

VERMILION VALLEY
REGIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
JOINT AUTHORITY

VERMILION VALLEY REGIONAL E.T.S.B.

**MINUTES OF VERMILION VALLEY REGIONAL EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS JOINT AUTHORITY / ETS BOARD**

MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2017

Chairman Woolford called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.

Roll call showed the following present, Jim Woolford, Al Metzke, Paul Johnson, Robert Turner and Mark Travis. Alternates filling in for Flott was Robert Young, for Causer was Chief Runyon and for Wrighton was Chief Bird. Absent were Jerry Causer, William Flott, Scot Wrighton, and Mike Ingles. Also present were Robert Young, Livingston County Board Chairman; John Clemmer, Livingston County Financial Specialist; Gary Bird; Streator Fire Chief, Scott Runyon, Pontiac Fire Chief; Tim Henson, Dwight Police Chief and Randy Wittenberg.

Woolford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Woolford asked if there were any questions or corrections on the April 12th Minutes (there was no May meeting) presented to the board. There were none. A motion was made to approve the April minutes by Metzke with a second by Turner. Voice vote was unanimous with all ayes. Wrighton joined the meeting late.

Wittenberg gave a presentation on the budget and where 911 and dispatch were at in their budgets. He reported they were both in very good shape. Once the bills made it around the table Woolford asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which was made by Travis with a second by Turner. A roll call vote was unanimous with all ayes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Woolford reported on the history of the issue with the Dwight Tower. He stated they have looked at several different options to correct the coverage issue they have been having. He explained several of those options they

considered along with meetings with Motorola. He stated in the end they met with Motorola and discussed putting equipment on the north water tower with a cost of approximately \$245,000.00. Wittenberg stated he talked with Steve of Motorola this morning and told him the numbers were not acceptable and they needed to re-work them. He also stated they would have to come up with a payment plan for next year so he could get it included in next year's budget. Wittenberg felt they would be able to get this started fairly quickly. He reported obviously there was an issue with the money but he explained how all it would help in the county. He is hoping to get it down to under \$200,000.00. Travis explained they have the same problems in Fairbury that Dwight has been having. His concern is once Dwight is taken care of there still is a problem in the county, Fairbury. Woolford discussed on Dwight voicing concerns in the beginning and Fairbury said they did not want the repeaters up front. A big discussion was held on coverage within buildings and costs. It was also discussed that Vermilion Valley Board needs a consistent policy as to how to make this fair all over the county. Woolford stated they thought Dwight didn't meet the base level of service so that needed to be addressed. He also thought that when bringing new entities into the system, they should not have to take on that burden as a board. A long discussion was held on this topic as well as the Fairbury issues. Wittenberg stated he could go to Fairbury and ride with Travis in a car with the repeater to see what they may need. Henson explained Dwight's position of having problems since the beginning of the radio project and sitting in the Motorola meetings, knowing Dwight was 20 miles away from a tower. They tried to use vehicle repeaters to help solve the problem. He also stated this wasn't a matter of not being able to hear inside a building or being able to talk on a portable. He said it's a matter of going on calls and having no communications at all. He also stated V-com is calling his officers because they have a call that came in and his officers are not hearing them. Henson went on to explain some of the situations his officers are in with this problem. A discussion was held on this. Travis updated the board on the problems his officers are also having with radio communications. A discussion was held on the issue of cars running in order for the repeaters to work in the cars. Another discussion was held on possible ideas to correct issues for both towns. Wrighton also discussed what the responsibility of the board is or should be and how this problem was agreed upon to be handled from the beginning. Woolford stated his recommendation is to allow Wittenberg to continue discussion with Motorola and finalize some numbers to bring back to the board so they can make a decision. Another discussion was held on whether there were any other

towers in between Dwight and Fairbury that could help out with the situation and other possible issues within the county and scenarios.

A motion for Wittenberg to meet with Motorola to try to get the figures down on the solution for Dwight was made by Metzke and seconded by Johnson. Wrighton stated he agreed with the motion but he stated going forward they need sufficient clarity about what is local responsibility and what is Vermilion Valley's responsibility. Another discussion was held. A voice vote was held with all ayes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fire Department Dispatch Procedures – Wittenberg stated he has been working with the 3 chiefs on fire department dispatch procedures and they did come to an agreement. He said what the board had before them was those new procedures and policies. He stated there are more than this and they are working to get those typed up right now. He reported on the process they went through to update these procedures. Wittenberg asked that the board approve these new procedures going forward so they could train the dispatchers on the new fire procedures. Then, he stated they could hold them accountable for the things they don't do. A discussion was held. A motion to approve and finalize the new fire procedures was made by Travis with a second by Young. A roll call vote was unanimous with all ayes.

Auditor Selection – Wittenberg reported that Mac and Associates who does the auditing for the county, gave him a bid for \$6,000 for 2017, \$6,150 for 2018 and \$6,300 for 2019. Wittenberg said they have not gotten a competing quote from anyone else. Clemmer reported he would be surprised if they would get a lesser quote and his reason as to why. Woolford said they would table this item. Wittenberg stated he would get some other bids and get back to the board.

Coordinator's Report – Wittenberg stated the highlights were the SB1839 which was passed and sent to the Governor to sign. He stated it would raise our surcharge from 87 cents to \$1.50.

Director's Report – Wittenberg reported the power was out at Dwight the other day so he went up to Dwight. Media Com was there and got everything transferred to the generator. He said they had to replace the light at the Odell Tower which, the county paid for since it is their tower. He reported a new tower is being built next to the Chatsworth tower by the tower company and they are putting all new equipment on the tower at no cost to us. He also reported the dispatch center is running pretty well with

no employee issues. He reported they did have some payroll issues a while back where he missed some hours, which were rectified. Wittenberg stated he talked to the union rep on this issue and also they talked about it possibly being September to open up negotiations. Wrighton stated he thought that sometime in the future they need to hold an executive session to give the negotiation team some parameters to go by for negotiations.

Closing comments from the public – None.

There was no need to go into executive session.

Closing comments from Chairman or board members – Woolford thanked everyone who has reached out to him for what he is going through with his daughter. He also stated he hopefully will have a little more time to get with Wittenberg to work on some things discussed from this meeting and moving forward.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Young with a second by Wrighton. Voice vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Candi Bradshaw 