

MEETING MINUTES

Joint Emergency Communications Services Association of Johnson County
Policy Board
Friday, November 18, 2011, at 7:30 a.m.
4529 Melrose Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa
Policy Board Conference Room

DIRECTORS PRESENT:	Coralville:	John Lundell
	North Liberty:	Tom Salm
	Iowa City:	Tom Markus, Mike Wright
	Johnson County:	Pat Harney; Lonny Pulkrabek
	Johnson County EMA:	Don Saxton

1. Call to order; recognize alternates.

Harney called meeting to order. Iowa City, City Manager Tom Markus was recognized as an alternate for Regina Bailey. Don Saxton was recognized as an alternate for Dave Wilson EMA.

2. Action to approve minutes of the October 28, 2011, Policy Board Meeting.

Motion to approve minutes by Lundell; seconded by Wright. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Comments from the public.

Several members of the public were introduced, but there was no comment at this time. All comments were held until the Public Hearing on the proposed FY 2013 budget.

4. Executive Director's report.

Albrecht stated the month of November has been very quiet. He said the JECC administrative staff spent the majority of the month working on the proposed FY 2013 budget as well as Union Contract Negotiations.

Albrecht stated the FY 2013 budget would be presented later in the meeting. He added the Board would also be asked to approve a tentative contract with the Communications Workers of America which was reached on November 8th. He stated the CWA ratified the tentative agreement earlier in the week.

Albrecht said the Board would be asked to approve a resolution approving a "base package" for both portable and mobile radios provided by JECSEA.

Lundell asked about the status of hiring an Emergency Communications Coordinator for the JECC. Albrecht stated second interviews with two candidates will be held on Monday November 21st.

5. Discussion with the City of Iowa City regarding the use of JECOSA's radio communications system for non-public safety radio users in Iowa City.

Rick Voss, from the City of Iowa City addressed the Board to explain where the City is at in connection with the procurement of radios for the radio system needed for non-public safety users in Iowa City. Voss said the City is currently considering two systems, one a Motorola solution and one a JECC solution. Voss said the ultimate decision will be based on cost and the ability to provide service. He said there were three considerations to meet the needs of Iowa City. The Service Area, Interoperability and the ability to push data. He said both systems being looked at can do all three, it is now just a matter of cost.

Voss said they would be looking at bringing on 450 to 500 radios to the JECOSA system. He said they are working with vendors to get a final best offer on the cost.

Harney asked if it would be a utilization of the system and not the dispatch center. Voss said it would be system only. Harney asked if there would be sufficient capacity and Albrecht said yes. Voss added the City would offer up eight frequencies for use on the JECOSA system if needed.

Jones added the JECOSA system is currently capable of and is set up to push data, but to do so we would need additional hardware.

Lundell said his whole concern was a cost reference. If the City coming on to the JECOSA system was beneficial to the City at no cost to JECOSA than he was interested. If the City coming onto the JECOSA system would cost JECOSA that he would be less interested.

Voss said if all things were equal, the City of Iowa City wanted to be on the JECOSA system which would benefit both JECOSA and the City of Iowa City. Voss added he hoped to have a decision within six months.

6. Action to approve Resolution 2011-17, clarifying, what in fact, is a "Base Package" for both mobile and portable radios provided by JECOSA.

Albrecht stated a "base package" for portables and mobiles has been a discussion item over the last several meetings. He said the resolution is just to put in writing the wishes of the Policy Board concerning the purchase of portable and mobile radios as the organization moves forward.

Albrecht said the "base package" for a portable radio will include the radio, antenna, battery, spare battery, battery charger, speaker mic, and radio clip or holster. He said the "base package" for mobile radios will include the radio, standard antenna, power cables and all mounting brackets. He emphasized it does exclude the cost of installation of that radio into the vehicle.

Albrecht further added the UAC would like included in the “base package” the addition of the licensing for AVL and mobile Data. Albrecht stated this would only occur if there was an increase in a Department’s fleet. He said the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office was asking for two additional licenses for FY 2013.

Salm said this was new to us and should have another look before being added to the “base package” resolution.

Wright said a check of last month’s minutes, showed this should be a part of the cost to the agency. Albrecht stated that was for installation and this was different. Pulkrabek said the Mobile Date and AVL were essential to law enforcement and should not be the responsibility of the asking agency.

Spencer added that the UAC also wanted added to the resolution who would be responsible for replacing the radio system in 10 to 15 years. Would it be JECC or the users. Pulkrabek said the intention all along was for JECC to own the system and replace it when needed.

A motion to approve Resolution 2011-17 (as is, with possible amendment in the future) was made by Salm; seconded by Wright. Motion to approve passed 7-0.

