MEETING MINUTES
Emergency Telephone System Board
Thursday, July 25, 2013, 5:30 P.M.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave., Aldermanic Library

Members Present: David Blatt, M.D., Community Representative, Police Chief Richard Eddington, 7th Ward Alderman Jane Grover, Division Fire Chief Tom Janetske, Fire Chief Greg Klaiber, Perry Polinski, Communications Coordinator

Members Absent: 9th Ward Alderman Coleen Burrus

Staff Present: Deputy Police Chief Aretha Hartley,

Presiding Member: 7th Ward Alderman Jane Grover

Declaration of Quorum
With a quorum present, Chairman Grover called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of January 24, 2013
It was moved by D/C Janetske and seconded by Alderman Grover that the minutes of the January 24, 2013 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chicago 9-1-1 call routing - Mr. Polinski advised the Board that, effective April 10, 2013, the City of Chicago OEMC (Office of Emergency Management and Communications) now has the capability of transferring and receiving 9-1-1 calls with ANI/ALI (Automatic Number Identification/Automatic Location Identification) to and from neighboring PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points). Prior to this they had an incompatible database format that only allowed the phone number to get passed along, but not the location.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (LEGISLATIVE UPDATES)

A. SB1664 – Mr. Polinski reported that, on June 28th, Governor Quinn signed Public Act 098-0045 into law which extends the existing wireless 911 surcharges until July 1, 2014 and points out that it is only for a year and postpones addressing the funding issue. The original proposal would have increased the PSAP allocation by 23%.

STAFF REPORTS

A. 83 Illinois Admin. Code Part 725 “Standards Applicable to 9-1-1 Emergency Systems” - Adoption – Mr. Polinski reported that on June 18, 2013, an Order was entered by the ICC (Illinois Commerce Commission) in docket number 12-0349
which allows for ICC certified 9-1-1 service providers. He reminded the Board that the goal of the Part 725 re-write was to update technical standards (contemplate provisioning of so called “Next Generation” [NG9-1-1] or Internet Protocol-Enabled 9-1-1 services) and rules to allow and accommodate for the entrance of “Competitive 9-1-1 System Providers” (contracted entities certified by the ICC as telecommunications carriers to provide 9-1-1 network and database services).

B. Discontinuation of Alarm Monitoring Services – Mr. Polinski provided the Board with a memo and reviewed a proposal to discontinue providing private alarm monitoring service for reasons of cost savings, liability, and practicality as the number of subscriber connections continues to drop. He further explained how thunderstorms trigger numerous alarms which must be processed by telecommunicators who are typically already inundated with handling calls from the public during such weather events. Additionally, with what NG9-1-1 (Next Generation 9-1-1) and EMD is anticipated to bring, “our call takers will have enough to do without having to monitor private alarms.

C. 2012 Report to Congress-on State Collection and Distribution of 911 and Enhanced 911 Fees and Charges (calendar year 2011) – Mr. Polinski briefly reviewed the report reiterating that Illinois controls the expenditure of funds collected from wireless only. The Illinois estimate of collected wireless 911 funds for 2011 was $71,900,000. For 2011, Illinois reported using wireless 911 fees/charges for other purposes as follows: $2,908,000 went to the General Fund for FY 2012. In FY 2011, $6,665,500 was transferred to the General Fund, of which $1,416,000 has been repaid. (The rest must be repaid in September 2012.) Mr. Polinski reported that, in a phone call that he had had earlier in the day with the President of Illinois NENA, he was advised that $10,000,000 had been “swept” by the State of Illinois for FY 2013.

D. DAS (Distributed Antenna System) project - Mr. Polinski related to the Board that he was recently contacted by a wireless industry advisor who was interested in piloting a Distributed Antenna System project. Evanston Township High School was identified as an ideal location for the project, which the advisor hopes to be anchored by AT&T Mobility, with participation from other wireless carriers. The objective is to enhance cellular phone coverage as well as radio frequency (police & fire). A coverage audit was recently conducted and costs are expected to be minimal or nothing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. E911 Phone System Virtual Consolidation – Mr. Polinski reported that the project has been discontinued for the time being; Northwestern was under time constraints due to the age and condition of their existing equipment, and Wilmette opted to purchase a stand-alone system. Both expressed interest in revisiting connecting to our system at some other point in the future. The project had recently gotten more complicated when the E911 phone system vendor decided to take their product in another direction which would have required additional upgrades and costs.

B. New Fire Station tone alert system – D/C Janetske reported that no responses were received for the bid opening on May 14th. Staff worked with the Purchasing Department to reissue the bid. The new bid opening is scheduled for July 30th.
C. EMD - Mr. Polinski reported that the “white paper” draft is approximately 95% completed and he hopes to have it finished by the next Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Text-to-911 - Mr. Polinski advised the Board that, at the end of last year, the nation’s Tier 1 carriers (Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, and T-Mobile) signed an agreement to have text-to-911 available by 2014. NENA & APCO are working with them to ensure a smooth transition. It is anticipated that this will be done in phases similar to the wireless enhanced 9-1-1 implementation back in 2000. He further advised that the Evanston PSAP has initiated contact with the “Big 4” to determine what is required for implementation and learned that there are three options which he outlined for the Board:

1. GEM9-1-1, which is a web browser-based client that can be accessed from any computer having public internet access.
2. Direct IP for PSAPs that have IP-capable equipment but requires integrated text handling software. However, the traditional public switch telephone network (PSTN) is not where it needs to be yet. [NG9-1-1 promises a full range of MMS (Multi-Media Service) for requesting emergency assistance.]
3. SMS (Short Message Service) converted to TTY (Text Telephone) using the existing 911 selective router and ALI, which is the simplest and most cost appealing. However, it has limitations that would impact quality of service i.e. ties up 9-1-1 trunks and is ½ duplex which prohibits simultaneous 2-way messaging.

Mr. Polinski reminded the Board that Text-to-911 is still in its infancy and technology, standards, regulations, policies, etc. are still evolving.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Blatt moved and Alderman Grover seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 6:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry J. Polinski,
Communications Coordinator
Police Department