



Cook County Emergency Telephone System Board

Via Teleconference
August 19, 2022
10:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSrxVqGjnT4>

ATTENDANCE

Board Members in attendance in person;

None

Board Members in attendance virtually;

Mr. John Cornier
Mr. Thomas Fleming
Mr. Michael Kuryla
Mr. John Matthews
Ms. Elizabeth Ryles

Board Members Absent;

Ms. Tisa Morris

Staff and Guest in attendance in person;

Mr. Martin Bennett, Executive Director
Ms. Shereen Gamble, Administrative Analyst
Ms. Kathleen McKee, Assistant State's Attorney
Ms. Megan Kinsella, Director of Operations
Ms. Erika Smith, Lauterbach & Amen

Guest in attendance virtually;
None.

Executive Director Bennett called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

Executive Director Bennett read the following Virtual Meeting Proclamation;

“JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, in the interest of aiding the people of Illinois and the local governments responsible for ensuring public health and safety issued a Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation in response to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. The current trend regarding increasing test positivity and the impact of new variants allows for board members to attend virtually. The meeting will be held physically on site for those wishing to attend in person with socially distant seating.

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Attendance was taken.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

Ms. Morris made a motion and Mr. Fleming made the second to approve the Board meeting minutes of June 17, 2022 as presented.

Roll Call Vote;

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Cornier | Yes |
| Fleming | Yes |
| Kuryla | Yes |
| Matthews | Yes |
| Morris | Absent |
| Ryles | Yes |

Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The legislature is currently not in session. A veto session is scheduled for November 15, 16, 17, 29, 30 and December 1, 2022. In early July, \$5,000,000 in 9-1-1 surcharge funds were transferred from the Surcharge Fund to the State's 9-8-8 Trust Fund. This transfer was approved by the Legislature in the 2022-2023 State Budget. The State has not yet received an opinion from the FCC as to whether or not this transfer of surcharge funds constitutes a diversion which will disqualify Illinois from eligibility for future federal grants. The INENA/ILAPCO Joint Legislative Committee is working to generate support for legislation to require that the surcharge funds be returned to avoid the effect of the surcharge sweep. Hopefully, legislation addressing this concern will be introduced in the Veto Session.

The Statewide 9-1-1 Advisory Board is next scheduled to meet on Monday, August 15th. There are still several vacancies on the Board that are awaiting replacements to be approved by the Governor. It is believed the Advisory Board will begin discussion of the revisions to the Illinois Administrative Code dealing with the 9-1-1 system. These proposed revisions will include Parts 1325, 1326, 1327 and 1329.

The Statewide Committee overseeing the implementation of the Community Emergency Support and Services Act (CESSA) has its next meeting scheduled for August 8, 2022. No action has been taken to approve members for the Committee, the subcommittees or regional boards. Some EMS regions have begun meeting and seeking appointments to the regional oversight group. Nothing substantive regarding the implementation of the Act or alternative response models has been done.

The Spectrum Innovation Act, H. R. 7624, was passed by the United State House of Representatives on a bi-partisan vote on July 27, 2022. The Spectrum Innovation Act would facilitate a nationwide transition to Next-Generation 9-1-1. This legislation will help bring 9-1-1 fully into the 21st century by considerably improving the public's ability to contact and share information with first responders during emergencies. The bill allocates \$10 billion dollars to fund the transition to NG9-1-1. The funding will result from the sale of communications spectrum by the FCC. The bill has now moved to the United States Senate.

Executive Director Bennett added that NENA and APCO are still lobbying against the \$5 million in surcharge funds that were transferred to the State's 9-8-8 fund. The FCC has not made a final determination if the diversion of 911 surcharge funds violates any law that would put grant funding for the State in jeopardy.

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There have been no new developments on CESSA.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER OPERATIONS

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

HVAC work at the 911 is ongoing. Construction is slated to be completed in late September. We are transitioning from the old system to the new system by bringing areas onto the new system by zones. The transition should be complete within the next 3 to 4 weeks.

The subcontractor corrected the shower issue and FGM approved of the work.

The new generator is onsite and the transition from the old generator to new generator is in progress.

The fire rated specialty glass is still delayed and there are no updates at this time.

The general contractor is currently working on punch list items from FGM.

Executive Director Bennett requested that the contract with FGM be extended to include the old breakroom. The Board authorized Executive Director Bennett to work with FGM to get pricing for the management of the project to work with Construction Inc. on the costs for the project.

RADIO PURCHASE

Staff is recommending the purchase of 30 APX 6000 radios. 15 of these radios will be for Chicago Heights and 15 radios will be for Robbins. Staff is requesting funding of \$149,169.30.

Mr. Fleming made a motion and Ms. Ryles made the second to approve the purchase of 30 APX 6000 radios for Chicago Heights and Robbins at a cost of \$149,169.30.

Roll call vote;

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Cornier | Yes |
| Fleming | Yes |
| Kuryla | Yes |
| Matthews | Yes |
| Morris | Yes |
| Ryles | Yes |

Motion carried.

The Village of Robbins has a tentative cutover date of November 2022.

