

JO DAVIESS COUNTY EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM BOARD

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MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 2, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Emergency Telephone System Board was called to order by Bill Kimball at 7:02 PM in the Jo Daviess County Sheriff's Conference Room, 330 North Bench Street, Galena, Illinois.

ROLL CALL: Board Members Present: Bill Kimball, Helen Kilgore, Kevin Stewart, Jeff Wood and Steve Birkbeck were physically present. Diane Allendorf was present electronically.

Board Members Absent: Lucas Bourquin

Others Present: Sgt. Amy Gonzalez was physically present.

Mary Althof and Tessa Moore were present electronically.

A quorum was established.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

LEGISLATION: None.

MEETING MINUTES: The October 5, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes were filed for audit as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: September financial reports were reviewed. The Monthly Financial Statements were reviewed and filed as presented to submit for audit. The total accounts payable claims for October 2022 is \$4,743.68. **Steve Birkbeck made a motion to approve the accounts payable claims for October in the amount of \$4,743.68. Motion was seconded by Helen Kilgore and motion carried. Ayes - 6: Bill Kimball, Helen Kilgore, Kevin Stewart, Jeff Wood, Steve Birkbeck and Diane Allendorf. Nays - 0. Absent – 1: Lucas Bourquin.**

REPORTS:

- A. **Sheriff's Report:** Sgt. Gonzalez updated on behalf of the Sheriff. We completed testing of the Starcom portable radios at the Sheriff's office. We're now testing a mobile radio in Lt. Kretschmer's squad car, and that seems to have much better coverage than the portables. We also identified dead spots, or low coverage areas, and supplied those to Motorola. We're asking for recommendations on supplementing the existing towers, potentially looking into adding another tower, but while we're waiting for that, they're also coming out with a revised quote for us, and we're waiting on a contract that would guarantee monthly charges at the current State price, since Motorola and the State are currently in negotiations and we anticipate that will go up. They're going to guarantee the current pricing for us for the next two years, so we're waiting on a contract for that. Sheriff will be seeing our rep tomorrow, but won't have the contract ready before our next meeting. Wood asked about a ballpark cost on a new tower and Gonzalez said the quote we received on a new tower would be right around \$300,000 and that the locations that they're going to look at with putting their equipment on existing towers is either in Elizabeth, because of the height of that area, or Hanover. They haven't given us the initial quote yet, but the ballpark they gave was right around \$300,000.

B. Coordinator's Report: Sgt. Gonzalez commented there was a Code Red that went out; we had a 911 outage this past month. Since then, we had vendors in the building, and we've added some redundant equipment to avoid that moving forward. We had an ANI/ALI failure yesterday, and that has been resolved. We were still receiving our 911 calls, and there was no number or location information attached to them, but vendors were notified immediately. Because we're now on a shared network with other counties, we were able to work off of Sterling PD's account to get that information, but that issue was just resolved locally within our server room this afternoon. Bill asked Gonzalez about her attending a training session soon, and she said that she will be going to the 1st Inaugural Midwest User Group Conference, which will be in Schaumburg, next week. Since it's the first one, they're trying to form a user group; it's free, we just have to pay for the hotel. ETSB is sending Sgt. Gonzalez, and Sheriff is also sending Sgt. Ellsworth, and a records clerk to attend.

C. Assistant Coordinator's Report: Sgt. Gonzalez updated on behalf of Tom Lange who wasn't present. Tom attended the IPSTA Conference in Southern Illinois and came back with quite a few ideas.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A.** Discussion and possible action on approving the ETSB FY2023 Meeting Schedule. **Kevin Stewart made a motion to approve the ETSB FY2023 Meeting Schedule. Motion was seconded by Jeff Wood and motion carried. Ayes - 6: Bill Kimball, Helen Kilgore, Kevin Stewart, Jeff Wood, Steve Birkbeck and Diane Allendorf. Nays - 0. Absent – 1: Lucas Bourquin.**

CLOSED SESSION: None.

BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS: Kimball stated that we have had a 911 failure, and Amy has been working with Motorola to get that resolved. We're working on it and hopefully we won't have any more of those problems, but when we do have those problems, we have a backup. Our calls go to Whiteside, and they transfer them to us. Kilgore asked if the people of the County know this, because they know we've had an outage. Kimball said there was an article in the Gazette mentioning that our calls go to Whiteside. Prior to that, we made sure it made it into the Press Release. We notify the County through Code Red. Kilgore said that there are a lot of older people that don't hear a lot of these things. Sgt. Gonzalez said that she received a lot of phone calls about it, so she did what she could to dispel that perception. Aside from that and the Press Release, if there are any suggestions about what else we can do to get that out there, we'd be happy to do that. We don't want people to think that 911 is going unanswered; we need to keep letting everyone know that when 911 does go down, they are automatically transferred to Whiteside County, and then transferred back to us administratively. They can also give us information over our point-to-point radio station that we have and we have some redundancy there.

Kevin Stewart mentioned that on the Halloween Parade, we used Starcom, and we probably had about 30 portables all throughout Galena, and we had good radio communication and it worked very well. Sgt. Gonzalez stated that the only problems we have had are in low-lying areas, i.e. bottoms of hills and valleys; the mobiles are able to pick up signals, but the portables we had trouble getting out. They were still better than what we are working with currently. Gonzalez commented that she likes that when you don't have service, it tells you, and beeps at you; there is a loud beep that you're not transmitting, so we don't have the issue of an officer putting out a message thinking that it's being received on the other end, but not know it, so you do get an alert.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m. following a motion made by Helen Kilgore and seconded by Jeff Wood.

Next meeting date is Wednesday, December 7, 2022 in the Jo Daviess County Sheriff's Conference Room.