

SALT LAKE VALLEY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
March 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes
VECC Board Room
5360 S Ridge Village Dr, West Valley City

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheriff Jim Winder; UPD; Chairman
Mr. Gary Whatcott, South Jordan; Vice Chairman
Mr. Randy Fitts; Holladay
Mr. Scott Harrington; Taylorsville
Mr. David Dobbins; Draper
Chief Doug Diamond; West Jordan
Mr. Blair Camp; Murray
Mr. Mike Shelton; Cottonwood Heights
Mr. Kyle Kershaw; South Salt Lake
Mr. John Roberts; Bluffdale
Ms. Jackie Nicholl; SL County
Mr. Mark Palesh; West Jordan

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Gaylord Scott; UFA
Mr. Ryan Carter; Riverton
Mr. Layne Morris; West Valley City
Mr. John Guildner; Alta
Mr. Brett Wood; Herriman
Mr. Kane Loader; Midvale

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chief Andy Butler; South Jordan Fire
Chief Warren James; UFA
Mr. David Church; VECC Attorney
Mr. John Inch Morgan, Executive Director
Mr. Jeff Monson; Human Resources Manager
Mr. Mark Whetsel; TS Manager
Ms. Gigi Smith; Police Operations Manager
Ms. Beth Todd; Fire Operations Manager
Mr. Terry Shaw; VECC Supervisor
Ms. Chris Dunn; VECC Supervisor
Ms. Andrea Partridge; Administrative Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2016 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Motion –

. . . by Mr. Kyle Kershaw; that the minutes of the February 17, 2016 meeting of the Board of Trustees be approved as written; the motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Harrington; the motion carried unanimously.

BOARD OF OPERATIONS REPORT

Chief Andy Butler reported that in the Fire Users group, they reported that the EFD accreditation has been submitted and they are waiting on the site visit. EMD version 13 update has been scheduled for mid-March. In the Police Users, they discussed the way that "Hold Until" calls are to be handled, some agencies have a single case number assigned and then they log calls under that single number, and others do it different. They are working through that to find a more effective process. Tech Users mentioned that the GIS pilot is going well and should be finishing up by the end of this month. John will be covering other items discussed in the Board of Operations meeting later in this meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**Public Safety Software Update**

John mentioned that a vendor has been selected. The Committee has met several times in trying to refine the contracts. They had a meeting later last week, going over a number of elements in the contract to determine how they would configure holding licenses and things. A sub-committee of legal individuals has sat down together to review these contracts. They will be meeting again in 2 weeks after all the preliminary negotiations have been gone through. Hexagon has been very accommodating in looking at things to make sure they are providing the things being asked for and they have made a number of concessions that have now been put into the contract itself. There will be a master agreement where they will look at all the indemnities and responsibilities going back and forth and then 2 special orders that will be specific to the acquisition of the software and hardware. The second order will be looking at the maintenance. One thing proposed was pre-paying for maintenance for 5 years at a substantial discount. In looking at funding this project, there is \$0.03 assessed on each phone line which is put into a restricted CAD fund, which is available to us. There was a UCA meeting yesterday and Steve Proctor indicated that this fund was put together for our purpose here primarily. This will generate \$2.5 million per year. If hardware and maintenance are purchased at the same time, this fund will be able to cover it, which will save ongoing maintenance. Chief Diamond reported that they are making good headway. One thing they spoke about was selecting a purchasing agent on this. In a previous meeting, it was discussed that VECC would be that agency. VECC would be the agent to purchase and they would sub-contract to everyone else. If everyone moved to a Communications District, all the licenses would be transferrable to that Communication District. This language is being built into the contract to protect everyone in the future. This is not just for the CAD but for RMS, Mobile, and other pieces. It's the whole package. The intent is to include not just the VECC Agencies, SLC and Sandy, but to include other agencies such as the U of U, UTA, the Airport, Alta, Granite School District and others. With the way John has been able to craft the system, most of this will be paid for with State funding. John indicated that VECC would be the primary agency and the sub-contractors would be those involved with the RFP, Salt Lake City, UPD and the VECC agencies. The RFP was written broad enough so that it could be an open purchase agreement for 3 years in order to include the other licenses coming in. The overall agreement includes the option for other entities to join. VECC is an Interlocal Agency and so anytime a new group comes in, it requires a signature by all the entities to agree to allow the individual in. This is not a significant obstacle, but one John wanted to be sure the contract included.

