

# **IROQUOIS COUNTY ETSB MEETING**

## **November 18, 2014**

### **Opening of the Meeting**

Vice-Chairman Roger Lebeck opened the meeting at 6:30pm. Members present were Charles Alt, Ryan Brault, Jason Brown, Vern Grohler, Frank Hines, Howard Loy, Joel Moore, Daniel Rayman, John Shure, John Solomon, and Marvin Stichnoth. No members were absent. Also present were 911 Coordinator Nita Dubble, Carl Gerdovich WGFA, Carla Waters of the Times Republic, and Sandy Drake. A list of additional attendees is available.

Roll call for mileage reimbursement: Answering yes were Alt, Brault, Brown, Grohler, Hines, Lebeck, Loy, Shure, and Stichnoth. Answering no were Moore, Rayman, and Solomon.

Dubble advised the four new members that information regarding the meetings would be sent to their county e-mail unless they would like to provide a different e-mail address.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Brown moved to accept the October 14, 2014 minutes as printed. Seconded by Grohler. Minutes were accepted.

### **Public Comment**

Corke asked if comments would be permitted later in the meeting, specifically during the discussion regarding the future of dispatching. Lebeck replied that would be acceptable.

### **New Board Members**

Lebeck welcomed the new board members John Shure, Charles Alt, Dan Rayman, and Marvin Stichnoth.

Dubble explained the new board arrangement. At the Iroquois County Board meeting in October there was a new county ordinance created which reduced the ETS Board from 12 to six members. On November 7<sup>th</sup> the County Board Chairman replaced the four ETS Board members whose terms had been up since December 31, 2013 with four County Board Members. The legality of these members was questioned as in the past only one County Board Member could serve on an ETS Board. The law regarding ETSB members recently changed and appears to the Attorney General's Office that this is acceptable. The term of the four newly appointed members will expire December 31, 2014. There are an additional four members of the ETS Board whose terms will also expire December 31, 2014. This will leave four members who will remain on the board until December 31, 2015. The County Board Chairman will appoint two new members which will create the six member board.

### **Election of Board Chairman**

Lebeck explained that according to the by-laws when the chairman can no longer serve the vice-chairman stands in.

### **Old Business**

No report.

### **New Business**

Discussion concerning a plan to move forward after ICOM dissolves November 30, 2014.

- The current plan is to move the dispatchers under the ETSB.
- The ETSB is not aware of any plan in place by the other entities involved.
- Sheriff Hagen explained his recommendation (which was also the recommendation of the ETS Board) made to the County Board to have the ETSB take over dispatch. During a prior conversation with Copas, the County Board Chairman, Hagen was told this would not happen. Copas mentioned that a year and half ago it would have been a good idea when he approached the ETSB. However; Copes'

recommendation was to spend into the negative and force Springfield to do something about it. Spending into the negative was not a viable option to the ETS Board. Hagen continued that he feels the best course of action would be for the ETSB to take over dispatch. He listed reasons:

- The county's plan is to create a new position for a dispatch supervisor. Currently the 911 Coordinator is also the Director of Dispatch Services.
- Speaking for the Sheriff's Office he feels much more comfortable knowing those involved with emergency services are making the decisions on how dispatching is handled.

Brault asked if the ETSB recommendation was well received and Hagen replied that it was not. Brault asked if the County Board presented any alternative. Hagen stated that the county is planning to send out contracts and there is an assumption that the dispatchers are actually county employees. Their plan is also to hire a dispatch supervisor who would report to Judicial and the County Board. Hagen was given no indication of an actual plan that will be in place starting December 1<sup>st</sup>, when ICOM dissolves.

Lebeck stated the ETSB will continue with the plan to take over dispatch.

Corke stated that he agreed with the Sheriff and it would be best if the dispatchers stay with the ETSB. During a recent village board meeting in Cissna Park it was the general consensus of the members that they would be very hesitant to enter into a contract with the county board.

Moore spoke as a fire chief that covers two different county dispatch districts. He has serious concerns hiring a new dispatch coordinator. Ford County has serious issues and communication is very poor if it happens at all. Iroquois County dispatch has no issues and works very well as it is.

Kevin Hack from Riverside concurred with Moore and agreed that the best solution would be to keep the dispatchers under the ETSB. He does not want to see any of the first responders get lost in the shuffle.

Hines stated the current system is proven and dispatching has worked fine and there is no reason to go another direction such as hiring another dispatch coordinator. Rodney Lareau agreed with Hines. Siebert also agreed and stated they are the ones who deal with it every day and he believes the county board members should read the letter the fire chiefs sent to them.

At this point Dubble explained that the dispatching contracts would be exactly the same as the previous contracts (with the exception of the City of Watseka and County which would be a higher amount than the last contract). The ICOM Board has been contacted and if the ETSB does indeed take over dispatch the remainder of the funds in the ICOM account will be turned over to the ETSB to assist in dispatching costs.

Corke asked Devine to clarify that if the ETSB had to go to court regarding the takeover of ICOM would he represent the ETSB. Devine stated that he has had knowledge on what has been going on and that he supports and encourages the ETSB to take over dispatch and he feels it is the right thing to do.

