



Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Center Authority Governing Board

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Members Present: Chris Simmons, City of Battle Creek
Mike Herman, City of Albion
Ken Tsuchiyama, City of Battle Creek
Sherriff Al Byam, Calhoun County Sherriff
Frank Peterson, AMSA
Brent Williams, City of Marshall
Mike Rae, Calhoun County Board of Commissioners
Dale Peet, Michigan State Police

Members Excused: Jeff Albaugh, Calhoun County Township Association

Also Present: Kelly Rasmussen, Success Communications
John Bawol, Success Communications
Eric Miller, City of Albion
Kelli Sproule, Calhoun County

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Peterson at 3:05 p.m., in the Law Library of the Marshall County Building.

I. Consent Items

Motion by Mr. Rae, supported by Mr. Tsuchiyama that the Consent Agenda and Minutes of the February 17, 2009 Meeting be approved. On a voice vote – motion carried.

II. Success Communications Update

Ms. Rasmussen stated that she had been in contact with Mr. Tsuchiyama regarding the City of Battle Creek's proposal, as well as the overall budget figures for the Center. She would like to wait until the Board begins discussion on the Battle Creek proposal before elaborating on her discussions with him.

III. Technical Committee Update

Eric Miller stated that there was no update from the Technical Committee at this time.

IV. Dispatch Center Operations

Mr. Tsuchiyama stated that he did talk with Ms. Rasmussen and Mr. Bawol about the proposal. Ms. Rasmussen feels that there is room in the current budget for an executive director, and she believes it is in the best interest of the Authority that the position be created and funded. Mr. Tsuchiyama stated that if that were the case, he would not be against it; in this economic time, he is not just worried about Battle Creek's budget, he is worried about all of the municipalities involved. Mr. Simmons agreed; he stated that even if revenues are up, it should not mean that we automatically spend the extra funds. Mr. Simmons reminded the Board that previous discussions touched on the idea of rebates to municipalities if revenues were much greater than expenditures.

Ms. Rasmussen passed out a memo outlining some areas where she feels funding levels were originally under-estimated and areas where expenses could be cut to make room for the executive director position. In comparison to similarly-sized centers, we were originally anticipating less revenues and higher expenses, and she believes that this is not the trend.

Mr. Bawol said an example of additional revenue is the surcharge. The original budget anticipated a level of revenues that are far less than the receipts to date suggest.

Ms. Rasmussen reviewed her entire memo to the Board.

Ms. Rasmussen suggested gathering up all radio numbers to see if we could save money by moving to less expensive usage plan from the MPSC. Also, there may be some COPS grants available for equipment and some stimulus funding available for certain expenses because of the consolidation effort.

Mr. Tsuchiyama said that the large depreciation figures were used to put the Authority in a position to have a large reserve at the end of the fifth year, so there would be little or no need to borrow for new equipment. Also, we may still need a tower, and that would be an expensive undertaking for the new Center.

Ms. Rasmussen said that she heard concerns from Battle Creek employees that they would rather stay with the City. Mr. Tsuchiyama said that would not be an option, at least in terms of moving into another department. The Battle Creek dispatchers are the only unit covered by their particular bargaining agreement, so there is no place for them to automatically move to if they do not want to follow the Center to Marshall. He said there could be an option for supervisors that are not represented, but the move to another department would likely be a greater change for them than moving to Marshall, so it's unlikely any would consider it.

Rae motioned to move forward as a fully-independent authority, with its own employees, with the understanding that if Ms. Rasmussen's budget projections are wrong, we would again **revisit the budget**. Mr. Williams supported. On a voice vote – motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Simmons said that he would have liked more time to review and research Ms. Rasmussen's budget numbers. Mr. Tsuchiyama agreed. The Board consented to have Ms. Rasmussen bring a clearer budget recommendation to the next Board meeting for review. She agreed.

V. Other

Lt. Peet said that he is not sure if he will continue to be the MSP representative on the Board. He is no longer the Post Commander in Battle Creek. Lt. Peet will let the Board know as soon as he is given direction as to his position on the Board.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:20, the next meeting will be March 10, 2009 at 3p.

REVISED