late. Attorney John Kelly reminded the ETSB that the state will be sending an extra payment in 30 – 60 days and it is in regards to a Next Gen reimbursement. **Motion: Adam Truman made a motion to approve the financials. Michele Pankow seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous vote and financials were approved.**

V. New Business

September – Annual Election of Chairman and Co-Chair

Chairman Gary Caruana opened the election. Caruana nominated Michele Pankow for ETSB Chair. Caruana asked the board if they had no objection, he and Michele would like to switch Chair seats. The ETSB by unanimous vote elected Pankow into the Chair position and Caruana as the Co-Chair.

August Call Volume and Answering Report

No comments

Door Access Quote

ETSB Business Manager John Girone advised ETSB members that the door access system has been in place at Rockford 911 since 2005 and needs to be replaced. The amount budgeted by

the ETSB to replace the system was not to exceed \$50K. **Motion:** Joel Hallstrom made a motion to purchase the new door access equipment and Adam Truman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and all members present voted yes. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

VI. Old Business

911 HVAC SYSTEM

Rick Ciganek had no updates.

NG 911 Update

Sandy Stansell reported that the migration of carriers for all 9 counties is at 96 percent. Winnebago County's migration is completed and now for a period of 30 days the CAMA trunks (legacy lines) will be monitored. Once all of the migrations have been completed by all counties within the NINGA alliance then Stansell requested that Solacom perform disaster recovery testing. These tests will insure that failovers are working especially during a natural Disaster.

RockCom/IGA/System Plan Update

Chairman Caruana asked Attorney John Kelly to provide a report to the ETSB on the current status. Attorney Kelly advised members that State Administrator sent a stern letter to the ETSB for not completed the SAP process. In the letter, Cindy threatens to turn off 911 Calls to Winnebago County if the process hasn't been accomplished in 90 days. Kelly stated that realistically that is somewhat of an empty threat because there is no provision for someone else to dispatch public safety in Winnebago County. It was stated and designed to move the ETSB and Mercy Health along to get this accomplished. Kelly said in a discussion yesterday with the Chairman and Co-Chair it is appropriate to provide the State Administrator with an update on a weekly basis even if nothing is happening. Kelly advised that since the letter was sent to Elizabeth Russell, they felt it best that she would be the contact person. Kelly, Caruana and Pankow will work with her in keeping the Administrator updated.

Attorney Kelly advised the ETSB that currently there are a couple of stumbling blocks; Who is going to pay for RockCom and even more problematic is Mercy's proposed length of the agreement. The ETSB proposed one payment to RockCom and Mercy countered with the ETSB to pay for the infrastructure. Kelly advised the ETSB that in all reality it is the responsibility of the ETSB. Regarding the agreement, the ETSB wants a shorten agreement because it puts the ETSB in control as to the relationship with Mercy. Kelly advised that Mercy proposed a 15yr agreement. The ETSB countered with 2yrs and Kelly thinks they are probably looking at 5-10 yrs. Kelly said the ball is in their court and if we don't get something back by the end of this week, he will reach out to them. Kelly said the ETSB is trying to negotiate but if the agreement can't be lived with, the ETSB can deny it. Dilonardo said the fear is taking this money, which is public money and using it to support a private entity. Chairman Pankow advised that it would be a one and done payment of \$27K.

Kelly commented that while it would be nice for all the agencies to be dispatched by city and county, the ETSB knows it won't be possible right now. Kelly advised ETSB members that they do not have to pay if RockCom accepts agencies from outside the county. ETSB funds should not be paying for outside Winnebago County. EJ Dilonardo asked that as RockCom grows and they acquire more departments and then need more equipment would the ETSB be right back in this same position. Attorney Kelly said no, it is up to the ETSB to decide if you have to pay. Dispatch consoles are not part of the 911 system. Dilonardo asked for clarification on what exactly the ETSB would be paying for. Attorney Kelly said only for the process that gets the calls to RockCom. Dilonardo asked what the monthly costs would be. Elizabeth Russell advised that for Rockford/Winnebago they pay around \$15K per month, for RockCom if they were to pay it would be only for the main center and not the back up. Together they were around \$5K monthly but it would be less than half for the main center.

Newly elected Chairman Michele Pankow advised that the ETSB said no to paying the monthly costs for RockCom and that they would only pay for the infrastructure to get the calls to RockCom.

There was a lengthy discussion on the vote taken in October 22, 2022 and the IGA. Gary Caruana asked Sandy to review the minutes for clarification. Sandy Stansell advised that there was a long debate and then a vote. The motion made by Joe Corl stated that the ETSB would approve RockCom as a SAP but would not be financially responsible. The IGA was yet to be established but would be negotiated at a later time. Dilonardo asked what happens to the equipment purchased by the ETSB if RockCom closes. Kelly advised that the ETSB would take possession of the equipment.

Shawn Connors asked if there would be an upcoming special meeting. Gary Caruana stated that the ETSB should give Mercy a drop-dead date to respond, then when their response is returned the ETSB could vote on it. Caruana asked as far as the motion made by Corl in October of 2022, what does the ETSB do with that. Connors said he wasn't on the board back then but suggested that if the ETSB has to return to it, they should seek council from the attorney. Attorney Kelly said if the IGA is not approved, the State Administrator will shut down RockCom and the calls will have to go to the City/County 911 Centers.

Gary Caruana asked Attorney Kelly if the ETSB can't live with what Mercy proposes then will the ETSB be forced by the State not to negotiate our best deal. Kelly said no, the state can't tell you what to negotiate. Caruana asked what if the negotiation process takes it beyond the 60 days which goes to 90 days. Kelly advised that what Cindy wants is to see progress and regular updates will go a long way towards that. Kelly recommended that when they get something back from Mercy that the ETSB should call a special meeting and put the language in front of all board members. Dilonardo asked what would stop RockCom from asking the ETSB for a retention stipend. Joel Hallstrom asked if the cost discussed was for fiber only. Chairman Pankow said yes, but the ETSB would not be paying for the back up site. Todd Stockburger asked if another meeting should be set. Chairman Pankow stated that she and Co-Chair Caruana would be meeting with Attorney Kelly. Attorney Kelly stated that 3 ETSB members could meet without having to call a meeting. Shawn Connors

commented that this process has been a waiting game because it has bounced back and forth between the ETSB and Mercy.

CAD Auto Dispatch

John Girone had nothing new to report

County Fire Dispatch Update

Rick Ciganek had nothing new to report

Adjournment

Motion: A motion was made by Todd Stockburger to adjourn and it was seconded by Joel Hallstrom. Motion carried. Next Meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2023 at 9:00