

WILL COUNTY BOARD
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY
COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

March 10, 2011

8:30 a.m.

302 North Chicago Street
County Board Committee Room
Joliet IL 60432

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gould called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were Members: Babich, Hart, McPhillips, Seiler, Stewart and Gould.

Absent were Members: Argoudelis.

Also Present: Will County Board Deputy Chief of Staff Melissa Johannsen, Health Department Executive Director John Cicero, Circuit Clerk Chief Deputy Chuck Squires, Will County 9-1-1 Chief Administrator Steve Figved, Finance Director Paul Rafac, Will County Executive Communications Director Anastasia Tuskey, Will County Executive Manager of Operations Sharon Cullen and Robyn Simonic of the Purchasing Department.

Present from State's Attorney's Office: ASA M. Tatroe.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

Ms. McPhillips led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Ms. Seiler, to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2011 meeting. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

OLD BUSINESS

Report Re: Activities of 9-1-1 Agency

Mr. Figved stated the 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System Board's administrative staff runs a little differently than its counterparts in Illinois. A self-contained center typically answers calls and all the work is done there. In Will County, there are eight centers with a ninth center providing back-up from a location inside the Will County Office Building. The department provides the ancillary services for the

eight centers: mapping, technical work, computer-assisted dispatch and training – everything other than personnel.

Mr. Figved explained there are five different areas within the department: administrative staff, public education, GIS, records and computer-assisted dispatch. In the 2010 budget, the anticipated revenue was \$13.4 million. A little more than \$15 million was received because Bolingbrook was added last year to the system. The department has all of the county's fire and police agencies with the exception of the southern part of Naperville. The expenditures in 2010 were expected to be about \$5 million. They actually were \$7.5 million because of the construction of a new Public Safety Answering Point, or PSAP, in Bolingbrook. At the end of 2010, the balance was about \$7.5 million with most of the funds in capital reserve for major projects.

Mr. Figved stated the best way to understand the department's duties and recent growth is to describe the call activity. There seems to be five-year bursts in the activity, meaning the number of calls plateaus and then increases. In 2010, Will County 9-1-1 handled 324,000 calls. That breaks down to 28,000 calls a month or 900 calls a day. On average, a call comes every 90 seconds.

Mr. Figved explained there recently has been a tremendous change in the way the calls arrive at the department. This change has been documented by the Center for Disease Control. In December, the Center reported more than half of the Americans between the ages of 25 and 30 are now living in homes without land line telephones. About 27 percent of all households only have cellular telephone service. Last year the FCC reported 70 percent of all 9-1-1 calls are being made from cellular telephones. When considering revenue, in 2005 about half of the calls were from land lines and half were from cellular telephones. By 2007, about 60 percent were land line vs. wireless. In 2008, there was a dramatic increase in the number of wireless calls, and about 60 percent of all 9-1-1 calls were from cellular telephones. This is important to note because Will County's 9-1-1 system is about 20 years old and was designed to be used with land line telephones. The system can pick up a call, identify the location of the phone's address and send it out to a dispatcher. If someone uses a land line telephone to call 9-1-1, the center sees the name and the address where the phone is connected. In the case of wireless telephones, the department can find the name and location of some callers, but not all. In some cases, only the location of the nearest cellular telephone tower can be identified. If the tower is full, the call will jump to the next tower. If a call was made from the Will County Office Building, for example, it might bounce off a tower in Kendall County or Grundy County.

Mr. Figved indicated younger people tend to use their cellular telephones to send text messages instead of making actual telephone calls. Will County 9-1-1 doesn't have text capability; a person who needs help cannot notify 9-1-1 through the use of a text message. The agency is working on establishing the ability to accept text messages, and has spent \$5.5 million during the past four years to

install the heart of that type of system with Internet Protocol technology. There is a hitch, however. The ICC act governing Will County 9-1-1 is 20 years old and was written before the age of cellular telephones. To move forward, changes must be made to legislation in Springfield to acknowledge innovations in communications such as cellular telephones, text messages and GPS. About 70 percent of Will County 9-1-1's revenue comes from cellular telephones, but that act is set to expire in 2013. If it were allowed to expire – and that is an unlikely scenario – Will County 9-1-1 would lose about \$3.5 million in annual revenue. There is legislation in the Illinois House and Senate to extend the act to 2019.

