

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Law and Justice Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Law & Justice Committee Minutes
November 23, 2015**

The Law and Justice Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, November 23, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Legislative Center's Gathertorium. Chairman Frieders called the meeting to order. Those present were Ms. Askins, Mr. Cribben, Ms. Little, Mr. Stoddard, and Chairman Frieders. Ms. Leifheit arrived at 6:36 p.m. and Mrs. Tobias was absent. A quorum was established.

Others present were Gary Hanson, Sheriff Roger Scott, Glenna Johnson, Lt. Lisa Winckler, Chief Deputy Gary Dumdie, Chief Chuck Breese, Fire Chiefs from Malta, Genoa-Kingston and Somonauk, Norman Gaston, Tracy Jones, and Anthony Cvek.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Ms. Askins and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from October 26, 2015.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Cribben, seconded by Mr. Stoddard and it was carried unanimously by voice vote to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments made by the public.

COMMUNICATION CENTER FEE PROPOSAL FOR NON-CONTRACTED AGENCIES

Chairman Frieders shared that the fee structure pertaining to the Communications Center has been major topic of discussion for many months now within the Law & Justice Committee. He reviewed that the Committee was presented with a fee proposal from the Communications Sub-Committee. The fee structure consisted of a breakdown of shared expenses by the County's Rural Police and Fire Departments based on the number of CAD events.

Chairman Frieders announced that he would like to open the floor to any persons in the audience that may have any concerns or questions regarding the proposed fee structure and provide an opportunity for all departments to get a better understanding of how this issue came before them and possible come to any agreement on how to move forward.

Waterman Police Chief, Chuck Breese shared that he was interested in listening to everyone's concerns regarding the proposed fee structure.

Sheriff Roger Scott clarified that the Law & Justice Committee back on September 28th approved to support the proposed fee structure, however as he understood it, there wasn't a consensus from the Sub-Committee and rather send it to the full County Board, he asked Chairman Frieders to bring the issue back to Committee in order for the rural Fire Department to have a chance to be able to speak to the matter as well.

Chief Jeff Byerhof, Fire Chief for the Village of Malta, noted that last week a group of the Rural Fire Chief got together and discussed the Communication Center fee structure and he was wanted to bring some of the Chief's concerns forward because others could not be in attendance. The first issue he discussed was how a recent letter from Sheriff Scott regarding this issue was channeled to them and he also explained how Fire Chiefs have no fiduciary responsibility. All financial decisions are made by the Fire District's Board of Trustees and there was very short timing between when the County was going to move forward with their decision and when the District's Boards were meeting. Chief Byerhof also shared, to be blunt, many of the Fire Departments do not want to pay and shared that they are all Units of Local Government and taxpayers are getting hit from all different areas (ie: County taxes, 911 surcharges). The Chief also expressed that some of the older Fire Chief noted that the non-payment for dispatch services was a buy-in to go along with the PSAP endeavor. Chief Byerhof also noted that after reviewing some state reports and crunching numbers together he found that DeKalb County is the second highest County out of twenty for the cost per 911 call and number seven in the State of Illinois. Lastly, some of the Fire Chiefs were upset that with buying into the 911 Center, they dismantled their infrastructure to dispatch, so there are no other options for the Fire Departments aside from looking elsewhere.

Sheriff Scott explained that the \$188,000 was not a hole in the budget and it is accounted for due to contributions from the Rural Police Departments due to an agreement that was made with them last year. This proposal was done by the Sub-Committee of the Law & Justice Committee in order to review and recommend a method of cost allocation for participating entities served by the Communication Center. This was assembled because the Rural Police Departments felt it was unfair for them to pay more into the Center when the Rural Fire Departments weren't paying anything.

The group talking briefly on fire dispatch infrastructure and how they have calls dispatched to them. There were discussions regarding the Communication Center providing fire dispatching services to smartphones. Lt. Winckler indicated that the Center was currently working with the Town of Cortland on dispatching their fire calls to smartphones because they wanted to see how well it worked before expanding the service to other parts of the County.

Chief Breese noted that he was interested in hearing what the Committee had to say regarding two concerns he had. The first one was what would happen if an agency decides not to pay and what happens if an agency leaves, would the rest of the departments take the burden? Chief Byerhof echoed those concerns and noted that he still was unsure of why DeKalb County has such a high cost per 911 call.

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Ms. Glenn Johnson, DeKalb County's E-911 Coordinator, explained that the most expensive items that they have are their expenses to Frontier who does all of their database and selective routing services. The next highest expense is dispatch fees and training fees, including state certifications. She noted that without looking at every other center, it is hard to say why DeKalb County is so high but also expressed that not one system is the same and fees are all different as well. She also shared what the ETSB pays for and what others may or may not pay for.

Chairman Frieders asked Sheriff Scott if he would like to address the concern of what would happen if an agency decided not to pay. Sheriff Scott shared that he really didn't have any other options besides taking the call and getting it to where it needed to go. The only thing they can do beyond that is decided how much follow up they may do after that but he also expressed that safety is always his number one priority regardless of payment.

The group further reviewed the fee structure proposal and explained how the numbers were determined based on the CAD event costs. The usage of the proposal is based on January 1st to December 31, 2014 CAD events which equals \$14.32 per event.

The Sheriff also briefly reviewed information regarding a Communication Center Study that was done back in 2014. One of the notes that was given after that study was conducted was that the Fire Departments did not pay and that may be something to consider in the future, although they also recognized it is a huge political issue (hot topic).