The next step is phase 2 into a 9-1-1 District. In talking about the budget, prior to some of the budget issues that we have been dealing with currently, as we start pulling together and have a unified CAD, RMS and those kinds of things, it makes sense to have a 9-1-1 District. Weber Morgan has a 9-1-1 Communication District and has its own taxing source. What this would mean for VECC members is that instead of paying a members' assessment, it could be folded into this taxing authority, which would have a governing board put together and they would be elected officials so that they could set up the tax rate going forward. In putting together the organization that purchases and holds the licenses, we want to look forward to the potential of having a District at some point in time. John feels this is something we should be cognizant of and start to seriously consider how we are funding public safety communications.

John shared the Utah Code which specifically allows creation of a 9-1-1 District. He encouraged everyone to look at this as it is a possibility John will be recommending. It will not affect the purchase of the CAD and RMS and other mobile data-type software. One outcome of this would be a consolidation of all 9-1-1 centers in the County. It would be under one management. Chief Diamond mentioned that one of the advantages of going to this system is virtualization of the consolidation. It's consolidated as far as dispatchers and call takers can work simultaneously back and forth with each other, especially if there is a failure in one building.

Legislation

John commented that there are two pieces of legislation that deals with the PSAP's. One is Senator Van Tassell's Bill, Brad Dee had one very similar to this, and it concerns the UCA, giving the governor the ability to appoint the Chairman of the UCA board. It gives the Chair the ability to appoint the Executive Director with the advice and consent of the Board, and then rotated the Board Chairmanship from local governments to the State government. The UCA is a State local independent agency. About 75% of the funding comes from locals and it comes from the radios that are paid for in public safety. The second part of it is three years ago, the vendors, who were part of the 9-1-1 committee, were excluded from the committee. Senator Van Tassell was

approached by the telecoms to add vendors to a Technical Advisory Committee with no users on this committee. It was changed so that there are now 3 Technical Committees; one for radio, one for interoperability and one for 9-1-1 services. These Technical Advisory Committees will have a fairly equal balance of vendors and users to advise on different things. Senate Bill 193, Senator Harper's bill, does a few different things, a moratorium on expenditure of funding that came from a separate fund, also a restricted fund from the State, where local communities come in and request funds for their needs. The moratorium is in place because there is a study going on right now. A consultant has been hired and they are doing a study and the State Auditor General also doing an audit of all of the funds being collected by the State for 9-1-1 purposes. The purpose of Senator Harper's Bill was to justify those expenditures before two separate committees and if it can be justified, the funds can be utilized. The State Auditor General went through an audit and because there were no rules for disseminating those funds, they were used for very disparate-type purposes. The audit has been extended to August 30, 2016 and the moratorium is extended to June of 2017.

National Telecommunications Week

Jeff Monson just wanted to make everyone aware of National Telecommunications Week coming up April 10-16, 2016. VECC holds a lot of different activities throughout the week to show appreciation to the employees. Jeff thanked everyone for their participation as well, and all the Chiefs at the last Board of Operations meeting who signed up for food for the BBQ on Friday, April 15th. Jeff also invited all Board members to come out at noon and eat and visit with the employees.

FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

This meeting was advertised as a Public Hearing to discuss the budget and there is a resolution to adopt the budget with any changes or modifications they may have.

