



Steve Rowlands
Director

222 N. 52nd Street
Quincy, Illinois 62305

(217) 228-4572
Fax: 222-9361

QUINCY/ADAMS COUNTY 9-1-1 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Minutes
April 18, 2018

8 members present: Quincy Alderman Mike Farha (Governing Board Chairman), Quincy Alderman Jeff Bergman, Adams County Board Member Dave Bellis, Adams County Board Member Ryan Niekamp, Adams County Board Member Bret Austin, Adams County Sheriff Brian Vonderhaar, Adams County EMS Chief John Simon, and Rural Fire Association Secretary Bill Johnson

3 members absent: Quincy Police Chief Rob Copley, Quincy Fire Chief Joe Henning, and Quincy Alderman Jennifer Lepper

Also present: Assistant States Attorney Brett Jansen, 9-1-1 Director Steve Rowlands, and 9-1-1 Assistant Director Jessica Douglas.

Quorum Call and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. 9-1-1 Governing Board Chairman Mike Farha called the meeting to order and indicated a quorum was present. Ryan Niekamp made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2018 meeting and Bill Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried and the minutes were approved as distributed with no changes.

204 Fund Balance. Director Steve Rowlands reported the Emergency Telephone System Fund balance is \$918,141 as of April 9, 2018.

Personnel Status. Director Rowlands noted there are two dispatchers in training as of February 12, 2018. The training period is nine (9) months. He stated that there is a new trainee scheduled to start on April 30, 2018. He also noted the upcoming retirement of a Dispatch Supervisor Jo Liesen on June 30, 2018. Director Rowlands said he anticipates hiring another person in August/September and stated that the dispatch staff is down three people with 12 of 15 qualified dispatcher positions filled.

Director Rowlands said that attracting qualified applicants is a challenge. He stated that he felt starting salaries were no longer competitive enough to attract and retain good candidates and that there is a need to look at increasing starting pay.

Chairman Farha stated that last contract negotiations were not successful in moving the bottom of the pay scale up. He said there was an offer of a significant pay increase in exchange for 15% health insurance contribution by the employee that was rejected by the union.

Director Rowlands stated that the current union contract expires on April 30, 2019 and contract negotiations with the Machinist Local will likely be in February/March 2019.

Chairman Farha stated that 9-1-1 Governing Board and the 9-1-1 Center and staff have accomplished many things in the last five years. He noted the purchase and installation of new digital recording system, radio control, 9-1-1 telephone systems that were installed to keep our technology current. He praised the 9-1-1 staff for their hard work and dedication noting that 9-1-1 is a 24/7 operation critical to public safety in our community. He stated he is very proud of what the 9-1-1 Governing Board and 9-1-1 staff have accomplished.

Status of VHF Simulcast Voting Receiver Radio System. Director Rowlands reported that the project is currently on hold due to additional expenses necessary to address site deficiency with regard to antenna towers. A handout listing sites and associated expenses was provided. He stated that an antenna tower must be installed at the courthouse and noted that Adams County Board and EMA Director John Simon are actively addressing this. The installation of the antenna tower will be at the County's expense as the county needed to remove the two existing towers due to the jail construction project.

Director Rowlands noted that the tower at the Camp Point site is deficient and in need of maintenance to bring it up to spec and additional cost to reinforce it for the radio project. He stated that the Camp Point site will require the most expense; the estimated cost is approximately \$63,000, however, Adams Electric owns the tower and intends to pay a portion of the cost. He stated that the Red Cross tower was deemed inadequate and that Hollister Whitney will allow use of an existing antenna tower at their facility. The Hollister Whitney tower will require approximately \$19,000 to be made ready for the project. He noted that there is an additional cost of \$8,100 necessary for the ADM site. He said there will be additional costs at the other 6 sites as well.

Director Rowlands requested that he be given authority by the 9-1-1 Governing Board to expend up to an additional \$118,000 for the project from the Emergency Telephone System Fund (204 Fund). He stated that this is about a 10% contingency. He stated that this will allow him to address the site deficiencies, unexpected necessary expenses, and get the project moving again.

Jeff Bergman inquired what the expenditures would bring the balance of the 204 fund to. Director Rowlands stated that additional revenue would be received from the state and would replenish the 204 fund in order to stay ahead on the balance. He stated that he receiving monthly revenue checks from the state and that he would be able to meet the cash flow requirements of the project.

Bret Austin asked John Simon what the County's expense would be for the installation of the antenna tower at the courthouse site.

John Simon stated that several quotes were received by our radio project vendor however, that the proposals will not be pursued because he it felt it was way too high. He said that, he is pursuing other options and, hopefully, the cost would be around \$40,000.

Bret Austin asked when the tower would be installed.

John Simon stated that is working to hopefully get the tower installed within the next 45 days.

Director Rowlands stated that WirelessUSA could possibly temporarily locate the antennas on the roof of the courthouse until the tower is ready and then move the antennas. This would get the project moving again. He stated that this would be at an additional cost because the antennas would be installed twice essentially.

John Simon noted that a request for expenditures for the tower installation will be made at the upcoming County Board meeting.

Bret Austin made a motion to give 9-1-1 Director Rowlands the authority to expend up to \$118,000 for additional costs for the radio project. Ryan Neikamp seconded the motion. The motion carried with 8 yes, 0 no, and 3 absent.

Establishment of Joint Emergency Telephone System Board (Joint ETSB). Director Rowlands stated that the Intergovernmental Agreement has been fully executed and was signed on April 12, 2018. He stated that the City of Quincy and Adams County Emergency Telephone System Board is created effective May 1, 2018 and replaces the current 9-1-1 Governing Board as oversight authority of Quincy/Adams County 9-1-1.

He noted that Illinois State Senator Jil Tracy has introduced SB2727 that would amend the Emergency Telephone Systems Act (ETSA) and allow 3 County Board members to serve on the ETSB. He stated that should that be successful that the Intergovernmental Agreement and both city and county codes regarding the Joint ETSB would need to be amended with approval of City Council and Adams County Board.

Director Rowlands stated that he provided appointment request letters and spoke with both Quincy Mayor Kyle Moore and Adams County Board Chairman Les Post regarding appointments to the ETSB. He stated that he asked the Mayor to make necessary appointments and seek City Council approval by May 7, 2018 and that Adams County Board Chairman Les Post make appointments and get County Board approval at the meeting on May 15, 2018.

Director Rowlands said that the Rural Fire Association has already announced the appointment of Tri-Township Fire Chief Tom Bentley to the ETSB.

Old Business. Director Rowlands noted that he is awaiting approval of the FY2018-2019 budget by the City Council at their April 23 or April 30, 2018 meeting.

New Business. Director Rowlands noted that this is the last meeting of the Quincy/Adams County 9-1-1 Governing Board. He extended his thanks to Adams County Rural Fire Association Secretary Bill Johnson and said that he is the longest serving member on the 9-1-1 Governing Board, and commended him for his service.

Executive Session. There was no Executive Session held.

Next Meeting. Director Rowlands stated that there will probably not be any additional meetings of the Quincy/Adams County 9-1-1 Governing Board. He stated that once appointments are made to the new Joint ETSB, that an organizational meeting will be held. He intends to recommend that the new board pick up where the old board left off and that meetings continue in the same manner that the 9-1-1 Governing Board did: quarterly meetings in January, April, July and October.

The first meeting of the Quincy and Adams County Joint Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) is to be determined.

Meeting Adjournment. Bill Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Bellis seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting of the Quincy/Adams County 9-1-1 Governing Board was adjourned.

Steve Rowlands

4/20/2018