

MEETING MINUTES
JOINT EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF JOHNSON
COUNTY - POLICY BOARD
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2009 – 8:00 A.M.
JECC POLICY BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM
4529 MELROSE AVENUE, IOWA CITY, IOWA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Coralville: Henry Herwig
 Iowa City: Regina Bailey
 Johnson County: Lonny Pulkrabek, Pat Harney
 North Liberty: Tom Salm, Chairperson
 Johnson Co. EMA: David Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Wright

1. **Call to order: recognize alternates**

Michael Wright was absent and there was no alternate.

2. **Approval of minutes from the November 23, 2009 meeting**

Motion by Bailey, seconded by Wilson. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Public discussion of any item not on the agenda**

No public discussion.

4. **Update from User Advisory Committee**

Chief Rocca provided an update from the User Advisory Committee meeting. Specifically, Chief Rocca expressed certain concerns about dispatching, the WARN Component, and the administration of warrants through JECC. Chief Rocca also discussed the emergency medical dispatch and the ongoing relationship with Dr. Huss. Chief Rocca reported that a six-month extension of the Assistance to Firefighters' Grant had been obtained. Chief Rocca also reported that the User Advisory Committee supported funding the weather alert sirens through JECSA so that the narrow banding could be accomplished. The cost of this work was \$73,000.

5. **Action to Approve Change Order No. 2 for Tri State Towers and discussion of release of retainage**

Legal counsel, Jeff Stone, presented the Change Order request to the Policy Board. Motion for approval by Herwig, seconded by Wilson. Motion passed 7-0.

6. Action to Approve the acquisition of weather alert siren system narrowing banding conversion and update to the tornado siren system utilizing JECC funds as recommended by the Emergency Management Commission and the JECC User Advisory Committee

EMA Director Wilson presented this request to the Policy Board. Wilson reported that the current system required that all the sirens be activated in Johnson County and that the narrow band would permit the activation of only a portion of the County that was affected by the weather. Wilson reported that it was a \$50 per device savings resulting in some savings if the Policy Board acted quickly. The total cost was \$73,500. Harney expressed concerns that this project should go through Emergency Management. Wilson clarified that EMA does not own the sirens and the cities and counties own the sirens and pay for all repairs and maintenance. Sheriff Pulkrabek expressed satisfaction with the project. Bailey expressed support for the project, commenting that this was part of the infrastructure and would improve the emergency services. Wilson clarified that EMA was responsible for the banding and activation of the sirens and writes the policies and procedures, but the Joint Emergency Communications Services Association is responsible for the activation. Motion by Herwig, seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 7-0.

7. Report/Update from Executive Director regarding his meeting with the Johnson County Board of Supervisors to discuss the provision of health care benefits and payroll services to the JECC employees.

Director Sullivan provided a summary of the recent Board of Supervisors' meeting. Certain supervisors opposed providing health care benefits to JECC employees. A County HR representative stated that another collective bargaining union would prove difficult for the County. Other supervisors expressed opinions that the City of Iowa City should do more to support the JECC. These same supervisors expressed interest in restructuring the 28E Agreement. Perhaps three supervisors could support providing health care benefits to JECC employees with certain conditions, including JECOSA's adoption of the County's personnel policies and the County's Plan, as well as the same collective bargaining agreement as the County's. Director Sullivan stated that quotes from insurance companies had been acquired, however, the health care questionnaires had not yet been completed. Director Sullivan commented that at this time, it appeared that JECOSA would be forced to proceed with a private health care provider and the budget would be prepared on that assumption.

Harney relayed that certain supervisors thought the Sheriff should run the JECC. Private conversations with the County Human Resources Department revealed that providing health insurance for JECOSA employees would not be much more work for the County HR. The County had expressed concerns that if JECOSA was cherry picking benefits that other labor units would then coattail onto this resulting in higher costs for the County. The Auditor requested additional personnel in order to process JECOSA's bills. Harney also sought clarification on how JECOSA was keeping separate books and how it was being separate from the County.

Herwig expressed support for JECOSA remaining independent. Herwig expressed support for contracting with outside providers to provide health insurance. Herwig expressed concerns about the project sliding backwards. Herwig was proud of the success that JECOSA has had,

specifically, how improved services were being provided to Johnson County. He thought that this was providing public services to the citizens of Johnson County. He reminded that the independence is the mission of JECOSA and was discouraged by the public reporting that had happened.

Pulkrabek questioned why the City of Iowa City could not provide the health insurance. Bailey replied that the City of Iowa City was required to set its benefits levy at a certain rate per level. The inclusion of JECOSA employees in the City's pool would require it to double tax for the benefits although JECOSA would reimburse the City for the benefits. Chief Rocca concurred with Bailey. Bailey expressed no interest in meeting with the County Board of Supervisors to discuss the County's request.

8. Other Business

Herwig expressed satisfaction with the progress that has been made in providing public safety to the citizens of Johnson County.

Chairman Salm stated that the review of Director Sullivan would be skipped and rescheduled to the January Policy Board Meeting.

Director Sullivan relayed a request of Chatham Oaks to have JECOSA help plow the access road. Executive Director Sullivan also updated upon U.S. Cellular's request to build a separate tower on either JECOSA's or the County's land near the JECC building.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Herwig, seconded by Harney. Meeting adjourned by 7-0.