

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 DECEMBER 12, 2018

Vice-Chairman Metzke called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

Roll call showed the following present, Jim Woolford (arrived at 11:09 a.m.), Al Metzke, Paul Johnson, William Flott, Mark Travis, Mike Ingles, Robert Turner, Scot Wrighton and Scott Runyon. Absent were none. Also present was Diane Schwahn, Liv. Co. Director of Finance; Dave Lander, Supreme Radio; Candi Bradshaw and Randy Wittenberg.

Metzke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Metzke stated the Board Minutes for November 14th were in their packets and asked if there were no comments he would entertain a motion to approve. A motion was made to approve the Board Minutes of November 14th by Flott with a second by Turner. A voice vote was unanimous with all ayes. Motion carried.

Metzke stated financials reports & bills for November were in their packets and if no discussion he asked for a motion to approve the financial reports and bills for November. A motion to approve was made by Runyon with a second by Johnson. A roll call vote was unanimous with all ayes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approve dispatch consoles – Wittenberg reported he handed out a pack of 3 vendors. Ragans, Xybix and Watson Furniture all put in bids. He reported there was really no difference in the furniture itself however he stated actually Xybix had a little more with it and XYbix includes taking down the old consoles and hauling them away. The other two did not and require us to have an empty room or additional fees to do this. Ragan's bid was \$113,500.00 but did not include some additional things they would have to buy which would bring it up to par would be about \$120,000.00, Watsons bid was \$116,836.00 and Xybix was \$90,213.00. A discussion was held with Wittenberg stating he had looked at all 3 in dispatch centers and 2 at the Springfield Show and all 3 are nice and would serve their

needs. It was discussed how this money is in the capital fund budget and how the vendor's price track with what they put in that plan. He stated if we lease it, it will track fine. He stated it was a 5 year standard buy out lease. It was said we would have to wait until January 1 to execute. Another discussion was held. Wittenberg stated he would recommend a 5 year lease. A motion was made to approve the Dispatch Consoles from Xybix, the lowest qualified price and proceed after January 1, 2019 by Wrighton with a second by Metzke. A roll call vote was unanimous with all ayes. Motion carried.

As brought up on the floor - None

NEW BUSINESS:

Approve Proposed 2019 Meeting Schedule – Woolford asked if everyone has had time to look over the 2019 proposed meeting schedule he would entertain a motion to approve. A motion was to approve the proposed 2019 meeting schedule by Ingles with a second by Turner. A voice vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

End of year employee incentives – Wittenberg stated in the past they had given out Chamber Bucks and stating any monetary gift they give would have to be taxed. He stated he wanted to remain neutral due to he would participate in it. He thought the board should decide what to do. He stated the telecommunicators have done a really good job this past year. He said they usually bring in food for them at Christmas time. A discussion was held. Wrighton stated if they have really pulled together like Wittenberg has stated they need to have ways to recognize that. He wanted to stay away from money. Wittenberg stated they could buy them a couple of hoodies with Vermilion Valley embroidered on them and continue to provide the shifts some food. Travis asked what some of the other entities do for their employees. Another long discussion was held. It was decided to do the hoodies and cater in food from Bernardi's for each of the individual shifts. A long discussion was held on the hoodies with the Vermilion Valley embroidered on them. Wrighton stated they have given the Director direction on what to do, so as long as he does not violate the budget they do not need to make a motion on this.

As brought up on the floor – Wrighton stated he had a couple of items. He inquired if Wittenberg was making a presentation at the Streator City Council Meeting next week. He also stated he thought Wittenberg along with some members of the board would be making presentations to all of the Big 5. Wittenberg stated he talked with Chairman Woolford and thought it would be best to do those meetings in February due to our year not ending until the end of December. A discussion was held on the purpose of these meetings. Wrighton stated he didn't feel they needed to wait until February and wanted to know where they were at with the scheduling. Wrighton also reported the second thing he wanted to say is that this is his last meeting as a regular board member. He said the Streator City Council will be naming Gary Bird as his replacement and he would be the alternate. Ingles stated it was brought up at a county meeting as to what to put in for dispatch. A

lengthy discussion was held on this subject. Wittenberg stated he is having some trouble finding an attorney who wants to do our business in regards to making new agreements. Wrighton stated they also are limited due to not wanting to do business with an attorney who is doing business with one of the Big 5. A discussion was held on an attorney in Springfield by Ingles. Wrighton also brought up a Steve Mahrt, an attorney in Bloomington also. A discussion was held on the new agreements not being much different than the old ones. Wittenberg stated he would give this gentleman a call.

Wrighton stated he would still like for Wittenberg to make it for their December meeting if possible and get the other meetings scheduled. Wittenberg stated they could make it work. A discussion was held on when to have the other meetings. Wittenberg stated he would send a schedule out to everyone when the meetings are set.

Woolford stated he wanted to thank Wrighton for his service to the board. Everyone thanked him for his service and expertise he brought to the board.

Coordinator's Report – Bradshaw reported she had nothing new to report other than what was in her report. She did state she is going through the Call Handling Agreements which she is starting to get back. She stated she is also waiting for the Annual Report information to come in from the State so she can work on that.

Director's Report – Wittenberg reported he has 12 full time telecommunicators and 5 part timers. He reported he has on part-timer starting after the first of the year. He stated they will be losing one who got a job with the State of Illinois. He stated he has one trained and ready to go to fill that full time position. He stated there are 2 in training right now and doing well. They should be off of training by the middle of January.

Wittenberg reported he informed the fire departments at the LCMAA Meeting that they would be shutting down the UHF radio system on December 31, 2021. He told them they would be coming out with a grant. He stated Chief Johnson sent him the information this morning and will be sending it on to them so they can get their grant information back to him and Chief Johnson by February 1st so they can apply for the grant to help them move forward. Wittenberg reported he thought the meeting went fairly well. Wittenberg stated they will all get a letter. He reported they have already gotten one letter but will be getting another letter. It will be sent to their board/trustees. He reported he meets monthly with Bud Hicks of Grundy County and they are working on interoperability together.

He reported they had a GIS meeting with the State and we are participating in this. A discussion was held on our current GIS system concerning Streator. A long discussion was held on this topic and our GIS vendor.

Wittenberg reported they had their first Crime Stoppers Meeting. He reported it went well. He said they will have a meeting next month in Streator where they will

dissolve their board and we will bring the new board in. He hopes they will be up and running by February. He said they started the process with the phone number change. Turner stated they got forms today that he and Bradshaw are working on. A discussion was held on this topic.

Wittenberg reported that he and Runyon had a meeting with Motorola about a new siren warning system set off by Star Com. He stated our current system is UHF so we need to make a change. They have said they are willing to do a pilot test of that. He said they are waiting for them to get back to them to see what it is going to take to do the test. He said at some point there will be a cost for us and the city and the other communities who have weather sirens. Flott asked if that would be a capital expense with Wittenberg saying yes it would. A discussion was held on this.

Closing comments from the public – Flott asked where the call goes from the blue light boxes at the train station if people need help. Bradshaw stated she had received a message when it was opening. She said she tried to contact them to say they could not use the push button to call 911; they actually need to dial 911. She tried to contact them 3 or 4 times and left messages but no one has returned her calls. She stated automatic dialers are technically illegal in Illinois. A discussion was held.

There was no need to go into executive session.

Closing comments from Chairman or board members – Woolford said he and the City of Pontiac are happy about the coordinated effort with Crime Stoppers. He stated at the last City Council Meeting they made a resolution to support it.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Flott with a second by Wrighton. Voice vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Candi Bradshaw 