MEETING MINUTES
Emergency Telephone System Board
Thursday, September 27, 2018 5:30 P.M.
Fire Department Administration, 909 Lake St., First Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Communications Coordinator Perry Polinski, Fire Chief Brian Scott, 6th Ward Alderman Thomas Suffredin, 3rd Ward Alderman Melissa Wynne

Members Absent: Police Chief Richard Eddington, Community Representative Daniel Lipson, Interim Emergency Management and Preparedness Division Chief Paul Polep

Staff Present: Deputy Chief Joseph Dugan, Finance Department Senior Management Analyst Kate Lewis-Lakin

Presiding Member 6th Ward Alderman Thomas Suffredin

Declaration of Quorum
With a quorum present, Chairman Suffredin called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of January 25, 2018
It was moved by Mr. Polinski and seconded by Chief Scott that the minutes of the January 25, 2018 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

COMMUNICATIONS
A. Mr. Polinski introduced Police Support Services Deputy Chief Joseph Dugan and Finance Department Senior Management Analyst Kate Lewis-Lakin to the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (LEGISLATIVE UPDATES)
A. H.R. 5085 – In July, a Bill to Repeal the T-Band Spectrum Auction was introduced in the Senate. Companion legislation, the “Don’t Break up the T-Band Act,” was introduced in February by Congress. If enacted, it would reverse the T-Band take-a-way provision of the Middle Class Tax and Job Creation Act of 2012 which requires that the police radio frequency be vacated by 2021. The Act created the First Responder Network Authority to oversee implementation of FirstNet – national public safety broadband network. In essence, the Act requires all public safety (11 major markets across the country, in Illinois, 114 public safety agencies including the City of Chicago) to vacate the UHF T-Band spectrum (470-512 MHz) by 2021. The legislation is creeping its way through Congress. In the meantime, we are losing interoperability with neighboring agencies as they migrate to StarCom21, which is a statewide public safety trunked radio system in Illinois owned and operated by Motorola, with the State being a major partner in the system.

B. Public Act 099-0801 – The “Sexual Assault Incident Procedure Act” mandates that all telecommunicators/call takers receive sexual assault and abuse training.
This State mandated training was completed in June. It is trauma informed sexual assault response. The law was passed to encourage more victims to come forward so that the rate of successful prosecutions also increases because first responder’s actions can directly affect the victim’s recovery. Improved response creates a successful outcome.

C. H. R. 582 – Signed into law by President Trump in February, legislation better known as “Kari’s Law,” requires that multi-line phone systems allow emergency callers to dial 9-1-1 directly without having to press ‘1’ or ‘9’ first, making it safer for hotels, office buildings, etc. Originally introduced in the Senate in May 2016, this law is named for a woman who was stabbed to death in 2013 by her estranged husband during a visitation with children while her nine year old daughter was trying to call 9-1-1 from a motel phone.

STAFF REPORTS

A. More accurate wireless 9-1-1 caller location determination – All four nationwide wireless carriers (AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile & Verizon) have committed to adopting technologies (to improve 9-1-1 location accuracy - particularly inside buildings) similar to the ones used by popular commercial ride-sharing and navigation applications, which typically provide much better location data than carriers provided to 9-1-1 Centers. It will also leverage the database containing verified street addresses of commercially deployed Wi-Fi access points and Bluetooth beacons. Device Based Hybrid (DBH) technology leverages a combination of satellite, GPS, sensor data and crowd source Wi-Fi to determine a 9-1-1 caller’s location. It will utilize the National Emergency Address Database (NEAD), which contains the verified street address of commercially deployed Wi-Fi access points and Bluetooth beacons.

B. 9-1-1 Altitude Location (Z-axis technology) – Concerns remain about efforts surrounding vertical-location data to locate a caller in a high-rise. Two vendors and two carriers participated in tests to assess solutions. For the time being, address verification with active questioning remain the most effective ways of establishing an incident location in multi-floor situations such as high-rise buildings. The wireless industry is pursuing a solution that would provide a 9-1-1 caller’s vertical (Z-axis) location as well as X-Y axis coordinates. The Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) reports that determining the altitude of a 9-1-1 caller is proving difficult. Significant questions remain regarding the performance and scalability of Z-axis technology which could locate a caller in a high-rise building for example, for live 9-1-1 call environments. Numerous issues with barometric sensor bias and calibration were experienced during testing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. New Apple iPhone Feature - RapidSOS Deployment – On September 17th, Apple released iOS 12 which includes a feature that will allow 9-1-1 callers to automatically share their location data. The Evanston PSAP has already scheduled integration of the free platform into our operations that will give us the ability to receive iPhone locations into our existing software with RapidSOS, Apple’s IP-based NG911 Clearinghouse vendor. (Currently, location data
delivered with cellphone 9-1-1 calls consists of the location of the cell tower and latitude/longitude.) On September 19th, RapidSOS and Google announced they have combined to launch “Google Emergency Location Service” – Android platform phones will also automatically offer location data information to the RapidSOS Clearinghouse in the same manner. Cell phone owners must upgrade. This tool is a means of locating callers who are unable to provide the call taker with their location or have disconnected. Exigent circumstance stipulations are in place. Mr. Polinski exclaimed that it was unusual for Apple to actively participate in this type of technology and that it is good for business and the right thing to do.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed 2019 Emergency Telephone System Budget – Mr. Polinski advised the Board that operating expenses, for the most part, remain flat compared to FY18. Although the first 911 surcharge distribution check under the new formula was sent by the State in May, the revenue is expected to drop from FY18 levels in FY19 as the State is scheduled to begin paying for the Next Generation 9-1-1 back bone. However, they still do not know what that cost will be. Mr. Polinski reported an uptick in overtime to cover minimum staffing levels due to staff invoking FMLA and military leave. Ms. Lewis-Lakin advised that there was a 30% reduction in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) due to a rise in investment income, and a slight increase in general wage and health insurance. Mr. Polinski went on to report that Service Agreements/Contracts reflects a typical 3-5% annual increase, the Telecommunications/Wireless Telecommunications accounts were adjusted down/up respectively to make a correction from the previous year’s budget, the $25,000 under Furniture/Fixtures is allocated annually to cover the cost of replacing Police and Fire mobile data computers and portable & mobile radios, and there are no anticipated capital outlay items anticipated in 2019. The Finance Department kept Transfer to General Fund, which typically covers IT & administrative costs, the same as the previous year to assist in the long term goal of building fund reserves back up. It was moved by Alderman Suffredin and seconded by Alderman Wynne that the FY19 budget be approved. A voice vote was taken and the budget was unanimously approved as presented.

B. Finally, Mr. Polinski presented the proposed 2019 Emergency Telephone System Board meeting schedule. Alderman Wynne moved to approve the meeting schedule, Chief Scott seconds. A voice vote was taken and the 2019 meeting schedule is unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Suffredin moved and Mr. Polinski seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 6:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,