Who controls the funds if ICOM turns them over to the ETSB was discussed. The ETSB would control those monies which would be deposited into a separate account for dispatching services. The county board would have no say in how the funds are used.

Brown moved that the ETSB assume responsibility of dispatch personnel, finance, and all the duties as required or otherwise performed by ICOM effective December 1, 2014. Seconded by Solomon. Motion passed. Aye votes: Brault, Brown, Grohler, Hines, Lebeck, Loy, Moore, and Solomon. Nay votes: Alt, Rayman, Shure, and Stichnoth.

The Board gave Dubble the direction to send out the dispatching contracts as soon as possible.

Discussion regarding use of the ETSB equipment became irrelevant as the ETSB passed the motion to take over dispatch.

Dubble stated that the county board had previously inquired if the ETSB could save money by joining with the county's insurance policy for property and liability. Dubble requested the county insurance agent contact her regarding this request. To date Dubble has not received any information. As the current ETSB insurance is due the first of December a decision needs to be made. The current property & liability insurance provider for the ETSB is VFIS/Compass and has been for several years. Dubble advised that there are 10 separate locations covered on this policy. Stichnoth asked if there was any information regarding the cost of the insurance if it was purchased through the county. Dubble stated that the agent was to contact her regarding this and never did. Shure pointed out the amount was approximately \$2,000.00 more than last year and what had been budgeted. Brault made a motion to renew the presented ETSB insurance policy. Seconded by Rayman. Motion passed. Aye votes: Brault, Brown, Grohler, Hines, Lebeck, Loy, Moore, Solomon, and Stichnoth. Nay votes: Alt, Rayman, and Shure.

The Liability policy for ICOM was discussed. Dubble will verify with the insurance company if there is going to be any duplication of coverage or if there could be a savings by combining the current ICOM policy with the ETSB policy. The board approved to continue with the current insurance company.

Discussion regarding how the 911 board is currently formed and what type of representation should be on the board in the future.

### **Equipment Procurement**

Dubble advised the board concerning a change in the computer virus software and a recent issue with viruses and malware attacking three computers. Dubble stated that one computer had a hard drive go out and would be necessary to purchase a new one. Following discussion a motion was made by Loy and seconded by Brown to purchased one Dell desktop computer at a cost less than \$700.00. Motion passed.

Discussion held regarding the open mic issue on county fire A and what has been done to date to find and correct the issue. Involved parties will continue to monitor and track this to get to the bottom of the matter.

Dubble advised of an invoice received from Area-Wide which covered the work on Watseka PD's wireless link during the switch over from static ip addresses to DHCP. Discussion followed concerning the benefits to the ETSB by this link being in place. A motion was made by Hines to pay the Area-Wide bill for \$495.00. Seconded by Brown. Motion passed.

The Atlas License Company 10 year renewal notice for WQCR953 was discussed. Motion made by Hines and seconded by Brault to renew the license. Motion passed.

**Facility Operations**

Dubble advised that the janitorial person for the Administrative Building is no longer cleaning (only emptying trash a couple times a week) in the 911 Center. It is being done by the ICOM and ETSB staff. On a similar note Dubble stated that the air quality in the center seems to be an issue. Discussion followed regarding what has been done to correct the issue. Dubble will look into getting quotes to have the ducts cleaned.

**Fire Service and EMS**

Dubble advised that the annual call handling agreements will get mailed out in December.

**Law Enforcement**

No Report.

**MSAG**

The addressing for the Pilot Hill wind towers was discussed. Approximately 40 towers have been addressed. The addressing is on hold for a few towers pending verification on whether they are removable towers or not.

**Personnel**

Recognition and thanks given to the outgoing ETSB members who were recently replaced: Sheriff Derek Hagen for three years, Jeff Glenn for 15 years, Ron Gocken for 13 years and Jed Whitlow for three years. The experience and expertise of each member in their fields will be greatly missed.

**Public Relations**

Dubble recently gave the Watseka Kiwanis a presentation (upon their request) on 911 and the present circumstances surrounding the changes in the board etc.

**Joint Dispatch**

The new telecommunicator Kathryn McCoy is ready to go on her own. This is the fourth person to go through training to fill one position. Discussion regarding the stress and difficulty one goes through when dispatching and the uniqueness of the position.

Dubble advised that the county board chairman recently filed a complaint to the Illinois Labor Relations Board objecting that the county was not notified regarding the unionization of the ICOM employees. This has put the negotiations on hold until it is determined who the actual employer of ICOM is. As the ETSB has voted to take over the operations of ICOM there will need to be new representation for the future union negotiations of the dispatchers. Lebeck advised the new committee will include Dubble, Grohler, and himself.

**Finance**

The Board reviewed the bills submitted. Moore made a motion to approve the bills and accept the finances based on the claims presented. Seconded by Grohler. Motion passed with Alt abstaining from the vote.

The county audit will take place in the near future and the ETSB is included in that audit.

**Other Business**

No Report.

**Adjournment**

Brault made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Grohler. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm. The next ETSB meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on December 16, 2014.