Mr. Figved stated calls also come to the center from computer-assisted dispatch. Once the call is received, it is dispatched to the police and fire departments. In 2010, the system handled 800,000 CAD calls, or dispatch calls, for the county. That's 2,100 calls a day, an increase of 35 percent over 2005. Will County 9-1-1 is beginning to look at the CAD system so it can be updated or replaced. That should cost a little more than \$2 million. Representatives from the department spent March 9 in Schaumburg at Motorola discussing a possible upgrade. Motorola doesn't currently have its CAD system working in a multi-jurisdictional area as large as Will County, so if it can't be upgraded, it will have to be replaced. That could cost \$8 to \$12 million. The intent is to sign an agreement by the end of 2011 to update or replace the CAD system. The CAD system is divided by PSAPs: WESCOM handles all of the communities on the western side of the county; the Sheriff's department handles the calls from the unincorporated areas; Lincolnway Communications handles the towns in the Frankfort area; Joliet stands alone and handles the city; EASTCOM is in Crete and handles the towns on east side of the county; Romeoville, Bolingbrook and Steger stand alone and serve their respective communities.

Mr. Figved indicated the agency worked on several primary projects in 2010: Will County Emergency Communications Command Center on Caton Farm Road; an Eastern Will County Communications Command Center; Will County 9-1-1 and the county addressing system; and Will County 9-1-1 and the county radio system. In December, the department assumed responsibility of addressing for the entire county, and now is in the process of interviewing and hiring an addressing coordinator. The department has all of the records once housed at the Land Use Department. When a person applies for a new address, the department will work with the Land Use Department to make sure the address is correct and proper.

Mr. Figved indicated the telephone lines connecting the system are made of copper and buried in the ground. Some of them have been there for 20 years. There particularly is a problem with the Sheriff's offices on Laraway Road. At one point, calls were being made, and the department's staff couldn't clearly hear the callers and vice-versa. There also were "ghosting" or "phantom" calls – the phone would ring and no one would be on the other end of the line. It seemed to be related to dampness caused by snow or heavy rainfall. The problem seemed to be related to the network of cable in front of

the building. The department worked with AT&T for 18 months to replace the cable with fiber optic lines. When the Highway Department put in a new storm sewer on the property, it was discovered that the lines were buried 12 inches in the ground instead of the 30 inches required by the state. The state directed AT&T to replace the cable with fiber optic. All of the problems disappeared once the change was made. The department now is considering the idea of IP network "clouds" going into the Internet to transfer calls from the central office.

Mr. Figved explained there is an unfunded mandate from the state allowing residents to register their medical problems or special needs in a data base. Then if a 9-1-1 call arrives from that address, the emergency responders would be aware of the situation at the home.

Mr. Figved stated there have been several studies done over the past 20 years recommending that there should be two or three regionalized communication centers in the county: east, west and Joliet. The county's plan was to consolidate all of the western communities and the unincorporated areas into one center. The second center on the east end of the county would include the communities served by EASTCOM along with Lincolnway and Steger. Joliet would have its own communications center.

Mr. Figved indicated any new building constructed to house the department would be significantly stronger and better protected from the weather. The county's portion of the cost would be 39 percent of the project or \$14 million. Senator Wilhelmi worked to acquire about 20 acres for the department on Caton Farm Road from the Illinois Department of Corrections at about \$35,000 per acre, or about \$700,000. The county's portion of the construction would be a little under \$10 million, the site work would be \$900,000, furnishings would be a little over \$1 million and architectural engineering contingency fees would be about \$1.7 million. Will County 9-1-1 would pay for about half the project, or \$18 million, and WESCOM would pay for about \$4 million. The total project would cost approximately \$36,284,000. The cost of the building probably could be reduced. The design is state-of-the-art, and some cost considerations could be made. The 9-1-1 board has frozen the expenditures because there has been no movement by the county. There already has been \$1 million spent in planning and design; no more will be spent until there is some indication about the stakeholders' position on the project. The board is waiting for a decision about the county's involvement in the project.

