

Minutes of Winnebago County Public Safety Commission

Meeting date: April 16, 2015

Call to order: A regular business meeting of the Winnebago County Public Safety Commission was held at the Winnebago County Court House in Forest City. The meeting convened at 4:35 p.m. Chairman Andy Buffington presiding and Jennifer Ackerman Secretary.

Members in attendance: Terry Durby – representing Winnebago County, Nathan Ostrander – representing Lake Mills, Todd Hughes – representing Thompson, Carla Langfald – representing Scarville, Louise Hagedorn – representing Rake

Members not in attendance: Buffalo Center, Forest City, Leland

Approval of minutes: Mr. Buffington requested a motion be made to approve the agendas and minutes of the meeting of the Commission on Jan 22, 2015. Mr. Durby made a motion, Mr. Ostrander offered a second. All voted aye, motion carried.

IT Update: Mr. Guth advised he continues to work through some of the IT issues he'd previously talked with the commission about. There was a need to replace the main dispatch workstation pc that crashed and that he is working on replacing the backup station as well. He advised there are still a few Windows XP machines to replace as well as the server 2003. He advised on some items he and NGT have decided to wait until the May 5th vote to see if the jail referendum will pass before moving forward on some projects. Another project in the works is Critical 360°. He has an intern working with him to take images of the courthouse and all the schools in the county to begin with. This software will provide law enforcement and fire departments the ability to take a virtual tour of the buildings as well as provide dispatch with an inside view during critical incidents. This software is password protected and not for the public.

WENS Update: Mr. Buffington advised Winnebago went live with the WENS Alerts (Wireless Emergency Notification System) This is a statewide system that counties can use at no cost. It is similar to CodeRed which was used in the past by dispatch but because of cost, and the lack of use had discontinued. WENS provides the public with the ability to sign up landline phones, cell phones and email addresses and to select the kind of alerts they would like to receive as well as for what communities in the county they would like to get alerts for. It provides not only text type messages but also voice messages.

Personnel Update: Ms. Ackerman advised the dispatcher that was hired in October had terminated her position in January. Since then jailer Bill Nolton transferred over to dispatch and is currently in training. She advised he is doing well and believes he will be a good fit and is likely to stay with the county. She also advised part-time dispatcher Meagan Chapman has terminated her other part time employment and will be picking up more shifts for dispatch.

Radio Console: Mr. Buffington advised the radio consoles in dispatch are nearing end of life and will need to be replaced within a couple of years with an i3 system which is the new standard for interoperability. This new system will be an IP enabled gateway. He received a quote from Motorola for 2 positions for \$193,000 but if ordered before November 2015 they will discount it \$50,000. He checked with an unknown company to get a quote which was \$132,000 and did not feel the slight savings would be beneficial to go with an unknown name. He further advised there could be a possibility of receiving another \$100,000 E911 carry over fund grant to help pay for the system. That would still leave \$43,000 needed to pay for the system.

Update on Communications Consortium: Mr. Buffington advised he has been meeting monthly with Communications Consortium which consists of 10 counties. There is legislation being discussed about how to fund the state-wide, interoperable 700 MHz platform. The Consortium was formed with the intent to be the first region in Iowa to begin using the platform. Mr. Ostrander advised it was his understanding the VHF platform would be narrowbanded in half again. Mr. Buffington advised that is the FCC's intent but the timeline is unknown. Mr. Ostrander asked if the 800 MHz users would have to switch to 700 MHz. Mr. Buffington advised there are several metropolitan areas in the state using the 800 platform and that it is his feeling the state should make sure those agencies will be able to get on the states system but there is no requirement of any jurisdiction to make changes to their communications system.

Other business: There was no other business.

Adjournment: Ms. Hagedorn made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Ostrander offered a second. Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Jennifer Ackerman

10/29/2015

Secretary
Winnebago County Public Safety Commission

Date of Approval