

**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 APRIL 14, 2021**

Wittenberg called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

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

Wittenberg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Wittenberg stated the Board Minutes for January 13<sup>th</sup> & March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 & Feb 10<sup>th</sup> Committee Minutes were in their packets. A motion was made to approve the January 13<sup>th</sup> Minutes March 10<sup>th</sup>, the February 10<sup>th</sup> Committee Minutes by Flott with a second by Hargitt. A roll call vote of was unanimous with all ayes. Motion carried.

Wittenberg stated financial reports & bills for January, February & March were not there yet due to Schwahn was to bring them to the meeting and she was not there yet

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Update on RFP – Wittenberg stated the RFP was sent out to the vendors and he is waiting for feedback on it. Once he gets the final RFP at the end of the month he will share that with the board members and he will e-mail a copy of that out to them.

As brought up on the floor – Wittenberg told the Sheriff that he is having meetings with Motorola later this month concerning the tower. Sheriff explained about a chase which led to occupants running into a field just north of the 47 & 116 intersection and they had no radio contact, stating something needs to be done with this area due to a serious safety issue.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Update on Hiring of Dispatch Supervisor – Wittenberg reported the new Dispatch Supervisor would be Sarah Cook. He stated she starts May 3, 2021. He also stated he is working with the

Sheriff's department so that she can work with us and the Sheriff's Department to get things done over there.

As brought up on the floor – None.

Coordinator's Report – Bradshaw was not present but Wittenberg stating if there were any questions on her written report he would be glad to answer them.

Director's Report – Wittenberg reported the biggest thing in his report right now is they have a Covid outbreak in the dispatch center. He stated they worked really hard to keep it out of the center. He said they offered vaccinations which most of them did not take it. As of yesterday they have had 7 or 8 dispatchers with Covid within the last 14 days. He said they are starting to get them back now with one still to be gone until a week from Monday. He stated they went the full 14 days quarantine instead of 10 days to ensure they are safe to come back. He stated they have 2 dispatchers whom have not had Covid and they may come down with it.

Wittenberg stated the hospital is starting a training program at the end of the month and he will have 2 people on the committee and he will serve as an executive type overseeing committee and try to do some more EMS/EMD training with the dispatchers. He reported last week they had the bank robbery up in Odell. He thought it went fairly well for them but there were a couple of things they could have done better and they have listened to the tapes and they are going to change some policies and procedures around on how they handle major events like that. One thing he stated he has learned from the past couple of events like that is they need to remain on the phone with people longer. They get in such a hurry to dispatch but now they have enough dispatchers who can dispatch while they stay on the phone longer with the people. He stated the longer they stay on the phone the calmer they get the more information they can give us. He went on to explain this further. Sheriff talked about the call coming into the center on an administrative line instead of a 911 line with a trainee answering the call. Sheriff talked to the bank President about making sure when they dial 911 it comes in on 911 and does not go to an administrative line. Wittenberg discussed how when VOIP telephone systems dial 911 it goes to a national database and if they don't have anybody to answer the phone it goes to an answering service. Wittenberg also stated he informed the trainee that she should have immediately turned and told a seasoned dispatcher she had a bank robbery and turned the call over to them. He stated within the next month they will be sending out letters to all the banks stating if they have a VOIP phone system to make sure they have it set up with their phone company that if they dial 911 it goes directly to the 911 center. Sheriff also suggested that once they have that taken care of they call the dispatch center on an administrative line to do some testing with dialing 911 to ensure it comes in on a 911 line. Hargitt also suggested they send letters out to the Chamber of Commerce to let their people who have VOIP phone systems know about this also. Sheriff also stated he talked to Campus Bank who was upset he found out 1 ½ hours later from a customer that the Odell Bank was robbed. Wittenberg stated they were supposed to call the all the other banks and let them know. Sheriff stated evidently Campus Bank did not called. He suggested that a protocol be set up that a non-emergency person to make those bank calls. A discussion was held on this. Wittenberg stated he will make sure Campus Bank is on the call list.

There was no need to go into executive session for (5ILCS 120/2)(c)(1) Personnel Matters Executive Session.

Closing comments from public – None

Closing comments from Chairman and board members – Hargitt stated at the last meeting Johnson stated Dwight was not going to participate in any additional UHF costs outside of their normal dispatch fee. He stated he talked to Wittenberg about this was asking what about the tornado sirens? He stated if V-Com has to set them off and those have to stay UHF then each community should have some portion of that additional UHF cost. Johnson stated his opinion on this was they were all told everyone would be on Star Com by 2021. A lengthy discussion was held on this issue with Johnson explaining the whole process with Runyon and himself doing a grant and trying to get any other departments to participate in it. Therefore he stated since the fire departments decided not to go to Star Com and his department has invested a lot of money switching over to Star Com. He stated if there is something that requires the tornado sirens to work he would be interested in spending that money. He explained further. Hargitt explained further about Fairbury Fire is going to stay on UHF and he was told at a committee meeting that Fairbury would pay for part of it and V-Com would pay part of it. Flott stated he did not think that happened. More discussion was held on that issue. Flott also stated that he didn't think the county board is planning on spending additional money for the UHF System since they gave \$3 million dollars at the start of this. Campbell added to the discussion on this. Another lengthy discussion was held. Johnson explained that the tornado sirens can work as is with a Star Com radio attached to them and a Star Com dispatch fee attached to each siren and not having to replace all of the tornado sirens. Johnson explained he talked to Kinzinger and there is enough money out there for grants for everyone to be able to get this done for our county. More discussion was held. Wittenberg stated the Star Com fee is something he has had with Motorola in the past and they are willing to make it one fee for us instead of by agency but we have to be all in not just the police departments. They have done this for other counties as well. He also stated he will go down the process with the UHF System within the radio project RFP. He stated they need a comparable. More conversations were held. Wittenberg also stated he thinks Kinzinger and Barickman are going to want to find projects within their districts to spend money on. Henson also explained how he agrees with Johnson. Wittenberg also explained how there were 3 towers around the perimeter of Livingston County that were not turned on to us. They were Lexington, Minonk and Herscher. They are turned on to us now and should help with coverage. Johnson stated whoever is in charge of this grant project needs to work with Motorola to ensure they have everything needed included so they don't miss something. A discussion was also held by Flott about when Streator came on board with us we demanded they come onto the Star Com system and they paid for their own equipment and they also paid for their Spillman. A discussion was held on this.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Flott with a second by Childress. Voice vote was unanimous with all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Candi Bradshaw Candi Bradshaw