

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 9-1-1 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT BOARD OF MANAGERS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2004 IN THE BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM OF CITY HALL, 555 WALNUT, ABILENE, TEXAS.

* * * * *

Public notice having been duly given, the 9-1-1 Board met at 3:00 p.m. in the Basement Conference Room of City Hall.

* * * * *

Board Members Present: Dr. Alan Stafford, President, County Representative
John Bogart, Vice President, Volunteer Fire Department Representative
Jo Moore, Secretary, Cities Representative
Don Russom, County Representative
Jeff Wyatt, Cities Representative

Others Present: Alan Plumlee, Assistant Fire Chief
Renee Scott, Assistant City Secretary
Greg Brown, GIS Coordinator
Mike Saxton, 9-1-1 Program Coordinator
Ronnie Kidd, 9-1-1 District and Administrative Services Director
Carol Taylor, Taylor County Sheriff's Office
Jack Dieken, Taylor County Sheriff
Cindy Steele, SBC
Mark Hoover, Assistant Director of Administrative Services
Jim Berry, Assistant Police Chief
Trish Aldridge, Assistant City Attorney
Stan Egger, Taylor County Commissioner

President Alan Stafford called the meeting to order. The Board noted due to cities representative Roy McDaniel's term having expired and Mr. McDaniel having expressed a desire to not be reappointed that Jeff Wyatt has been appointed to the Board as a representative for the Cities, term expiring in 2006. The Board also acknowledged the re-appointment of Cities representative Jo Moore and County's representative Alan Stafford, terms expiring in 2006.

Renee Scott, Assistant City Secretary, administered the oaths of office to Dr. Stafford, Jeff Wyatt and Jo Moore.

John Bogart made a motion to elect Dr. Stafford as President of the 9-1-1 Board. Jo Moore seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jo Moore made a motion to elect John Bogart as Vice President and herself as Secretary of the 9-1-1 Board. Jeff Wyatt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bogart made a motion to approve the 9-1-1 Board minutes of the August 13, 2003 meeting with one correction as noted by Ms. Moore. Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mike Saxton, 9-1-1 Program Coordinator, briefed the Board on the Public Review Hearing held at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 30, 2004. Mr. Saxton stated that the hearing is to be held every three (3)

years and is conducted for the purpose of: 1) soliciting comments on the participation of the district in the regional 9-1-1 plan (CSEC); 2) to determine if the board desires to participate in the regional plan, and; 3) to determine the continuation or dissolution of the district and the 9-1-1 emergency service fee.

Mr. Saxton reported to the Board that there was no public present and no negative comments from staff that attended the Public Review Hearing. Ms. Moore made a motion to accept the Public Review Hearing results as presented by Mr. Saxton. Mr. Bogart seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Greg Brown, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Manager, briefed the Board on the 9-1-1 mapping status which included the following significant items that have occurred since the previous board meeting in terms of 9-1-1 mapping and addressing progress:

- Routine Maintenance
- Call Log Application
- Address Changes where needed
- Entrance Layer corrections
- Database entry automation

No Board action was required.

Mr. Saxton briefed the Board on the update of the Wireless Phase II Implementation. Mr. Saxton stated that all wireless service providers (WSPs) in our District are currently providing Phase II E911 Wireless data. Mr. Saxton stated the capabilities for the FCC mandated upgrades for Wireless E911 are as follows:

- PHASE 0 (voice only)
- PHASE I ("caller ID", call-back number only)
- PHASE II (actual location of caller)

Mr. Saxton also noted that currently Cingular and T-Mobile are upgrading their networks to the European GSM (Global Standard for Mobile communications) format and will be Phase II compliant when complete, which is scheduled for the end of the summer.

No Board action was required.

Mr. Saxton briefed the Board on Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP). Mr. Saxton stated that VoIP is now available in our area and will continue to be deployed here with Cox Communications implementing VoIP early next year. Mr. Saxton provided the Board with information highlighting current trends and future predictions for the direction of 9-1-1 nationwide.

No Board action was required.

Mr. Saxton briefed the Board on the Texas 9-1-1 Alliance Report and noted that he had previously briefed the Board on regulatory and legislative issues affecting the Texas 9-1-1 Districts. Mr. Saxton further noted the purpose of the Abilene/Taylor County 9-1-1 District Resolution would be to allow the Districts to formally establish an alliance for various necessary functions such as collective bargaining, legislative representation, etc. Mr. Saxton recommended the Board approve the Resolution for the

Abilene/Taylor County 9-1-1 District to participate as a member of the Texas 9-1-1 Alliance stating formalizing an alliance with the other Districts will not only increase our voice in the Legislature and at the bargaining table, but also nationwide as technology continues to evolve and regulatory issues become increasingly complicated.

