

# MEETING MINUTES

Joint Emergency Communications Services Association of Johnson County  
Policy Board  
Monday, November 28, 2011, at 7:00 p.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.

## 2. Comments from the public.

Terry Dahms, representing the citizens of Johnson County addressed the Board. He said he was one of three people at the first budget presentation. He said it would be prudent of the Policy Board to realize that even though there were only three people at the first presentation, there is a lot of interest in the JECC budget. He said the public wants to see a budget that is balanced or is marginally increased. Dahms said at the last meeting he said the budget increase should be no more than 5 percent. He says now, the increase should be no more than was given the union during contract negotiations, which he believed to be 3 percent. He said there should be no more new hires and tasks should be dispersed amongst the staff. He added the public would be watching the budget proceedings and the Policy Board should be aware of that.

## 3. Work session on Fy-2013 proposed Budget.

Albrecht stated after the last presentation he went back and made some adjustments to the proposed FY-2013 budget. Those adjustments included: A \$9,681 decrease in overtime; A decrease in COLA from 2% to 1.5%; A removal of \$22,050 for Harris mobile and portable maintenance; A removal of \$5,081 for Harris mobile and portable preventative maintenance; A removal of \$20,695 for Harris Sums FX; A removal of \$24,750 for Harris Sums Plus; A removal of \$6,000 for interop equipment, for a total of \$78,576 with all removals to be paid for by a special E-911 allocation of \$275,000 for FY-13 which can and will be rolled over into succeeding years. Albrecht said the remainder of the \$275,000 allocation will likely be used in FY 2014 for Harris Maintenance Contracts. Albrecht said \$17,000 was removed for the

purchase of three mobile radios. Albrecht said, per the request of the Sheriff, he split out the proposed administrative assistant to show a cost of \$12,480.

Lundell asked how Albrecht came to the reduction in overtime. Albrecht said there was nothing magical about the reduction as it was based on trends when the center is at full staff.

Harney brought up the possible removal of Code Red from the budget. He said it is a \$28,000 increase in the JECC budget, but one way or the other it will be paid for by tax dollars, whether with JECC or EMA. Wilson said the plan was to always have it be paid for by the JECC.

Markus asked about the costs for personnel and personnel services. Albrecht said there were increases because of factors beyond his control such as union contracts and increases in retirement and health benefits. Pulkrabek asked about the jump in IPERS, Albrecht said it was because of an across the board increase in the amount the employer pays into the retirement system. Pulkrabek said there appeared to be a \$60,000 savings in health care with the adjustments made by JECC staff earlier in the year.

Pulkrabek asked about the administrative assistant. He asked if it was an approved position. Albrecht said it was a new position, it was awaiting possible approval. He said it was a position costing \$12,480 per year, with no benefits. Pulkrabek said he believed staff could go another year without the new position. Lundell asked if Albrecht had a reason for the new position. Albrecht said he did believe someone making his salary should not be transcribing minutes, going to the post office, putting stamps on envelopes, going to the accountants to drop off and pick-up bills and like tasks. Lundell said he understood the argument, but that we could wait another year. Markus said cutting of the proposed position wouldn't really save much in the long run, however he agreed with the majority that the position could wait another year.

Pulkrabek asked about the E-911 funds and how they were being used in the budget. Albrecht said a number of line items are paid for by E-911. Pulkrabek said that was not clear in the budget. Albrecht said they are broken out and zeroed out. Jones explained what the particular line items were. Pulkrabek wanted those line items better identified. Wilson wanted to know why the NCIC lines couldn't be paid for out of E-911 dollars. Albrecht said he didn't believe that was an applicable expense, but he would check. Wilson then asked why the NCIC costs were not picked up by each particular agency. Pulkrabek said it was a core public safety expense and should be borne by JECC.

Markus brought up the \$500,000 reserve asking. Albrecht said without that \$500,000, the reserves should be \$415,439 by June 30, 2012. Wright asked if there had been resolution with the Board of Supervisors for bonding for the JECC if needed. Harney said the Board of Supervisors wanted some other changes at JECC before approving the bonding issue. Markus said Sullivan made an offer to bond for the JECC and it should not be tied to anything else. Pulkrabek said if the \$500,000 were dropped we would have reserves totaling a little more than 10% of the operating budget which he called reasonable.

Another member of the public a Mr. Novak, at this time, asked to address the Policy Board saying the initial proposal to build and operate the JECC was way less than what it is now. He asked that the Policy Board to cut where possible as taxes are going up all over the place

including the asking for a new jail. Pulkrabek addressed a number of Mr. Novak's issue saying the Policy Board built a building and radio system that will be a model statewide and will still be operational in 50 years from now. Lundell asked if Pulkrabek could speak to performance of the new system. Pulkrabek said it is unprecedented with all police, fire and ems being on the same system the ability to work together and to do so seamlessly.

Harney said there are a lot of comments about the budget being out of control. He said the budget is not out of control. Harney said some of the problem had to do with underfunding in the first few years and now the proper funding is being asked for.

Wilson said we are looking at a \$512,000 decrease which has been agreed upon. Pulkrabek said correct, except a decision has not been made on Code Red. Wright said to keep in mind we can raise the budget, but can only lower it. So if you remove the \$500,000 you may be handcuffing yourself.

Terry Dahms addressed the board again about suggestions made by Rod Sullivan and Terrance Nuezel. Dahms said the Policy Board should reduce the budget by \$500,000 and the Board of Supervisors would likely agree to bond for the JECC if need be. Lundell said he didn't want any governmental agency to be able to hold the JECC hostage.

Pulkrabek said he believed the Board of Supervisors would be willing to bond for JECC if an emergency arose. Pulkrabek made a motion to reduce the budget by \$512,480 and have a reserve of 10%. Saxton seconded the motion. Discussion ensued with Markus saying he would be more comfortable with the motion if it was an unimpeded process of bonding based on a sole determination by JECC. Wright said he sees the removal of \$500,000 as a good faith effort but also as opening up a can of worms. Harney said he believed the Board of Supervisors would step up for a bonding proposal if needed. Harney asked if Pulkrabek wanted to reword his motion. He said no, but he would withdraw it and someone else can rephrase it. Lundell asked if it was all or nothing or could the reserve asking be reduced from \$500,000 to \$250,000.

Markus made a motion that the Policy Board approve the budget as submitted with a reduction in the administrative assistant position and the \$500,000 cash reserve asking with the reductions being based on the offer from the Board of Supervisors to allow the use of their bonding powers if the JECC determined it necessary. Pulkrabek seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

## **9. Other business.**

None.

## **10. Consider a Motion to adjourn the meeting.**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Wright; seconded by Saxton. Motion passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned.