

911 COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
May 14, 2014

Chief Liggett called the meeting of the 911 Commission to order at 1:35 p.m. on March 19, 2014.

Members present: Chief Brad Liggett, Beloit Fire Department; Mary Beaver, Evansville EMS; Chief Terry Wendt, Evansville Fire Department; Chief Tom Kunkel, Town of Milton Police Department; Sheriff Bob Spoden, Rock County Sheriff's Office; Chief David Moore, Janesville Police Department

Members Not Present: Chief Jim Jensen, Janesville Fire Department; Chief Norm Jacobs, Beloit Police Department; Chief Ben Riemer, Town of Fulton Police Department

Others present. Kathy Sukus and Brian Becker, Rock County Communications Center; Dara Mosley and Heather Butler, Rock County IT; Charles Wurtz and Paul Williams, Wurtz Service

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda
Sheriff Spoden called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Motion to approve agenda by Kunkel. Agenda approved.
2. Minutes –March 19, 2014
Motion by Moore to approve minutes as written. January 15, 2014 minutes approved as written.
3. Comments from the Public – Paul Williams spoke on behalf of Wurtz Service and Towing regarding the Towing Policy. To his understanding, Rock County is the only County in the state adopting a similar policy to the State's (WisDOT Emergency Traffic Control and Scene Management Guidelines, Appendix G). Mr. Williams feels the certification requirement will negatively affect their business, and the \$135 per person test every 2 years (Chief Moore noted it is actually every 5 years) is out of date with current towing practices. He feels certification does not equal qualified in this case. Mr. Williams requested input from the Commission regarding the policy.

Sukus stated the conception of the policy began approximately four years ago partially due to a phone call she received from Williams concerning "fly by night" companies being able to get on the no-preference tow list and suggesting some kind of regulations. The complaint was then brought to the workgroup and tweaked for about a year until the DOT came out with their guidelines recommended with the assistance of the Wisconsin Tow Association. The Communications Center has acted as a "middle-man", but individual public safety agencies (Beloit, Town of Beloit, Janesville PDs and Rock S.O.) are responsible for approval/denial and policy enforcement. She stated the policy contains reasonable expectations of a business.

Mr. Williams again reiterated that he felt the required test for certification was out of date, no guarantee of qualified individuals, and basically a waste of money. Sukus stated there were a number of avenues for certification testing. Mr. Williams stated the letter sent out specified the TRA test. Sukus apologized for the miscommunication. Mr. Williams stated Wurtz Service has an employee with test taking difficulties who was unable to gain certification because of this but is an experienced tow operator. Will they have to fire him because he's not certified? He also questioned how to handle seasonal employees hired during the busy season or employees still under the probationary period.

Sukus stated all of Mr. Williams' concerns could be brought back to the workgroup. Sheriff Spoden suggested Mr. Williams outline the issues and offer possible solutions to the workgroup. The workgroup can then use that as a starting point. Mr. Williams was instructed to bring the suggested information to the Sheriff's Office and they can make sure it gets to the workgroup through the office's work group representative.

4. Information Technology - Updates

- a) Motorola Mobile Data: Mosley stated they had their kick-off meeting with Motorola last week. They will be here June 3rd to configure the system. Train the Trainer will begin the week of September 9th and the go-live date will be the week of October 13th. Mosley said they will be reaching out to 4-5 fire personnel and 4-5 law enforcement personnel to help with system requirements.
- b) HipLink Notification System: Mosley stated they were looking into HipLink as an alternative to I Am Responding, which is what some of the volunteer agencies are using. He received preliminary costs and believes it will be far above what agencies will be willing to spend. He questioned if any of the full time departments would have any interest in something like this. None expressed a need.

5. Edgerton Tower Project - Update

Sukus stated the invitation to bid for the Edgerton Tower was sent out and is due May 28th(with contract execution at the end of June). The land has already been purchased and is awaiting closing. A building has been purchased on state contract. Sukus expects the tower to be completed in October 2014 and then additional simulcast equipment for County Law Main and Rock Fire Main will help with the radio coverage in the north-central areas of the County.

6. Annual Report

Sukus went over a few highlights of the 2013 Annual Report:

- 10 pm to 6 am is the busiest time of day.
- Fridays in July are the busiest days.
- 92% of 911 calls are answered in 10 seconds or less.
- 911 calls are 85% cell phones and 15% land lines.

There will be more in depth information on response times next year as well as improved format (thanks to a new publishing software purchase). Sukus stated the 2013 Annual Report also included more of the day to day activities of the Center as well as highlighting community involvement.

It was questioned whether the recent Public Service Announcement the Communications Center did has helped. Sukus stated they'll look into it after a period of 6 months.

7. Informational Items & Updates

a) 1st Quarter Quality Assurance

Sukus noted good grades and response for the 1st Quarter Quality Assurance cards.

b) Edgerton Fire Simulcast

Rich Westgard with General Communications wanted Sukus to let agencies know that with the new Fire Simulcast addition in Edgerton, the State Frequency Coordinator has notified him that our license will be modified to only allow 50 watt mobiles on the frequency. Gen Comm didn't think anyone in the County had anything higher than that, but if they do, they would need to have their mobiles re-programmed to be in compliance with the license. She will bring this up to the fire officers and workgroup also.

c) 911 Commission Appointments

Sukus welcomed the new Commission Members: Mary Beaver with Evansville EMS and Chief Terry Wendt with Evansville Fire.

d) 2015 Budget

Sukus stated she plans to budget funds for Text- to-911 next year (\$14,000/year) as the phone and CAD system are now NextGen911 capable and the cellular working to make it available nationwide. This will be a benefit for the hearing/speech impaired community as it seems no one really uses TDD anymore. It works similar to TDD and NENA already has guidelines out for it. Sukus welcomed agencies to bring any other possible budgetary items to her attention for 2015.

e) Radio Towers

The Blackhawk Technical College receivers (County Main & Rock Fire Main) went up a couple weeks ago. This will improve portable talk into dispatch.

f.) County Administrator

There is a Meet & Greet at the Pontiac Convention Center tomorrow for the County Administrator finalists.

g.) Fire Video

Chief Liggett described a video on the internet of the recent fire on Merrill Street. He suggested an idea for the next Communications Center PSA of encouraging the public to make sure 911 has been called instead of videotaping an incident. Sukus noted things like the Rock County Scanner Facebook page almost encourages citizens to take photos and videos.

8. Next Meeting – July 16, 2014

9. Adjournment – Spoden moved to adjourn Commission meeting. Second by Kunkel. Commission adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tara Hanley
Administrative Assistant
Rock County Communications Center