Mr. Russom made a motion to approve by Resolution the participation of the Abilene/Taylor County 9-1-1 District as a member of the Texas 9-1-1 Alliance. Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The Resolution is captioned as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE ABILENE/TAYLOR COUNTY 9-1-1 DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH OTHER TEXAS 9-1-1 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION DISTRICTS AS A MEMBER OF THE TEXAS 9-1-1 ALLIANCE (ALLIANCE).

Mr. Saxton briefed the Board on the CSEC Resolution. Mr. Saxton stated at a meeting of the CSEC (Commission on State Emergency Communications) Cingular Wireless submitted its request for cost recovery reimbursements for Phase II E911 Wireless Implementation. CSEC ruled the request as “unreasonable” and declared it would not pay any reimbursements for Phase II service. Chapter 771.0711(g) of the Texas Health and Safety Code states, “On receipt of an invoice from a wireless service provider for reasonable expenses for network facilities, including equipment, installation, maintenance, and associated implementation costs, the commission or an emergency services district of a home-rule municipality or an emergency communication district created under Chapter 772 shall reimburse the wireless service provider in accordance with state law for all expenses related to 9-1-1 service”. Mr. Saxton stated that the Districts feel that the CSEC declaration distanced itself from the intent of the statute, which in turn, affected the ongoing cost recovery negotiations, in particular with Cingular. Mr. Saxton further noted that although there is now separate representation, the District’s feel that further distancing themselves from CSEC by passing the resolution would be in the District’s best interest.

Following Board and staff discussion concerning what the State’s basis for deeming as unreasonable any cost recoveries for Phase II cost by the wireless companies might be, Mr. Bogart made a motion to table the item until the Board is provided with more information on the State’s position on the issue. Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ronnie Kidd, Director of Administrative Services briefed the Board on the Public Safety Communications System Project, which included the following:

- Project components
- Issues with the current system
- What has been accomplished to date
- What is next in the project plan?
- Interoperability
- What the new system will provide
- Cost estimate
- Funding
- Additional considerations

No Board action was required.

Mr. Saxton briefed the Board on the 9-1-1 service fees. Mr. Saxton provided background information noting that Chapter 772.314(a) of the Texas Health and Safety Code states, "The board may impose a 9-1-1 emergency service fee on service users in the district". Paragraph 772-314(c) states, "The rate of the fee may not exceed six percent of the monthly base rate...". It also states that the board shall attempt to match operating expenditures with revenues on an annual basis and vary the service fee accordingly". Mr. Saxton stated in 2000 the board reduced the service fee from 4½ % to the current rate of 3% in order to accomplish this directive.

Mr. Saxton addressed the timeline for notifying each service supplier of a change in the amount of the fee, stating that notification is to be not later than the 91st day before the date the change takes effect. The purpose of the timeline is to allow the service providers time to accomplish the necessary administrative duties with respect to the change.

The Board stated their preference is to hold consideration of the service fee until after the Budgets are discussed.

Staff distributed the Abilene/Taylor County 9-1-1 District 2004 Revised and 2005 Proposed Budgets, Budget Strategies/Additional Requests for Consideration, Wireline 9-1-1 Rates FY05 and a FY 2005 budget request from Taylor County Sheriff Jack Dieken.

Mr. Kidd noted that although the Amended and Proposed Budgets are on the Boards agenda for approval today, if the Board chooses, action on the Budgets could be brought back to the Board in August.

Mr. Saxton briefed the Board on the Non-Wireless and Wireless Operations Budgets. The Board noted concerns over the budget structure reflecting all expenditures being charged against only Wireline revenues and questioned if the law prohibits those expenses to also be charged to wireless revenues.

Following Board and staff discussion Mr. Bogart made a motion to direct staff, if determined to not be prohibited by law, to not separate wireless and wireline costs and expenditures on the proposed budgets. Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kidd briefed the Board on the Budget Strategies/Additional Requests for Consideration which included: 1) upgrade to e-9-1-1 core operating system; 2) two additional dispatch positions at Sheriff's Office; 3) emergency operations center alternate PSAP; 4) communications gateway, and; 5) the City of Abilene Public Safety Communications Project.

Following Board and staff discussion Mr. Bogart made a motion to include in the proposed FY05 budget, that will be brought back to the Board, the two additional dispatch positions at the Sheriff's Office (total salary for two positions: \$57,362). Dr. Stafford seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board requested staff provide at the next 9-1-1 Board meeting additional information and updated cost on the Upgrade to e-9-1-1 core operating system and the Emergency Operations Center alternate PSAP.

A tentative date of August 25, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. was set for the next 9-1-1 Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Jo Moore, Secretary

Alan Stafford, President