

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
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF
DECEMBER 16, 2021

Finance Chairman Flott called the finance meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Roll call showed the following present, William Flott, Jim Woolford and Jim Hargitt. Also present was Sarah Cook, Candi Bradshaw and Randy Wittenberg.

Flott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Wittenberg began the meeting by stating the purpose of the meeting today was to get each of them a copy of the 2 grants for them to read over the next few days. Hargitt asked if they were only for 911 systems with Wittenberg stating yes they are 911 system consolidation and expense grants and are done by the 911 System, Cindy Barbera-Brelle of the State. He stated in the consolidation grant program one there is 5 million dollars available and the expense grant program there is a little over 8.7 million available. He reported they would put as much into both of these as they can and see if they can get some money out of it. He stated he has already started the process stating they now file everything through a Federal Grant Program. He stated he has a DUNS Number for us and is working on getting SAMS Number and should have it tomorrow and then he can start filling them out. He stated they have already gotten the expense part of it done due to we had those figures in-house. He stated it would be nice if they could get 2 to 3 hundred thousand dollars out of this to help with our project. A discussion was held on who has done this before and who has received some money from this grant in the past. He stated the great thing about this is he can call Cindy anytime and she will help him with it. He also stated he sat through a class the other day on how to do this

so he feels he has a pretty good idea how to do this. He stated he can also call Cindy for help if he needs it.

Wittenberg stated there is going to be another round with the County's grant. He said he hasn't talked to Alina yet and probably won't do that until after the first of the year because that grant window won't open until June or July.

Wittenberg stated he and Woolford sent a letter to Linda Zurwin about the radios they have up there and have not heard back from her. He plans on calling her early next week to see what their reception to it is. He thinks they are in pretty good shape there too. He stated they are just trying to figure out what the cost of that would be. He had a meeting with Supreme and got all the costs to tune them up, put in new firmware and program them. A discussion was held on when they might be available, etc. Hargitt added they are having trouble with a microphone on their base radio and stated sometimes V-Com can hear them and sometimes they can't. Hargitt stated they have a microphone ordered. A discussion was held.

Flott asked if they could go through the 2 grants with Wittenberg stating they could. Wittenberg went through the expense grant first. He reported right now they have the Intrado Call Handling Phone System and it is not working very well for them. They are looking at a system through Call Works that will cost approximately \$200,000 and that can be expensed as part of the this grant to get that replaced upstairs, that is part of the NG911 program. He went on to state the GIS project they have been working on is where the county fly over would come into play there and we have used Crossroad GIS since 2016 and we can re-coop everything we have ever paid them. The amount we just paid Motorola for the new map will qualify also. Wittenberg thought we were looking for \$85,000 to \$90,000 which is money we have already spent. He said that is money we can put directly back into the project. He said he could include maintenance plans but there is probably not a whole lot of other things we can re-coop money on. He stated there is 8.7 million dollars available. He explained how awards will work with the State. He stated these grants will be awarded in June. The window opened up on the 9th, the class he took was the 10th and he started working on it the very next day. He stated the rest of this is a lot of paperwork about budgets and different things they have to have in for this. He also stated there is no matching requirements on either of these grants and it is all done on-line.

Wittenberg began to go through the other grant, which is a 911 system consolidation grant. He stated he applied for one of these before and we did not get it but he believes he knows what the pit-falls were when he applied for it the first time. He stated there is 5 million dollars in this one. He doesn't know what they will be able to re-coop from this but he thinks as long as it is available to us we should go ahead and try to get some money out of it if we can. He stated it is already money we have spent. He explained how this one goes back to when we consolidated with Streator. A discussion was held on what they are looking for.

Flott asked what year did we consolidate with Streator and Wittenberg stated right around May 1, 2016. He stated he has to go back and figure out what money they spent on this. Woolford stated he thought we should apply for every grant we possibly can. Wittenberg stated the consolidation grant could be a long shot because they are going to have to really dig for some information. Flott asked if he would have to write a narrative for the grant with Wittenberg stating he did have to. Flott stated he could read through that for Wittenberg once he has is written. Wittenberg explained about the templates / overlays in the mapping system. He also explained how updates are being done every day. He explained also about a state-wide GIS project going on to allow the state to have a complete map of the entire state. A lengthy discussion was held on the GIS system we use and the Spillman new map they will be getting.

Woolford asked if we had a price for the radios. Wittenberg stated we do not and he is planning on calling her next week to talk about this. Another long discussion was held on this along with whether we should buy any radios for any other departments or should they buy their own. Wittenberg stated if they can find grant money to purchase some radios, then it wouldn't negatively impact us. More discussion was held on possible cost of the radios with Wittenberg stating we still have time to keep looking for grants and such because they won't even get these radios until 3rd quarter of next year. More discussion was held. Woolford threw out for board opinion on his role on the board represents the City of Pontiac who has a fire department that has some portables but not enough and they were part of the grant, a new EMS that probably has none he's guessing, so the acquisition of some radios would benefit the city. He discussed that he has no problem if V-Com were to acquire a reasonable amount of radios, all templated, programmed the same and ready to go to be able to sell to the entities. He asked where the county falls with any perceived or real obligation to those rural citizens that are within fire protection districts. Flott stated with by-laws and all kinds of rules probably none. He also stated that does not mean they wouldn't fund it. What he thought would be better is if some agency, say maybe we handed that off to MABAAS and they got the radios from Grundy and they say you can have them for whatever price. Or maybe the county would say we would pick up the tab on that.

A long discussion was held on possible ways how these radios could be purchased, templated, programmed the same, stored and sold to our entities for this project. It was discussed on whether MABAAS could even be given those radios. Flott thought it would be better if our organization was left out of it. He went on to explain why he feels this way. Another long discussion was held on this topic along with Woolford discussing how the Star Com project was started and what they possibly could do now with getting the radios. Woolford and Wittenberg both feel getting the radios should flow through us in order to make sure all the radios were templated exactly the same. Hargitt discussed how much this could possibly cost us and we would be hard pressed if we do not get those grants. More discussion

was held. Wittenberg stated he would call her about the radios and send the board an e-mail. He stated he would know before he leaves for vacation. Flott stated he would be in favor of us doing the templating at our cost so they were all alike. He also wondered if these fire departments are even taxing to the limit and it could be they are not. A discussion was held on this along with other things concerning the radios. They did state that buying the radios is contingent upon those radios working. Wittenberg and Woolford both stated they like the idea of us being the keepers of the template. More discussion was held.

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

Respectfully submitted by Candi Bradshaw

Candi Bradshaw