

Jersey County ETSB/E911 Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Members Present: Steve Pohlman, Don Prather, Jim Wickenhauser, Mike Morgan, Ron Floyd, Mike Schlemmer, Brian Kanallakan, Rob Hedger, Rhonda Wilson

Members Absent: Mike Wendle, Heidi Carter

Public Present: Larry Bowman, Gerry New, Pat New

Mike M. opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mike M. asked for approval of the March 21, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes, March 21, 2017 Executive Special Meeting Minutes, March 21, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes, March 21, 2017 Executive Regular Meeting Minutes, May 11, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes and May 11, 2017 Executive Special Meeting Minutes. A motion to approve all minutes was made by Mike S. and seconded by Jim.

Motion passed.

Comments or Concerns from the Public

None

Treasurer's Report

Each member was given a copy of a Monthly Budgetary Status Report dated May 15, 2017 showing a current fund balance of \$327,080.59 as of April 30, 2017. A motion was made to approve the Report by Don and seconded by Jim.

Motion passed.

Director's Report

Rob gave each board member a written graph/report summarizing the 9-1-1 calls received per station for January through April 2017. There have been a total of 2,549 9-1-1 calls and 10,215 admin calls received. The total number of admin and 9-1-1 calls received year-to-date is 12,764. Rob also provided data pertaining to the length of each call and how quickly those calls are answered per station. This function alone equates to 80% of the work is for the county and 20% is for 9-1-1. Also, Rob provided the number of entries made into Lawman year-to-date of 5,355. That comes to 39.4 entries a day. He also provided the stats the dispatchers keep records / documents for each county entity as of May 16, 2017.

Rob informed the board about the County's recent formation of an Ad Hoc Committee involving the 9-1-1's function(s) within the County. The County's board chairman claims the County is subsidizing 9-1-1. Rob gave a history of how 9-1-1 got started in Jersey County beginning in November 1998. Minutes were handed out as to how the first Intergovernmental Agreement came to be in July 2002.

- The original Agreement was entered into as a "cost sharing" arrangement.

- It was agreed a consolidated center was to be formed and used for the benefit of the County, 9-1-1 and all county emergency entities.
- Cost sharing on salaries and benefits would be shared between 9-1-1 and the County on a 60% - 40% split was first mentioned and approved on May 7, 2002.

The County and 9-1-1 came to have an agreement on a Joint Dispatch System and each entity would share in the cost.

Committee Reports:

Finance Report

None

Personnel Report

None

New Business

Discussion & Possible Action Re: County Board Ad Hoc Committee

Rob handed out the following materials:

- A chart comparing 9-1-1 functions to dispatching duties. The amount of work performed by the dispatchers is more than the current arrangement of 60/40 and more likely a 90/10 to 95/5 per cent ratio. The bulk of the work being performed by the dispatchers is for the County and not for 9-1-1 services. Hence the “cost sharing” agreement reached is not a “subsidy” being provided by the County, but is, in fact, being subsidized by 9-1-1 to the tune of approximately 30% to 35%.
- Summarization of the 2017 Wages and Insurance costs for ETSB and County as reflected on the Budgeted Expenditures as approved by the County on 09/21/2016 at 60% - 40%.
- Summarization of the 2017 Wages and Insurance costs for ETSB and County as reflected on a modified Budget example at a 90% - 10%.
- Summarization of the 2017 Wages and Insurance costs for ETSB and County as reflected on a modified Budget example at a 95% - 5%.
- Fast forward to present day, on the April 11, 2017 County Board’s Agenda reflects the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to discuss workable options related to partnering with Morgan County for fielding 911 calls and dispatching emergency services. However, Rob had already been contacted by Morgan County on March 27, 2017 wanting to know what was going on. Rob was not aware of any of this. Rob called Don Little and Don was vague about it.
- On April 13, 2017, Don wrote a letter to Rob stating the County’s approval on the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee. The letter referenced deepening concerns about the course and options the County Board had in addressing financial pressures on the General Fund.
- Received another letter from Don dated April 24, 2017 requesting information on all employees employed by 9-1-1, dispatchers and administrative employees, regarding the amount of wages and benefits paid to all employees both by 9-1-1 and the County. Additionally, there was a meeting held where the union representative, Kyle Bollinger, several dispatchers and some democratic board members met and contract talks began between the County and the union.

- Don sent another letter dated April 26, 2017, wherein the West Central Joint ETSB Group requested various information pertaining to the Jersey County ETSB dispatchers, administration employees, and operational information as to the 9-1-1 center / services.

Rob received an email from Gary Krueger on May 10, 2017 wanting to know about the Illinois State Police taking over 9-1-1 in the year 2020. Rob responded with information he had available, which did not reflect a take-over by the Illinois State Police in 2020.

On May 12, 2017, Rob received an email from Don advising the union contract had been ratified. However, Don indicated that the County was still moving forward with the Ad Hoc Committee, but both Rob and Mike Morgan had been appointed to be a part of the committee.

Rob has an Attorney General's opinion, which specifies what surcharge monies can and cannot be used for in reference to any non-related 9-1-1 duties.

Our current Intergovernmental Agreement, under Section 8, shows the County will "reimburse" the 9-1-1 for services provided outside of our 9-1-1 duties. The County has not and does not "subsidize" any part of 9-1-1.

It is the Jersey County ETSB who can plan, direct, supervise, manage and/or coordinate the Jersey County 9-1-1 system. The County board does not have the authority to investigate, plan or pursue the consolidation or file any plans relating to the same. There is an Attorney General's opinion stating only the ETSB possess the sole authority for the planning, coordinating, and supervision of the County's ETSB.

Another factor to consider: Morgan County has Frontier as their system provider, whereas, we have AT&T as our system provider. Rob has checked and found out it would be very costly to switch over to be a Frontier/AT&T system. Additionally, whichever agency wanted to make the switch, they would be responsible to pay for all costs associated with the change, out-of-pocket. No grant monies would be awarded to help pay for the switch. The State Administrator's office also said more than likely a consolidation would not be approved.

Even if 9-1-1 was outsourced to Morgan County, dispatching would still have to be provided to the Sheriff's office. On May 15, 2017 there was a meeting held between the Sheriff, State's Attorney Goetten, Don Little and Rob where it was discussed the continued need for local dispatching services, among other things.

Rob noted there have been many updates and upgrades made to the 9-1-1 equipment within the last four (4) years. All that new equipment has been installed and is ready and compliant when Next Generation (NG-911) is up and running.

Rob went over the expenses/costs we have cut and decreased. We currently provide all training in-house, which has saved on mileage costs and class expenses. Rob has added new services, which has benefited our first responders by providing them with promote and continued information as it becomes available.

How should we (as a board) proceed? Do nothing and let it play out? Not inclined to give all information being requested by the County? Question – can County even ask for this information and is it legal??? Agreed by all - review and revisit at another time.

Need to look at the cost sharing amounts at a more even split.

Miscellaneous

Larry Bowman stated he was thankful the contract settled.

Gerry New wanted to know should he do something or be concerned.

A motion to adjourn the regular business meeting was made by Don and seconded by Mike S.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18, 2017.