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MINUTES OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY ETS BOARD

MEETING OF MAY 6, 2014

Chairman Mike Ingles called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll call showed the following present, Mike Ingles, Joe Stock, Mike Frickey, Al Lindsey, Bob Meiner, Al Metzke, William Peterson and Dee Woodburn, Absent were Jim Woolford and John Tibbs. Also present were Marty Fannin, Livingston County Board Chairman; Mark Runyon, Livingston County Board; Neal Ragan and Jim Degenhart, Ragan Communications and Candi Bradshaw.

June Slagel, Financial Specialist; arrived later in the meeting.

Ingles led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meiner arrived to the meeting at 18:48 p.m.

A motion was made by Peterson with a second by Stock to approve the April 8th board minutes. Voice vote was unanimous.

A motion made by Frickey, a second made by Peterson to approve the April financial reports. A roll call vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Ingles stated they now have a resolution to the interim increases that leveled the playing field. He stated they brought resolution to the Duffy / SELCAS issue at the last meeting. He said going forward he would like to have a couple board members along with Slagel, to meet and consolidate the three budgets into one. He stated he had checked with the State's Attorney and auditors etc. and everybody agrees we can operate with a consolidated budget. Ingles explained how he planned to do the consolidation of the budgets. He said he would have Wittenberg and

Bradshaw get together and break down what is in each line item and put it into a spreadsheet. A discussion was held on the consolidation. Bradshaw asked if for the mandates for ICC will she be able to separate what 911 and wireless monies are spent on which items. Fannin stated he knew what she needed and it could be put into detail sub-accounts.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Ingles turned the meeting over to Neal Ragan with Ragan Communications. Neal began by saying he was giving the board his opinions on 41 years of experience in public safety. He stated one of the things that came up at the fire meeting was we lost range with narrow banding, which he said was true. He stated what bothered him most was hearing that in 2018 they would have to narrow band again for the next phase. He stated 2018 was mentioned as a date when they first started this project 20 years ago. He explained why everyone had to narrow band. Neal stated he called the FCC to check out that date and was told originally 2018 was the date 20 years ago but they have no clue as to when that will happen now.

Neal went into a discussion about coverage holes within the county. He stated they came over and ran some tests. He stated they did everything from the car on portables and they had Wittenberg with them. He said they did not have any problems that day even though he has heard problems himself. Ragan went into the importance of batteries in the portables and why this could be part of the problem. He said people are under the assumption that if you turn on your radio and it comes on the batteries are fine. He stated that is wrong and explained why. He stated it takes a lot more power to transmit than to receive. He stated the typical life for a battery is 1 ½ to 2 years; they should then be changed. Ragan stated the way the system was designed we use a voting system. We are sending everything out of the Odell Tower and when officers are in schools and buildings the signal is coming from Odell to Dwight or Pontiac which helps the receiver but does not help the transmitter. One of the last pieces of equipment needing to be

replaced is the voters. (He stated the consoles will have to be replaced at some time.) He said by replacing the voters, (which needs to be done anyway); the current voters can only go out on one transmitter but the new voters can select transmitters so we would be able to steer Dwight to the Dwight Tower and Pontiac to the Pontiac Tower to transmit. He said when testing they went to the schools, basement of the PD and RR Donnelly's in Dwight and they could talk back to dispatch but could not hear. He stated they went back to the PD basement, called LIVCOM and had them switch to the Dwight transmitter for Dwight and then went back to the schools, PD basement and RR Donnelly's and it was clear as a bell. He stated the only place they could not talk out of was RR Donnelly's and that meant either the receiver there has a problem or that building is impenetrable. Ragan said they could also do that for the County with the Chatsworth Tower. He stated that the county has spare radios they took out of service when the narrow banding was done and they are in good shape and have been updated. He also said we have all the sites licensed for transmitters, which was done back when Dennis Higgins was here. He stated what they would propose, is to replace the voters; this does not cost a monthly fee and which needs to be done anyway; then they could steer Dwight to the Dwight Tower and Pontiac to the Pontiac Tower to transmit instead of listening off the Odell Tower. He stated this would improve their coverage immensely. He also stated they could do the same for the Sheriff's Department by putting something on the Chatsworth Tower to transmit to help improve their coverage. He said this could be fairly inexpensively, but we need to replace the voters.

He stated he was not here to put down Star Com and the ambulances services would benefit from Star Com because they go outside the county and right now Pontiac because of the Pontiac Tower being right here. He said if they change to what he proposed for steering the voters you could get the same coverage without paying the monthly fees. He did say they could not talk to the State Police though.

Ragan stated they only tested the west side of the county due to Wittenberg had another appointment he had to get to. He talked about the testing they did and how it went. He wanted to test the southeast side of the county but wants someone from here to be with them when they test. Several questions were asked and answered. He stated we have F1 & P1 high power (300 watts) which we got when we first came up and he doesn't think we could get that today due to our proximity to Chicago. He also talked about preventative maintenance on the radios and infrastructure.

Ragan stated he didn't think we would be able to get out of the tower business due to having to do paging for fire departments and cell phones in his opinion were not a good first option. He stated they would be a good second option but to contact Washington and talk to them about how the cell phones went down in seconds after the tornado and weren't back up for days. He talked about the pros and cons of Star Com along with the portable issues at the airport when Obama came to Peoria.

Ragan discussed about the use of the microphones on the portables and how that affects the transmissions out to others. He discussed how a lot of our radios can be upgraded to digital and a discussion on radios. He also stated if we go to Star Com we need to find out what we can and can't do. The Sheriff talked about how they have talked about Star Com but also he wanted Ragan's to come to talk about the options we had with him. Further discussion was held on the current radio system we have along with all the towers.

It was decided Ragan's should do more testing with at least one person from the board or the different departments along with them. Ingles stated he would talk to Wittenberg to coordinate the testing with Ragan's and other personnel to go with them.

Ingles stated that earlier it was discussed about a consultant and it's possible they would like to do that so he asked Ragan if he could get them the names of two or three consultants for them

to look at in case they decide to go that route. Ingles thanked them for coming to the meeting.

- b. Stock stated in the past they have gotten plaques for past board members. Stock made a motion to provide plaques for Stoller and Knight with a second by Lindsey. Roll call vote was unanimous.

COORDINATORS REPORT: Other than what was in her report she stated she sent all board members the 911 advisory report she received from ICC. She also reported she has all the new invoices made and sent out along with getting Cullom's new agreement back and signed.

MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: Nothing other than what was in his report.

Closing comments from the public – None.

Executive Session - (5ILCS 120/2)(c)(1) Personnel – not needed.

Closing comments from chairman and board members - None.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Woodburn with a second by Metzke. Voice vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Candi Bradshaw Candi Bradshaw