

MINUTES
WINNEBAGO COUNTY EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM BOARD

Rockford Fire Headquarters – 204 S. 1st Street Rockford, IL
September 10, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Michele Pankow, EJ Dilonardo, Dave Loria, Gary Caruana, Mike McCommond, Marc Gasparini, Todd Stockburger, Shawn Connors, Joel Hallstrom and Carla Redd
Absent: Adam Truman

Guest: Elizabeth Russell, Jen Fey, John Girone, Rick Ciganek, Todd Hughes, Sandy Stansell, Jason Zerr, Tyler Jones, John Kelly, Adam Eich, Mike Dyson, and Dan Magers

Minutes

Motion: Mike McCommond made a motion to approve the August 13, 2024 minutes and it was seconded by EJ Dilonardo. Motion carried. Motion: Shawn Connors made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting held on August 29, 2024. Mike McCommond seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial

Motion: Mike McCommond made a motion to accept and approve the financials. Motion was seconded by Joel Hallstrom. Motion carried.

New Business

August Call Volume and Answering Reports

Were reviewed with no comments

Purchase Request Form

John Girone advised board members that the form was a carry-over from the special meeting discussions. Girone wanted it on the agenda to keep it in front of the board for improvements and further discussions. Chair Michele Pankow invited any feedback from board members in time for the next meeting and asked that they be sent to the Sheriff or to her. Pankow stated that the form was just a draft so their feedback is welcome. The form will be left on the agenda.

Strategic Plan

John Girone advised board members that this was a continuance of the discussions on how the ETSB handles spending. Girone stated that they were unique in that the ETSB does not

have a strategic plan, like other agencies who have some version like a 3yr, 10yr etc. Girone asked the board if they were interested in forming a group to work on and bring back to the whole board a blue print to review. This blue print could cover anything that would be a focus in the future. This could assist the board as a guiding light to see what revenue is available and would help with budget planning. A specific timeline to address things like how does the purchase of licenses fit into a strategic plan would be helpful. Chair Pankow asked board members for their thoughts on this issue. Board member Carla Redd agreed that it should be worked on. Chair Pankow asked Gary Caruana if he wanted to head the group. Caruana suggested John Girone since he had spoken with the other agencies. Chair Pankow suggested that the two PSAP Directors, both Chairs, Business Manager and the State Legislative committee member sit on the committee. John Kelly agreed that many 911 PSAPS have a strategic Plan. Kelly also advised members that he serves on both the INENA and APCO joint legislative committees and they also have a paid lobbyist who represents these organizations. Kelly said he would be happy to bring back information to the ETSB and update members on these issues. Kelly advised that the state was going into a veto session in middle November but he does not anticipate any negative action against 911 issues. There is an ongoing review of the Administrative Code that regulates 911, specifically Part 1325 which is undergoing revision and Kelly advised that on September 29th there is a virtual town hall for all of the 911 Community in Illinois to discuss revisions. That is the big issue right now. **Motion: A motion was made by Shawn Connors to create a strategic plan committee which will be comprised of both PSAP Directors, both Chairs, Business Manager and Legislative Committee Member. Joel Hallstrom seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

Old Business

RockCom/Mercy IGA

Chair Michele Pankow asked Attorney John Kelly to provide an update. Attorney Kelly advised that after the August meeting they met with the Mercy Health team. Kelly thought the meeting was productive. After that meeting, there was no further communication as to what Mercy had decided. Last week Attorney Kelly emailed Veronica asking for an update but never heard back. On Friday, Veronica asked Attorney Kelly if he was able to get on a phone call with her team, which included their attorney. Mercy proceeded to advise Attorney Kelly that they lost two more fire agencies, who went to Winnebago County. So they are down to six agencies. Mercy then stated that they could not afford the amount needed to become a SAP (Secondary Answering Point) and therefore are asking that the ETSB pay all the expenses. Chair Pankow asked what the ETSB would be looking at timeline wise if the board said that is not feasible and if a motion was made that the board would not bring Rock Com in as a SAP. Pankow said we have to mindful of public safety and the agencies that they still dispatch for. Attorney Kelly said that the State Administrator was very clear in stating that if RockCom was going to continue to operate they would have to follow the rules as set forth but also she would not jettison the remaining agencies—she would allow the transition to be smooth. Gary Caruana suggested that this be shown on the strategic plan that they will be creating and provide that to the State Administrator. Board member Shawn Connors also asked what the timeline would look like. John Kelly advised that it would be up to the PSAP as to when. If RockCom shuts down the

Fire Districts have to have a place to go and the question is can the county accommodate them. Attorney Kelly suggested that they speak to RockCom/Mercy again to see what their expectations are at this point. Shawn Connors asked if 911 responsibilities could be divided between the two PSAPS. Chair Pankow said yes, there would be the two options. Gary Caruana commented that this has been the case all along and the county has been moving forward with the dispatch of those agencies. Mike McCammond asked who was doing the negotiating at this point for RockCom, because the ETSB has heard very different versions of those who presented to the board. Chair Pankow advised that their counsel has changed since the beginning.

Chair Pankow suggested that a meeting take place with Mercy/Rock Com to see what their plans are. Attorney Kelly said that he is there to listen and suggests another call.

Gary Caruana asked if Cindy should be on the call. Attorney Kelly suggested first a meeting with Mercy. EJ Dilonardo asked what the ETSB is looking at for taking over RockCom's costs. Elizabeth Russell advised the initial set fee would be about \$30,000 per each site and then Recurring annual costs of around \$60,000. Chair Pankow said a meeting will be scheduled for the ETSB's IGA committee and then they will meet with Mercy. A meeting with Cindy would be scheduled after that. Attorney Kelly ended the discussion by stating 2 years ago the ETSB received the letter from Cindy and both parties have been diligently working on this. He stated that Cindy would not force something to the detriment of Public Safety.

Adjournment

Motion: Carla Redd made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Shawn Connors. The Motion Carried. Meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, October 8, 2024.