

911 COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
December 16, 2009

Deputy Chief Jim Jensen called the meeting of the 911 Commission to order at 1:31 p.m. on December 16, 2009. He noted this meeting was the result of the meeting from last week being rescheduled.

Members present. Deputy Chief Jim Jensen, Janesville Fire Department (Alternate); Chief Dave Moore, Janesville Police Department; Chief Brad Liggett, Beloit Fire Department; Sheriff Bob Spoden, Rock County Sheriff's Office (left at 2:15); Chief Tom Klubertanz, Edgerton Police Department; Mike Soderberg, Town of Turtle Fire Department (Alternate)

Members Not Present: Chief John Wilson, Town of Beloit Police Department; Footville Fire & EMS; Chief Norm Jacobs, Beloit Police Department

Others present. David Sleeter/Kathy Sukus, Rock County Communications Center; Phil Boutwell, Rock County Administration

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda
2. Minutes – November 18, 2009  
Motion to accept as written made by Liggett, Second by Moore; approved
3. Comments from the Public – No public present
4. Discussion of Countywide Communication System  
Phil Boutwell from the Rock County Administrator's Office was present to summarize the handout titled Countywide Communications Systems. This report breaks down Option #2 and Option #4 of the countywide interoperability choices. Phil highlighted that Option #4 would be a "system of systems" that would cover everybody and costs would be allocated on a per radio basis. Option #2, on the other hand, would replace existing equipment and would involve each entity doing what they needed to do to become compliant. Phil stated the report gives everyone involved an idea of costs associated with their own agency.

Sleeter noted that it would probably end up being a tier 3 grant application. He said the Communications Center has \$4,000 in the budget for grant writing, but the total for this grant will most likely be closer to \$8,000-\$10,000.

Sheriff Spoden noted that the consensus is Option #4 as a first choice and Option #2 if we can't get the funding. The Sheriff's Office supports both of these options.

Sleeter noted getting funds earmarked in legislation might be the route to go. Sheriff Spoden stated he has an upcoming trip to Washington planned and will

be meeting with our State Legislators. He suggested the Commission prepare a package outlining the interoperability project for the Legislators to review. Sleeter stated documents for this would probably be ready to go, but a good idea would be to get a letter of intent/interest from municipalities. Jensen agreed that something should be formalized at the Commission level.

A motion was made by Moore for Public Safety to support Option #4 via earmarking and/or grants with public funding, second by Spoden, motion approved.

Phil was questioned as to what the next step would be. He stated we should forward the letter of intent/interest to city managers. Spoden will send documentation to brief appropriate persons in Washington prior to his scheduled trip.

A short discussion took place surrounding how to present Option #4 to the Fire agencies. It was suggested that a presentation be made at the next Fire Officer's meeting.

#### 5. Policy Updates

Commission members were provided with changes to two 911 Policy & Procedures (T1 and R1).

Changes to section T1 were sparked by a recent incident involving a serious accident on the county line where a cellular caller could not be located right away. A nearby 911 Center had the seriously injured caller hang up and try to call 911 back with the hopes that GPS coordinates would show up. The caller did not call back right away. Fortunately several minutes later the caller did end up calling back and GPS coordinates were obtained and they were located.

It was determined that Rock County call takers should have guidelines for situations where the caller cannot verbally give their location and/or the GPS technology isn't working for some reason. There may be other ways to locate callers with the general information the caller is able to provide versus cutting the lifeline and hoping they are able to call back. So before disconnecting with a person in danger and asking them to call back the call taker and agency will need to consider other methods, if any.

Questions regarding changes to policy T1? No. Further discussion? No. Motion to accept policy changes made by Sheriff Spoden, seconded by Klubertanz, approved.

Changes to section R1 were suggested by a Law Workgroup member a couple of months ago. The changes affect how and when simulcasts are performed by the dispatchers. The range of incidents was narrowed to include only very specific, serious events that could affect more than one jurisdiction. Therefore

only certain incidents will be simulcast and instead of just the primary and adjacent agency being included, all (3) main police frequencies will be included on the simulcast.

Questions regarding changes to policy R1? No. Further discussion? No.  
Motion to accept policy changes made by Liggett, seconded by Moore, approved.

5. Informational Items & Updates

It was noted that Larry Grorud has announced his retirement as of December 31, 2010. There may be a need for an election for a new 911 Commission Chair.

6. Next Meeting – January 20, 2010

7. Adjournment – Motion Liggett, Second Klubertanz, Meeting Adjourned at approximately 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara Hanley  
Support Specialist  
Rock County Communications Center