TRAINING POWERPHONE

Staff is recommending purchasing a site license from PowerPhone for training. This would include 30+ courses for each employee that can be assigned at the training supervisors' direction. The cost is \$25,074 per year and includes unlimited training.

Executive Director Bennett stated that the Communications Center is transitioning from ala carte training to a flat fee per year. The majority of training is now done online, and we average \$2,500 per employee. The new program licenses the site and has 30 courses. This will keep the costs and the training consistent and include every dispatcher.

The courses will be updated, the training does not expire, the number of employees is unlimited, and dispatchers can be assigned a different class monthly.

The funding allocated in the yearly budget for training is sufficient and no action is required by the Board.

GRANT FUNDING

The 911 center was notified of a grant award for \$229,774.28. This includes \$50,403 in funds for NG911 services provided by GeoComm. This project remains ongoing as we correct data for NG911. The rest of the grant includes recovery of costs associated with the phone system upgrade. The 911 center has been able to recover over \$1.6 million dollars over the past 5 years.

Executive Director Bennett added that funds for the GeoComm project were entirely recouped through the grant. There are additional projects such as the refreshes to Maywood and Des Plaines that the majority of the cost were covered by the grant. The ETSB also received approximately \$20,000.00 for the Harvey Fire Department records management system. The formal announcement is expected in early September.

Over the past 5 years, the ETSB has received \$1.6 million in grants. Executive Director Bennett acknowledged Ms. Gamble for her work on the grants.

FINANCIAL REPORT

AUGUST PAYMENT RESOLUTION

The August Bill Payment Resolution is attached for the Board's review.

The significant items to report are;

- Payments to the Cook County Sheriff for contract agency surcharge and pass thru reimbursements and call taker hireback from Jan – July 2022
- \$498,212.75
- Reimbursement to the Cook County for Salaries for the period of December 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022
-\$1,435,436.15

Total Bills \$3,424,817.32

Mr. Kuryla made a motion and Mr. Matthews made the second to approve the August Bill Payment Resolution as presented in the amount of \$3,424,817.32.

Roll call vote;

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Cornier | Yes |
| Fleming | Yes |
| Kuryla | Yes |
| Matthews | Yes |
| Morris | Absent |

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Ryles Yes

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Erika Smith, Lauterbach & Amen, reviewed the financial reports for the period. Ms. Smith added that there is nothing substantial to report for the period.

The surcharge revenue is over budget due to a \$855,317.02 refund payment from the State for a portion of the NG funds withheld since 2018.

The financial report was received and filed.

2023 POSITION ALLOCATION

Executive Director Bennett reported that he is investigating creating 6 call taker position through the Cook County Budget office that would be added to the ETSB budget. The call taker position would be a 2-grade differential from the telecommunicator position. There are several steps that involve the Sheriff’s Office and the bargaining unit before the positions can be created and before we can proceed.

Executive Director requested that the Board authorize adding 6 call taker positions to the ETSB budget. The Board will decide when the positions would be funded, and this will not lock the Board into a financial commitment at this time. The call taker positions will be charged back to the contract agency.

Mr. Matthews made a motion and Mr. Kuryla made the second to authorize the addition of 6 call taker positions to the ETSB budget.

Roll call vote;

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Cornier | Yes |
| Fleming | Yes |
| Kuryla | Yes |
| Matthews | Yes |
| Morris | Absent |
| Ryles | Yes |

Motion carried.

2023 SALARY REVIEW

Executive Director Bennett requested that the 3 exempt positions, Executive Director, Director of Operations, and the Director of Support Services receive a salary adjustment of 2.5%. The increases would be effective in the FY 2023 Budget.

Mr. Matthews made a motion and Mr. Fleming made the second to authorize salary increases effective in the FY 2023 n the amount of 2.5% for the position of Executive Director, Director of Operations and the Director of Support Services.

Roll call vote;

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Cornier | Yes |
| Fleming | Yes |
| Kuryla | Yes |
| Matthews | Yes |
| Morris | Absent |
| Ryles | Yes |

Motion carried.

HIRING CHALLENGES

Executive Director Bennett has been working with legal to discuss the possibility of lateral hiring for dispatchers as is now being done for police officers at some agencies. We have lost 5 senior dispatchers to other agencies for various reasons, and he believes that people with prior experience may see this as an incentive. There is a cost of approximately \$10,000 or more to onboard a new employee and as things change the challenge in hiring has become a focus. Recruiting at community colleges and lowering the age requirement to 19 are possibilities. The entry level salary is on the higher end, but the climate has forced us to change our perspective in recruitment. We are also exploring the opportunities for referral incentives from current TC and TC Supervisors. E/D Bennett will coordinate with HR and Sheriff's legal and report back to the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CLOSED SESSION

None

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

None.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. Fleming made a motion to adjourn the meeting of August 19, 2022, second Mr. Matthews.

Roll call vote;

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Cornier | Yes |
| Fleming | Yes |
| Kuryla | Yes |
| Matthews | Yes |
| Morris | Absent |
| Ryles | Yes |

Motion carried.

The August 19, 2022 Cook County Emergency Telephone System Board meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Next Meeting

August 19, 2022

10:30 a.m.

9511 W. Harrison, LL11

Des Plaines, IL 60016

Shereen Gamble, Administrative Analyst

Date