Motion –

. . . by Mr. Randy Fitts, to open the Public Hearing for the 2016-2017 VECC budget; the motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Paleish; the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Winder opened up the Public Hearing and invited anyone who wished to speak to the 2016-2017 Budget to please come forward. There were no comments from the public on this.

Motion –

. . . By Mr. Gary Whatcott, to close the Public Hearing for the 2016-2017 VECC budget; the motion was seconded by Mr. Randy Fitts; the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Winder then invited a motion for a resolution to adopt the 2016-2017 VECC Budget. Before the motion was offered, John Inch Morgan wanted to mention a few things. He shared differences in revenue. In looking at the budget itself, the expenditure budget has been reduced from last year; it is actually \$500k less. One thing that has made a difference, because we are asking for more revenue coming in, is the reduction in the 9-1-1 fees coming in. VECC's funding for these fees comes from the number of lines that are available and the number of lines the telecommunicators report. \$0.61 on each one of these lines is the revenue that comes into our Center. One anomaly John found was the number of lines being reported and the decrease in lines from 2014 to now, which is a decrease of 30 – 40%. The 2 main sources of revenue coming in is the 9-1-1 fees based on the lines and the member agencies in both Law and Fire. These are based on a 3 year rolling average of the calls being received and processed. Every year, we look at calls for the year; they are averaged for 3 years and then divide them into the cost for providing the services. John mentioned to everyone in the past few meetings that he has been working with the legislative auditor. In the last reporting period for January numbers, there has been an increase coming back up, but it doesn't give John enough comfort to project a sustained increase throughout the rest of the year. Some of the throw-away phones are charged a higher rate than the \$0.61 per line, which means we should be benefiting if some people are moving over to these means. There are a few other things John is trying to dig into. The State Tax Commission only audits 2% of all of the phone lines that are being taxed throughout the entire state. This isn't enough to get a good sample. Even though people change their billing address, a lot of times their remittance is going somewhere else. For now, this is the budget John is proposing with the revenues coming in. There was a clarification in Senator Harper's

bill this year where the Life-Line phones are not taxed with the \$0.61, but anytime they purchase extra minutes, they must go to a vendor and they are taxed at the higher rate. The FCC provides the funding for this \$9.36 per month, to the vendor to provide the phone and minutes. Chairman Winder mentioned that this isn't the first time there have been mistakes made in these funds which resulted in huge disparities. They found that the telecoms are essentially unwilling to share hard data and the Tax Commission is going to have to be spurred to do something about this. The anomaly being described is absolutely clear and there needs to be reconciliation. No one believes that there are less lines and the difficult part, from a budgeting perspective, is you can only go by the revenues distributed. John reported that 7 years ago, the State bought a very expensive automated tax system. In 2011, these 9-1-1 fees were implemented but they are totally self-reporting. They report the number of lines and the amount of money that is there. In looking at John's spreadsheets, the discrepancy in lines doesn't align with the discrepancy in funding. This is a huge flag that comes up which the Legislative Auditor General is pursuing. For the 2 dispatch Centers, it's about \$100k difference per month. The excuse with the telecoms right now is that they hire a 3rd party to collect and disperse those taxes, and they are not always accurate.

Mr. Kyle Kershaw wanted to mention that this budget, due to the issues mentioned, requires an increased assessment. It was brought up that this Board would look at the budget, if the revenue problem gets addressed and improves, and consider refunding the member assessments. John replied that the Board of Trustees has the ability to open the budget at any point in time to make budget adjustments.

Motion –

. . . by Mr. Kyle Kershaw, to adopt the budget as presented by VECC Administrative Staff with the understanding that if the revenue situation improves at some point throughout the year, the budget would be reopened and there would be a possible refund of increased assessments; the motion was seconded by Mr. Randy Fitts; the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

There were no new items to discuss at this time.

Chairman Winder offered his thanks to John's efforts as it relates to the RMS and CAD situation. John has done a stellar job getting everyone informed on this. He commended John and his staff.

Roundtable Discussion

There were no items to discuss at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 1343.