Mr. Gould asked Mr. Figved to elaborate.

Mr. Figved stated they were waiting for the County Board and the County Executive to commit the \$14 million.

Mr. Gould stated Will County 9-1-1 had not moved on the land.

Mr. Figved explained Will County 9-1-1 couldn't buy the land; Will County had to buy it. Will County 9-1-1 has been told the county won't buy the land because it wasn't clear who would be in the building.

Mr. Gould stated the members of the Public Health & Safety Committee had not said that.

Mr. Figved acknowledged that fact.

Mr. Gould asked if the \$700,000 was there.

Mr. Rafac stated if the county wanted to buy the land the money could be identified. There have been different proposals, including one that involved Will County 9-1-1 providing the money to the county to buy the land. There hasn't been any real discussion at the Executive level regarding the actual purchase of the land. A resolution was passed indicating the county wanted the right to buy the land, but there hasn't been any movement to actually acquire it.

Mr. Gould stated the money is there – move on the land. If there is some intransigence, it is not on the part of the Public Health & Safety Committee. The other issues with Eastern Will County, multiple buildings, construction costs – that will take time. Will County 9-1-1 must get to step one: acquiring the property, and at a good price. If the land is not acquired, the tax payers are being done a disservice.

Mr. Figved stated the only entity with the ability to buy the land is the county.

Mr. Rafac explained a resolution from the County Board is needed to purchase the land.

Mr. Gould suggested the department take the issue to the County Board Chairman and the County Executive.

Mr. Figved stated that is what Will County 9-1-1 was trying to do.

Ms. Hart asked why the unincorporated area of Will County south of Naperville wasn't serviced by the department.

Mr. Figved explained 20 years ago there was a county-wide referendum, and that portion of Will County was not included because it was in the city of Naperville.

Ms. Hart stated it was not in the city of Naperville. Some residents in the area are dialing 9-1-1, and their calls are going to the city of Naperville, resulting in confusion during an emergency.

Mr. Figved explained if there is a subdivision in an unincorporated part of Naperville, the emergency calls should come to Will County 9-1-1. If that is not happening, it should be corrected. When something like that happens, there is a procedure. Naperville writes a "trouble ticket" and notifies Will County 9-1-1. In turn, Will County 9-1-1 would check with AT&T and the company keeping the data base and try to have that changed so the call could be rerouted to the correct place.

Mr. Babich asked how close Will County 9-1-1 would be to development if the land was purchased.

Mr. Figved replied it would be a three-year project from breaking ground to building it. Once the land was acquired, the department would need to know who the stakeholders would be so the building could be constructed at the correct size.

Mr. Gould stated no matter what happened, Will County 9-1-1 still needed the property.

Ms. McPhillips commented the time to buy is now. If it is based on the market price, this is near the bottom of the market. Why wait three years?

Mr. Figved stated there have been several appraisals. The first one gave a price of about \$40,000 per acre. The next one dropped the price to \$35,000. Each appraisal costs the taxpayers about \$14,000. One more appraisal could be done, but only when everyone is ready. Perhaps it would be less than \$35,000 per acre.

Mr. Rafac asked if the committee intended for Will County 9-1-1 or the county to buy the land. Who would provide the funding?

Mr. Gould stated the State's Attorney's opinion would be necessary.

Ms. Tatroe stated Will County 9-1-1 doesn't have the authority to own property. The county would have to purchase it. As far as funding, there must be an intergovernmental agreement. To determine if Will County 9-1-1 could provide the funding to buy the land, some research must be completed. The statute does allow the department to provide funding for actual construction.