Chief Byerhof also noted that within that Communication Center Study it was also noted that the personnel costs were high due to having deputized staff within the Center. The Sheriff noted that the deputies provide a vital function and they are a lifeline between Police, Fire, and citizens and he makes no apologies for what they are paid. He also recognized that it is not a norm for those staff members to be deputized but he feels they provide a critical public service and deserve to be in the same category as the other Law Enforcement Officers. Chief Deputy Dumdie also added that it was mentioned in the study that their retention rate is significantly higher than most other Communication Centers which is a big positive in their eyes due to the amount of training given to the individuals.

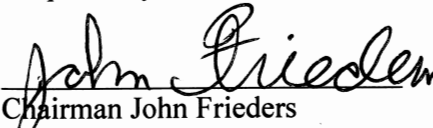
Chairman Frieders shared that the County Board finds value in keeping all agencies within the County together and whether they succeed or not, that is their goal. He also encouraged any other Chiefs to contact the Committee in order to be sure all questions and concerns have been addressed regarding this issue. Chairman Frieders encouraged the Committee to wait another month to make any decisions in order to digest what they talked about and have a better understanding on how they feel by the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Askins, seconded by Ms. Little, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.


Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

Respectfully submitted,


Chairman John Frieders

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PROPOSED TIME LINE COMMUNICATIONS

Cities/Towns	Current Proposal (9/15/14)	Towns Budget County Budget	May – April Jan – Dec
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2014 - \$175,571 due July 15, 2014* covers town through April 2015
2015 - \$182,000 due July 15, 2015** covers town through April 2016 (+6429)
2016 - \$188,000 due July 15, 2016 ** covers town through April 2017 (+6000)
2017 - \$195,000 due July 15, 2017 ** covers town through April 2018 (+7000)
2018 - \$201,000 due July 15, 2018 ** covers town through April 2019 (+6000)

Advisory Committee if needed through
Law & Justice Committee

1. Question how to divide above cost among departments

- CAD events
- Divide increases equally
- Population
- Other

* completed except for Somonauk

** Rural Police Cities & towns share will use 2014 amount of \$125,571
as base, and will only be increased by percentage increase of the
labor contract each year through April 2019

To Be Formed 2015
Purpose

Review and recommendation of method of cost
allocation for participating entitles served by the
Communication Center.
Recommendation to Law and Justice Committee
upon completion.

Recommended Advisory Committee

Chair Mayor Russ Stokes
2 represent rural police dept.
2 represent rural fire dept.
1 represent Genoa fire
1 represent Genoa police
1 represent Sycamore fire
1 represent Sycamore Police
1 represent ETSB/911 Board
1 County Administration
2 Sheriff's Office

Breakdown of shared expense by Rural Police and Fire Departments.
Based on number of CAD Events
To satisfy request for \$188,000

AGENCY	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL	AMOUNT
Cortland Fire Department	381	2.9	\$5452
Cortland Police Department	4159	31.7	\$59,596
Hinckley Fire Department	205	1.6	\$3008
Hinckley Police Department	1599	12.2	\$22,936
Kingston Police Department	414	3.2	\$6016
Kirkland Fire Department	276	2.1	\$3948
Kirkland Police Department	1343	10.2	\$19,176
Lee Fire Department	34	0.2	\$376
Leland Fire Department	112	0.9	\$1692
Malta Fire Department	209	1.6	\$3008
Malta Police Department	506	3.8	\$7144
Paw Paw Fire Department	12	0.1	\$188
Shabbona Fire Department	116	0.9	\$1692
Somonauk Fire Department	497	3.8	\$7144
Somonauk Police Department	1973	15.0	\$28,200
Waterman Fire Department	211	1.6	\$3008
Waterman Police Department	1085	8.2	\$15,418
TOTAL	13,132	100%	\$188,000

Amount per CAD Event: \$14.32



DeKalb County Sheriff's Office

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE • 815-895-7260
CIVIL PROCESS • 815-895-7259
COMMUNICATION CENTER • 815-895-2155
CORRECTIONS/JAIL • 815-895-4177
FAX • 815-895-7235 - SHERIFF
FAX • 815-895-7275 - COMMUNICATIONS
FAX • 815-899-0777 - CORRECTIONS

"TO SERVE AND PROTECT"

ROGER A. SCOTT, SHERIFF

GARY DUMDIE, CHIEF DEPUTY

TO: Fire Chief

FROM: Sheriff Scott

REF: Law & Justice Committee Meeting
Communications Center Discussion
6:30 p.m. Conference Room East, 110 Sycamore St. Sycamore
SE corner of building

DATE: November 12, 2015

On November 23rd, 2015, 6:30 p.m. the Law and Justice Committee will be discussing again the Communications Center proposed fee structure forwarded to them by the sub-committee appointed earlier this year by Law & Justice. The sub-committee headed up by Cortland Mayor Russ Stokes sought to work with police and fire departments involved to develop a fair fee structure.

The last meeting of the Law and Justice Committee where this matter was discussed and where the proposed fee structure was submitted by the sub-committee was on September 28th. I have attached relevant committee minutes, and the proposed fee structure to this letter.

In order to insure that fire departments served by our center and involved in this new fee structure were informed of the November 23rd meeting, Committee Chairman John Frieders and I are sending this notice to participating fire agencies in the event they wish to send a representative.

Respectfully,

Sheriff Roger Scott

RS/jw
Enclosure