City of Evanston
Emergency Telephone System Board
E 911 Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 22, 2008

Board Members Present:
  Fire Chief Alan Berkowsky, EFD
  Mr. Steven Drazner, Acting Finance Director
  Mr. Michael Madden, Division Manager of Business Performance & Technology
  6th Ward Alderman Edmund Moran
  Curt Kuempel, Assistant Communications Coordinator
  Mr. Max Rubin, Emergency Preparedness Manager

Board Members Absent:
  Mr. David Angelus, Community Representative
  Police Chief Richard Eddington, EPD
  Mr. Perry Polinski, Communications Coordinator
  8th Ward Alderman Ann Rainey

Also Present:
  Mr. Thomas Janetske, Director of Operations, Office of Emergency Preparedness
  Deputy Chief Barbara Wiedlin, EPD

Staff Present:
  Ms. Delphyne Woods, Law Department Executive Secretary

Presiding Officer:
  Alderman Edmund Moran, Committee Chair

Summary of Action:
  Alderman Moran called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:
  (#1) The minutes of the April 29, 2008, meeting were the first item of business which were reviewed and approved with three corrections. Chief Berkowsky moved that they be approved, Alderman Moran seconded, so moved.
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

#2 – Blue Light Phone update (verbal, Rubin)

Mr. Rubin reported that the blue light telephones are in the warehouse. The Contract has been signed by Northwestern University and care of the project is turned over to Dave Cook in Facilities Management, who will get it done. We are in the process of confirming locations for the power and telephone lines. Completion is projected for mid-July 2008 at the outside. There is an issue in that ComEd must “juice up” the bases before the telephone lines can be activated; have Dave Cook call the pertinent Aldermen to see if they could facilitate. Northwestern University will not move in with the telephone equipment until the “juice is in.” The projected cost is $182,000.00 as the telephone poles are quite expensive. Mr. Sunshine at Northwestern “did not blink” at that cost.

#3 – Fire/Police Radio Antenna Tower Purchase (e-mailed, Berkowsky)

Chief Berkowsky reported that the project went out to bid, and two firms met the qualifications. Of these two, T. Steele Construction, Inc. was the lowest at $154,850.00 plus 10% contingency. There is also $112,000.00 expected in a grant. Alderman Moran moved to approve Steele, agreed.

#4 – Financial Forecast (e-mailed, Drazner, Polinski and Rubin)

Mr. Rubin presented The “Actual, Budgeted, and Projected” financial report for FY2007 through FY2015.

Mr. Madden presented the “Equipment Replacement Emergency Dispatch Center” report with one minor modification which increased the cost of a new AS/400 by $10,000.00 in the Capital Replacement Schedule.

Alderman Moran discussed past usage of bonds and “tipping points” into financial collapse.

Chief Berkowsky proposed re-examination of the three-year cost projection to redo the Emergency 911 Center.

Deputy Wiedlin asked if Evanston’s 911 surcharge is “pretty light,” and Alderman Moran inquired after the surcharges of surrounding communities. Evidently Evanston’s 911 surcharge rate has been untouched for years. In view of the current
disarray of the Illinois State budgetary system, there is cause for concern. Alderman Moran wants to explore contingencies.

Mr. Drazner favored a bump in the 911 surcharge rather than passing another bond, as there are costs associated with bonds. Mr. Rubin asked if there is a limit in surcharge bumps? Alderman Moran believes there is an incremental cap; there would have to be a referendum. He believes that the Board should take no affirmative action at this time. Additionally, the Board would like to see a review of money actually spent in the first six months of this year.

#5 – Other Business

Chief Berkowsky reported the addition of a repeater at Fire Station #5 at a cost of $65,000.00. Also, Fire Station #2 has a change order for a fiber optic and electrical run.

Alderman Moran extended major thanks to Mr. Rubin on the occasion of his retirement as Chair of Emergency 911. (Pat Casey was Chair until 2006.)

#6 – Adjournment

Alderman Moran moved to adjourn, Mr. Rubin seconded, so moved. The Committee adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

MR:djw