Mr. Rafac noted it could be structured as a 100-year lease for the value of the land. If the county isn't going to move forward with the 9-1-1 facility, does it make sense for the department to acquire the land or to sign a 100-year lease?

Mr. Gould asked why the Coroner was removed from the plans.

Mr. Figved indicated the decision was made by the County Board.

Mr. Gould stated it wasn't.

Mr. Figved stated in September the department was told to take that out. The floor plans were revised at the cost of \$8,000. A copy of the plans was given to the committee.

Mr. Gould stated consolidating EMA with other public safety agencies is logical. It would save money for the tax payers in the long run.

Mr. Rafac noted the County Board has not taken any formal action. The 27 members of the County Board do not agree on the issue.

Mr. Gould stated the issue hasn't come to a committee.

Mr. Figved stated the department didn't know exactly what should be done. The County Executive supports the project. The County Board Chairman has discussed it. At the Capital Improvements meeting on March 1, there was information about the future of the Will County Office Building, a proposed judicial campus, the Highway Department and the Sheriff's Department. The future of Will County 9-1-1 wasn't discussed.

Mr. Gould stated the committee is just trying to determine how to be efficient while getting everything accomplished. This is the first the committee has heard of it. We would like to see you

knocking on the door and saying you would like to move on the land. That is the first step. Nothing else can be accomplished until the land is acquired.

Ms. Seiler asked if the matter could be moved to the Executive Committee for review.

Mr. Stewart stated he thought there had been discussion in the past at the Executive Committee.

Mr. Rafac stated the matter had been discussed several different times at different committees but there never had been a consensus.

Mr. Gould asked if any member of the committee objected to buying the land for \$700,000.

Ms. Seiler stated the matter should go to the Executive Committee for the authorization to move forward.

Ms. McPhillips commented the county already had asked the state about the purchase of the land, why stop the process now?

Mr. Babich stated it became clear during the meetings at the Renaissance Center that it was the east end of the county vs. the west end and there was no agreement between the two of them.

Mr. Figved noted the west end had a plan while the east did not have one yet. So the west side could be done now, and when the east is ready, Will County 9-1-1 will be prepared to do that.

Mr. Rafac stated the resolution to buy the land would also have to include the source of the funding.

Mr. Gould stated the State's Attorney would provide assistance with that aspect of the project.

Ms. McPhillips noted the surcharge fees increased from the budget to about \$1.25 million. Was that mostly from Bolingbrook?

Mr. Figved replied it was and also because of increased cell phone sales.

Ms. McPhillips asked how much came from each source.

Mr. Figved replied the revenue from Bolingbrook was about \$500,000.

Mr. Babich asked if the fees for the wireless and the land line telephones were the same.

Mr. Figved answered they were. The wireless fees were processed by the state of Illinois, however. The state takes an administrative fee, so Will County 9-1-1 actually receives less money from wireless because of it. Will County receives about 52 cents from 75 cents.

A motion was made by Ms. Seiler, second by Mr. Stewart, to forward the Will County 9-1-1 issue to the Executive Committee for review. On a roll call vote, Babich, Hart, McPhillips, Seiler, Stewart and Gould voting yes.

MOTION CARRIES.

NEW BUSINESS

Sunny Hill Replacement Hires

Mr. Gould stated there was a complication.

Ms. Johannsen explained the names of the replacement hires were received on March 9, and the agendas were completed during the week prior to that date. When the agendas were distributed, the names weren't available.

Mr. Gould stated the committee couldn't take any action. The Executive Committee must review the matter and reserve a space on the County Board agenda, if possible.

Request to Award Pharmaceutical Bid for Sunny Hill Nursing Home

Ms. Simonic explained she handles the bids for Sunny Hill, and the purchasing department would like to renew the pharmaceutical and consulting services bid awarded to United Scripts of Villa Park, Ill.

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Mr. Stewart to place a resolution on the County Board agenda awarding the pharmaceutical bid for Sunny Hill Nursing Home. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Ms. Seiler, to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 a.m.
All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.