

MEETING MINUTES

Joint Emergency Communications Services Association of Johnson County
Policy Board
Friday, March 27, 2015 at 7:30 a.m.
4529 Melrose Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa
Policy Board Conference Room

DIRECTORS PRESENT:	Iowa City:	Tom Markus, Susan Mims
	Johnson County:	Terrence Neuzil
	North Liberty:	Diane Venenga
	Coralville:	John Lundell
	Johnson County:	Pat Harney

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

Terrence Neuzil called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m. Chris Hoffman was absent and his alternate was Diane Venenga. Lonny Pulkrabek was absent and Tom Harney was his alternate. Dave Wilson was absent and no alternate was present. Also attending were Tom Jones, Nick Trenary, Brandon Siggins from JECC, and Attorney Jeff Stone.

2. **Action to approve minutes of the January 23, 2015, Policy Board Meeting.**

Lundell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Harney. Minutes approved.

3. **Comments from the public.**

Racheal Elvers, a union steward, representing the Communication Workers of America Union was present. She wished to read a statement from Bonnie Winther asking the Policy Board to help build a better employee/management relationship. Neuzil thanked her for this statement and said it would be addressed further under "Other business."

4. **Executive Director's Update.**

Jones said he had received a letter from Chief Horihan from the City of West Branch and they have decided at this time to stay with their communications through Cedar County to help build community support. He thanked JECSA for working with them.

On February 6, 2015, Terrence Neuzil, Brandon Siggins, Todd Evans and Tom Jones met with Bonnie Winther to discuss some of the problems with employee/management relations. They will be having further discussions.

February 10, 2015, Brandon, Todd and Tom had a chance to attend a training put on by Johnson County on employee recognition and appreciation. Jones felt this was very advantageous and enjoyed the speaker.

5. **Discussion item: Discussion regarding JECSA tower sites.**

There was discussion about the Solon tower site and the fact that currently JECSA is paying approximately \$25,000 annually for the lease.

Attorney Jeff Stone discussed three items to consider on the Solon Site:

- a) Try to buy the site from the current owners;
- b) Construct our own site for approximately \$350,000.00;
- c) Exercise eminent domain to condemn the current site of the tower.

Stone said several years ago the Gleasons were willing to sell the land to JECSA for \$50,000. JECSA is the only user on the current tower site. By possibly showing the current tower owners a design from JECSA to build a new tower would give JECSA some leverage to either buy the existing tower or lower the lease amount. At this stage, this is only a discussion item for consideration.

The second tower site item is JECSA has received notice from the University of Iowa that they do not intend to renew the 28E Agreement when it expires in 2020. Their intent is to tear down the Oakdale tower. Jones commented JECSA needs to find a site in that vicinity as it is centrally located in the county, elevation is higher and it is the main tower for JECSA.

The third tower site, Blank Honors, also is included in the 28E agreement with the University of Iowa. The University is going to be building a new structure and the crane they will be using for construction will interfere with the signal from the tower. The University suggested fiber optics could be used instead of microwave during this project, but they will not be renewing this 28E agreement either.

Tom Markus suggested Iowa City will look into possible sites downtown where a tower can be placed on top of a building.

6. Action Item: Approval of letter for entities to provide to vendors who propose use of our P25 switching backbone.

Jones received a letter from RACOM to respond to RFP use of our P25 switching backbone. This request came from Black Hawk County asking to interconnect with Johnson and Linn counties. There would be no cost to JECSA for this connection. The Board suggested making some minor adjustments to the response letter about a 28E agreement to be signed at some point. It is to be stressed that the response letter is not a legal and binding contract. Motion by Markus, second by Lundell to respond to this request.

7. Other business.

There needs to be a list of areas to discuss between employees and management. Try to resolve the issue of how to move forward and communicate. Neuzil suggested the county has four meetings a year with all the different entities and discusses employee relations, training, and safety. At least two of the meetings include all employees. Markus stated there has to be a line drawn between talks which involve union contracts and are not negotiable during these talks and other items which would help employee/management relationships.

8. Consider a Motion to adjourn.

Motion was made by Mims, second by Venenga. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 a.m. Next meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2015.