

# MEETING MINUTES

Joint Emergency Communications Services Association of Johnson County Policy Board  
Monday, May 7, 2012, 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; Susan Mims
	Johnson County:	Janelle Rettig; Lonny Pulkrabek
	Johnson County EMA:	Dave Wilson

## 1. Call to order; recognize alternates.

Lundell called meeting to order. All present; Mayor Don Saxton is an alternate for Dave Wilson, but Dave was also present.

## 2. Comments from public.

None.

## 3. Discussion item for Iowa City non public safety user radio system. Iowa City is the largest non public safety user in the county and they are deciding whether or not to adopt the JECSA system or go with other options.

Rick Fosse provided some history on the proposals that the city of Iowa City received for their new radio system starting in April 2010. The first proposal they received was from Communications Engineering (CEC) and Motorola who proposed a Mototurbo system which had the ability to interface with the JECSA system. The second proposal was from RACOM using P25 compliant radios utilizing the JECSA infrastructure. Cost models were developed based off of these proposals looking at neutral costs and tenure costs. They found there was a \$100,000 difference in the infrastructure and the main discrepancy between the P25 compliant and non P25 compliant. The University of Iowa is tentatively going to participate in the venture, but the cost model does not depend on their support. Rettig inquired as to what P25 means and Terry Brennan with Racom replied that it is an industry standard technology that is proprietary and the federal government has endorsed it as the protocol for interoperability among federal, state and local public safety entities. Salm asked Fosse about the user fees and where would that put things if they were taken off. Fosse stated that it would get them closer, but if the fees went away the expenses still weren't going to go away and sooner or later the fees would probably come back. Wilson stated that the JECSA fees originated from the Iowa City system which has been completely paid for by Iowa City tax dollars and the JECSA fee structure that was established was based on Iowa City's structure. Rettig voiced that she had no interest in subsidizing Iowa City's public works by county wide tax payers.

**4. Discussion item: Request of the Cedar County West Branch Fire to update their pager system through a cost share program with JECSA.**

Jones explained that currently all outlying areas use point to point for radio communication with the JECC. Cedar County and West Branch Fire is looking to do away with their phone line and would like to be paged directly by the JECC. Cedar County was not happy with the point to point radio communication solution and proposed a cost share for dual tone pagers with a 60/40 split. The exact number of pagers is uncertain, but Jones estimated about 25 pagers at about \$450 a piece. Pulkrabek added that JECSA shouldn't be burdened with the cost of additional pagers. Pulkrabek stated that he was okay with them doing away with the phone line, but we should go back and dispatch them like we do the other adjoining counties. Wilson stated operationally it is more consistent if we are doing it the same for all agencies. Hodges agreed that consistency in the dispatch center was far more efficient if we were dispatching everyone the same way. Rettig moved to deny Cedar County West Branch request for dual tone pager cost share. Second by Salm. Lundell then directed Jones to send that message to West Branch.

**5. Discussion item: FY2012 Proposed Budget Amendment.**

Jones updated the policy board on the state of the year end budget compared to actual expenses. He noted that there were additional maintenance costs that were not accounted for in the budget. Rettig stated that the amendment does not only cover major unanticipated expenditures, but that it includes cost overruns. Jones expressed hope that in the future, JESCA would be better able to predict its expenditures for the year, but this past year many unanticipated expenditures were incurred. Lundell opened the public hearing for any record on the budget on the amendment and hearing none from the public, Lundell closed the public hearing. Lundell asked for a motion on the resolution, moved by Mims, second by Salm. Roll call vote: Lundell, aye; Salm, aye; Pulkrabek, aye; Markus, aye; Saxton, aye; Rettig, nay.

**6. Other business.**

Jones discussed items left out of the directors' report. He included a letter directed to Chuck Green thanking UI DPS for answering the JECC's routine phone line while we experienced an outage due to a contractor who cut a phone line. Jones also updated the policy board on the financial audit being performed by Anderson Larkin who are reviewing JESCA's financials and preparing a report due in late May or June. The auditors stated there were no issues in the preliminary gathering of documents. Jones noted that at the next meeting, on June 22, 2012, that Latta Harris would be present to explain the monthly financials to the policy board and answer any questions that they may have. Tom Markus requested a discussion on how JESCA's tax levy appears on their tax bill. Pulkrabek shared a successful JESCA communication story with the recent bank robbery and how well the interoperability worked between all of the agencies to setup a perimeter and apprehend the suspect quickly. Rettig addressed the notion of Tom Jones

attending the Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership program as an option for further professional development.

**7. Consider a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

Lundell entertained a motion to adjourn; Pulkrabek moved, second by Mims. Motion carried.