

**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**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2020**

Chairman Woolford called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Roll call showed the following present, Jim Woolford, Jacob Campbell, William Flott, Jim Hargitt, Gary Bird, and Tony Childress. Absent was Robert Turner, Tim Henson, and Paul Johnson. Also present was Candi Bradshaw and Randy Wittenberg.

Woolford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Woolford stated this a meeting of the Committee of the Whole and there would be no need for any action being taken at this meeting.

**MEETING DISCUSSIONS:**

Member Nominations – Wittenberg stated they would be sending out lists to the municipalities whose board members terms are up. They can re-nominate that person or send us a new nominee. He just wanted to make everyone aware this was going on.

Revenue Model – Wittenberg went through revenue information he put on the board for the dispatch entities and telco and wireless. He stated right now we have a positive cash flow this year so no increases will be made to dispatch entities for 2020. He reported they have a little over \$200,000.00. His goal is to put money into a couple more CDs so that we can get our reserve funding they are trying to get to. Wittenberg stated he needed some guidance going into 2021 if they will need to raise fees and what that would look like. He also stated he thought they needed to create a policy around this to allow them to have a mechanism to kick in for when they do need to increase fees. He stated also this year they will have to negotiate the dispatch contract. He discussed the wages the dispatchers make. A discussion was held on this. A discussion was held on the capital budget / fund.

Another discussion was held on what they need to have in reserve as well as what they will need to be doing in dispatch in the future. Hargitt stated they might have to do an evaluation every couple of years saying what they have replaced and look down the road at when we need to replace equipment again, etc. A lengthy discussion was held on the topic of equipment replacement. He reported on NG911 and texting. He talked to Champaign 911 about texting and they said they only get 5 or 6 texts a month, which he stated was surprising. He stated First Net is also something else they have to work with. A discussion was held on this. Woolford discussed about in the past they were almost in trouble financial wise, but now they are good again and wants the board to have the foresight to stay that way. A discussion was held on this concerning increases. He stated the justification of our capital funds and reserves need to be expressed to our municipalities and do smaller increases over time instead of big ones. Wittenberg stated he would make some revenue models to look at, what revenues would look like and how to get there. He stated they could look at it briefly at the next board meeting and the committee then could do a deeper look into it. A discussion was held on this and the fire departments and the per capita model for municipalities. Another long discussion was held which included EMS and number of calls.

MABAS Radio Proposal - Wittenberg stated he sent out copies to everyone and didn't know if they got a chance to read it. He reported the annual service fees are about \$20,000.00 less than that. He stated he met with Gary Swartz the other day. Wittenberg wants to have meetings now with Supreme, Ragan's and Motorola and talk about what the hard costs are on both of the proposals and see where they are at. Some of his concerns are this is not what it would look like today but several years down the line. He is also concerned that there is no UHF radios in any surrounding counties around us. He stated they probably would not be able to expand the UHF System outside the county. He also was concerned about if they would decide to bring in another county it would be a huge cost to either the other county or us. A lengthy discussion was held on UHF along with how expensive it is to maintain. Another lengthy discussion was also held on Star Com radios. Hargitt asked Wittenberg if he had talked to Motorola about the Fairbury Tower. Wittenberg stated he has had some general conversations about a lot of things. He said they are doing a study on portables and mobiles. He reported they have other blind spots within the county. A discussion was held on this. Woolford stated they need to decide what is their priority and a long or short term plan. Another lengthy discussion was held. Woolford said they need to take some time to look at their priorities.

As brought up on the floor - Wittenberg stated he had a conflict with the next meeting date of March 11<sup>th</sup> and was wondering if they could change the date to March 12<sup>th</sup>. He stated he would shoot everyone out an e-mail concerning this.

Closing comments from public - None

Closing comments from Chairman and board members - None.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Flott with a second by Bird. Voice vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Candi Bradshaw 