

911 COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
October 20th, 2021

Members present: Chief David Moore; Janesville Police Department; Sheriff Troy Knudson, Rock County Sheriff's Office; Chief Brian Raupp, Orfordville Police Department; Chief Dan Pease, Beloit Fire Department; Chief Jim Ponkauskas, Janesville Fire Department

Members Not Present: Chief Andre Sayles, Beloit Police Department; Brian Snyder, Town of Beloit Fire Department; Chief Randy Pickering, Edgerton Fire Department; Chief Tom Kunkel, Town of Fulton Police Department

Others present: Kathy Sukus, Brian Becker and Faith Quinlan, Rock County Communications Center; Sara Herzig and Dara Mosley, Rock County IT

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

Chief Pease called the meeting of the 911 Communications Commission to order at 2:01pm. Motion to approve the agenda by Ponkauskas. Second by Moore. All approved.

2. **Minutes – April 21, 2021**

Motion by Ponkauskas to approve minutes as written. Second by Moore. All approved. April 21, 2021 minutes approved as written.

3. **Comments from the Public**

None

4. **Information Technology – Updates**

- 1) Radio Network Separation: Dara Mosley noted the status of the radio network separation as part of the ongoing response to the November 2020 countywide network outage is nearly complete. He indicated they are waiting on a piece of hardware, but supply chain issues are delaying delivery until at least December. Otherwise, work at Blackhawk Tech, Town of Beloit Fire, and the 911 Center is done. The Information Technology department worked on the core switch Saturday 10/16 and there was no impact to the radios. When IT receives and installs the new switch, it might require agencies to go on standby for a few minutes, but there should not be a noticeable impact.
- 2) 911/IT Building Expansion: Mosley discussed the upcoming changes expected during the building expansion. He stated the original plan was to construct most of the IT building, then add on/remodel the 911 center and dispatch areas. This way, dispatch could utilize completed sections of the IT building while the 911 Center construction was underway and vice versa. However, roofing components for the IT section are delayed until May 2022 and now the plan has reversed. Dispatch will be remodeled first, and will move to the conference room area for approximately 3-4 months during that construction. Upgrades to cabling, furniture, flooring, etc. are taking place. There are no dates yet as to when work will begin, but Mosley anticipated more updates this week. He added he is waiting on information from

the architect involving unknown underground cabling and other vendor equipment that will be impacted during the project.

- Sukus reiterated the necessity of the IT addition due to the pending demolition of the Health and Human Services building, where the department is currently housed. The new IT section will be added onto the North side of the 911 Center's building, connected by a common hallway. A quiet room and new office for the Training and Quality Assurance Manager will be added at 911. Three consoles and an elevated platform for supervisors are some highlights of the new dispatch upgrades.

5. Information Items and Updates

- 1) 2022 CALEA Assessment: Sukus discussed the upcoming CALEA assessment, scheduled to take place the week of February 14th, 2022. The process changed to a 4-year on-site rotation, where files are audited yearly on a remote basis. The assessment will be conducted like normal, and will include typical discussion with staff, agencies, etc. She noted that the public would be notified before the evaluation takes place.
- 2) NextGeneration 911: The State ESInet project is still moving forward. A contract was signed in September with AT&T, who will take care of the infrastructure for the project. The new infrastructure will replace the use of old copper phone lines, which date back to the late 1960s. The updates will allow communications centers to receive text, photos and videos, transfer data more easily, offer more reliability, better location identification and stronger cyber security protection. The current 10 year ESInet contract is worth \$84 million, but will need to continue to be funded either federally or locally in order to keep progress moving forward with all public safety emergency communications centers in the country. Sukus informed members the Center has been ready with call handling equipment for NG911 since 2013 and that our GIS mapping was rated very high in a recent state assessment.
- 3) Radio System Study Updates: Representatives from Mission Critical Partners (MCP) are meeting remotely with the agencies on 10/28/21 to discuss improvements they would like to see with the current radio systems. Once the meeting is complete and other information is gathered, they will send their findings to County which will be shared with Rock County Administration, the county board PS&J members and user agencies.
- 4) 2022 County Budget Recommendations: The Center's 2022 Budget was discussed 10/18/21 during the October Public Safety and Justice Committee meeting. Sukus informed the group that most of what the Center requested in their 2022 Capital Assets was recommended by county administration, and ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money will be used to fulfill some of those projects if approved by the county board. The approved requests total over \$900,000. These include the following:
 - MASTR III updates to Beloit TAC II, Janesville TAC Repeater and all Fire Grounds (including remote receiver sites requested by Rock County Fire Officers)

- Rock Fire ALL CALL paging capability installation at Dane County (as requested by Rock County Fire Officers)
- Equipment updates/replacements for main and backup radio consoles
- New phone and radio equipment for new positions added in building remodel
- New generators at the main County A, Avon, Clinton, and Milton towers
- Replacement UPS at main County A & Ute Street towers
- Replacement air handling unit at the main County A tower
- Netclock replacement
- A staffing study for workload, work flow and overall position count

Note: The request to improve backup radio portable coverage in the event of a network failure was not recommended because the results of the MCP radio study are not back with more specific information on what direction the county should take to improve the system. Sukus was advised that this project could be brought up after the 2022 budget is officially approved since the timing of the report results was not yet available.

- 5) Staffing: The 911 Center started six new employees on 10/19/21, with two positions left to fill. The last recruitment yielded 145 applicants; about 40 were received this round. Sukus stated the department is currently in the recruitment/testing process to fill those remaining slots, and one supervisor position will be open in January 2022 due to a promotion.
- 6) Vice Chair Nominations/Appointment: Nominations to the position will be due in January 2022 and is open to any interested permanent commission member. This is a two-year term.

6. Adjournment

Pease moved to adjourn the 911 Communications Commission meeting at 2:19 pm. Second by Moore and Raupp. All in favor.

Next Meeting – January 19th, 2022, @ 2pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Faith Quinlan
 Administrative Secretary
 Rock County Communications Center