Markus made a motion to have administration come back to the board with a further explanation of the mobile CAD and AVL package. Motion was seconded by Pulkrabek. Motion passed 7-0.

7. Action to approve Resolution 2011-18, approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement ratified by the Communications Workers of America Local 7101 to take effect July 1, 2012.

A motion to approve Resolution 2011-18 was made by Pulkrabek; seconded by Salm. The motion was approved 7-0.

8. A public hearing to discuss the proposed JECC operating budget for the Fiscal Year 2013. Action to approve budget to publish and to be presented at the December 2011 meeting for approval.

Harney said he would like it known that the Board had not seen the budget before it was published in the paper. He said that should probably be changed for the upcoming fiscal year. Harney then opened the public hearing on the FY 2013 budget.

Rod Sullivan, a member of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, addressed the Policy Board about the proposed budget. Sullivan said he divided his comments into 7 different issues. He said the first was the timing of the meeting. 7:30 a.m. was not a good time, it should be in the afternoon or evening. He said his second issue was the detail of the published budget which he felt was lacking. The third issue was that the budget was not presented to the Board before it was published. The fourth issue was that E-911 dollars were not being used to supplement the current budget asking. The fifth issue was the \$500,000 asking for additional reserves. Sullivan

said there was no need for large reserves. He said the County would be able to bond for JECOSA in the event of an emergency and the reserves would not be needed. The sixth issue was the sheer size of the proposed budget increase. Sullivan said it was just way to high. The seventh and final issue was the structure of the JECC Board.

Harney said he agreed the Policy Board should have seen the budget before it was published. He agreed the reserve asking was too high and would be reduced. Pulkrabek said he has been on record for the last two years saying the reserves needed to be lower and major expenditures needed to be bonded for.

Salm said bonding usually takes weeks, not days. He also asked if Sullivan was speaking for all the Board of Supervisors, or just as an individual. Sullivan said the majority of the board feels that way, but nothing is official.

Markus asked if there could be a memo of understanding between JECOSA and the Board of Supervisors that the Board of Supervisors would bond for JECOSA if needed. Sullivan said he didn't think that would be a problem. Lundell said it would have to be spelled out that the Board of Supervisors could not block the bond asking if the JECOSA Policy Board asked for it.

Harney asked if there were others from the public to speak. Terry Dahms said he was a County Resident representing the public. He said the published budget asking was baffling and confusing. He said the budget is not acceptable. He said the Policy Board needed to come back with a budget that was flat or no more than 5 percent and he said if that couldn't be done than the Policy Board should resign and others from the member agencies, should propose a budget that is more reasonable.

Bob Welsh (unsure of spelling) of Iowa City then addressed the Board saying he felt the Board should have told staff (Albrecht) to come in with a budget not more than 3 percent. He felt the Policy Board should not act on the proposed budget but should advise staff to come back with a more appropriate budget.

Lundell said he disagreed with Mr. Welsh, saying it is dangerous to come in with a set amount when you are talking about public safety. He said it is up to the Policy Board to look at the budget and pare it down where needed.

Harney asked if there were others who wished to speak. Seeing none, Harney called for a five minute break before Albrecht gave his budget presentation. Harney closed the public hearing.

Harney continued the meeting after the short break. Salm proposed a motion that the meeting run no longer than 9:45 a.m. to keep the Policy Board on focus. Harney said he would do that if the Policy Board approved. Motion made by Salm seconded by Lundell. Motion failed 4-3. Harney said we would try to stay within that time frame.

Albrecht presented the proposed FY-2013 operating budget for JECOSA. Albrecht highlighted some of the services provided by the JECC. Albrecht presented all categories of the budget and went line item by line item. The total budget amounting to \$3,785,209. Albrecht added the cash

reserves as of June 30, 2012 would be \$415,439.10. Jones said if you actually look at reserves right now, they would be about 1.5 million but much of those are designated or obligated funds that if spent this fiscal year, as expected, would leave a \$415,439,10 fund balance.

Harney said he wanted to know what the Policy Board wanted in the cash reserve fund and to know if maintenance contracts should be kept in place or if we would pay time and materials. Policy Board members believed there needed to be another budget meeting, a work session, if you will. That meeting was set for Monday November 28th at 7 p.m.

Markus said if cash reserves were going to be reduced he believed there needed to be a memo of understanding between JECSA and the County Board of Supervisors that bonding would be available to JECSA if and when it was needed.

9. Other business.

None.

10. Consider a Motion to adjourn the meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lundell; seconded by Salm. Motion passed 7-0.