

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 JANUARY 12, 2022
ZOOM MEETING

Chairman Woolford called the zoom meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

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

Woolford asked to by-pass the Pledge of Allegiance at this time and each do a pledge on our own.

Woolford inquired about the Board Minutes for November 17th for last meeting and December 16th Finance Minutes with Bradshaw stating they were not ready yet. Woolford stated financial reports & bills for November and December were in their packets and if no discussion he asked for a motion to approve the bills and financial reports for November and December. A motion to approve was made by Flott with a second by Hargitt. A roll call vote was unanimous with all ayes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on the Retirement Program - Wittenberg reported that December 31, 2021 was Bill Kelly's last day. He officially retired. He stated he is now participating in the retirement program we provided and they are waiting to hear from one more employee. He stated it is working really well for Bill and he appreciated everything the board did for him and wanted Wittenberg to pass that along to the board.

As brought up on the floor – Nothing.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Supervisors Positions – Wittenberg stated they always used senior telecommunicator in charge and that no longer is effective for them. He reported they work in pods and 12 hour shifts with the same people working together all of the time. He stated he got with the union and the union has agreed they can have named supervisors. Those named supervisors would then be in charge of that shift. He explained the reason they are doing this is so they can have some continuity and more accountability so they had somebody to go to on that shift. He stated by naming supervisors one each of those shift they now have people who are responsible, know what's going and accountability for that shift. He explained a little more of doing this like the PDs do and he stated that is why he thinks the union approved of him doing this change. He also wanted the board to know about and also vote on this, which the union approved. He stated their shift change starts on Monday so this change will also start on Monday. Woolford wanted Wittenberg to report about a stipend. Wittenberg stated right now whoever was in charge received a small increase for while they were in charge and now it will be a stipend for the named supervisor, which Wittenberg stated it was pretty much a wash. He stated they would also like Supervisors to take Supervisor overtime. He stated in the next contract they will probably insist on it. Woolford added how it works on their shifts and it works pretty well. He also added for the dispatch center they have a lot of young talent that may not be supervisor ready right now. He also stated it may be a model they may have to change from time to time. Wittenberg stated everyone was given the opportunity to apply. He stated he and Cook interviewed them and made the decisions and they have received no push back from them. He stated Rakoczy and Snow are supervisors along with Rexroad and Stow are the other supervisors. Woolford stated hearing no further comments he would entertain a motion to approve the Supervisors Positions changes made by the Director was made by Turner with a second by Johnson. A roll call vote was unanimous with all ayes. Motion carried.

As brought up on the floor – Wittenberg stated they did get the grant completed and had a finance committee meeting this morning and went through it and it has been turned into Cindy at the State. He stated he would be communicating with her this afternoon. He stated it wasn't due until February 1st so they got it in nice and early so they can make any adjustments that need to be made. He stated he asked her for about a half million dollars and that would include a complete fly over of the county, will also include new call handling equipment upstairs and should give us about 75 thousand dollars in cash to use on other projects. Woolford stating that 75 thousand dollars cash is for reimbursements for GIS money we have already spent to become 911 compliant.

Coordinator's Report – Bradshaw reported the only thing other than what was in her written report is she reported she has been on vacation for about 2 weeks and

since she has been back she has been playing catch up and has spent about 90% of her time working on getting the call handling agreements out so she can start her Annual AFR Report State report. She reported that is why the minutes are not ready yet.

Director's Report - Wittenberg reported they are fully staffed right now. He also stated Cook is continuing to grow in the position and has done a great job in handling things that have gone on in the dispatch center. He also state they are handling some Covid right now and have 4 dispatchers with Covid at the moment. He has one coming back today so they are working through that. He stated their Covid Protocols are still in place and that is why we offered the zoom meeting today. He stated the biggest amount of his time has been spent on this grant. He said Cindy from the State 911 Office has been great and has helped him in every way to get this done. He will be communicating with her today. He sent it up to her today and asked her to review it and let him know if there is anything he needs to adjust on it. He stated other than that they are doing pretty well. They haven't had any disciplinary actions. He said they are having some problems with some tornado alarms in Streator but they are working through them as best they can.

Closing comments from public - None.

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

Closing comments from Chairman and board members - Woolford stated as they are turning the page hopefully getting this grant applied for, the finance committee and our attention is going to shift towards strategic planning, looking at longevity structure as well as our fee based structure we have been talking about as well. He said at the next finance committee meeting they are hoping to have some EAV numbers as well as all of our other formulas in place to take a look at and hopefully bring to the board a sustaining model looking forward to years ahead. Wittenberg stated he did talk to the Assessor's Office and the final EAVs will be available to us sometime in February.

Turner stated since he has been promoted to Chief he has had a conflicting meeting with our meeting. He reported that meeting has been changed to 9:00 a.m. so he should be able to make most of our meetings going forward. Woolford stated that was good news for us.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Flott with a second by Hargitt. Voice vote was unanimous with all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Candi Bradshaw Candi Bradshaw