MEETING MINUTES
Emergency Telephone System Board
Thursday, January 24, 2019, 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

Members Absent: Police Chief Demitrous Cook, Community Representative Daniel Lipson, 3rd Ward Alderman Melissa Wynne

Staff Present: Deputy Police Chief Joseph Dugan, ICMA Management Fellow Shanalee Gallagher

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 September 28, 2017
It was moved by Mr. Polinski and seconded by Chairman Suffredin that the minutes of the September 27, 2018 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

NEW BUSINESS
A. Citizen Seungmok Baek was introduced to the Board. Seungmok, a student at Northwestern University, is writing an event story for a journalism class assignment.

COMMUNICATIONS
A. Financial Report (AR-911) - Mr. Polinski advised that the expense and revenue report, which is combined with the annual filing and is required by the Statewide 911 Advisory Board to be submitted annually, is due by January 31st and was recently completed. This report assists the legislators in developing policies and legislation, helps with estimating the true cost of providing 9-1-1 in the State as well as provides information that will assist with the buildout of the NG911 backbone.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (LEGISLATIVE UPDATES)
Mr. Polinski provided the following updates:
A. Tenth Annual Report to Congress on State Collection and Distribution of 911 and Enhanced 911 Fees and Charges – The FCC is required by law to
submit an annual report to Congress on the states’ collection and distribution of 9-1-1 fees. The FCCs latest report found that nearly 10% of the funds collected were diverted for uses other than 9-1-1 during 2017. Illinois (and New Mexico), which were on the list for 2016, are off the 2017 list. This is good news as the Federal Government has been withholding funds from states that divert a portion of collected 9-1-1 fees for non 9-1-1 related purposes. While there is language in the current Illinois legislation that discourages “fund sweeping,” such practices cannot be prevented even though the Statewide 9-1-1 Advisory Board has discussed the fiscal impact with the Governor’s Office.

B. Don’t Break Up the T-Band Act of 2018 (S. 3347) – An unexpected provision of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 that requires the FCC to recover and auction by 2023 the Police Department’s radio (T-Band) spectrum to fulfill the spectrum needs required to construct a nationwide wireless broadband voice and data network (FirstNet) and NG9-1-1 funding. This bill was introduced by the Senate in July 2018 (companion bill to H.R. 5085 which was introduced in February 2018). Both seek to reverse the T-Band take-a-way provision and repeal the T-Band Spectrum Auction. This legislation continues to creep through Congress – there is no new update at this point in time. Chief Scott asked if there was any movement on Starcom and was advised that it was being discussed.

STAFF REPORTS

A. 2018 ICC Annual Filing – Mr. Polinski reports that by January 31st of each year, under the Emergency Telephone System Act, the City is required to file an annual report (submitted January 24th) to update any information that has changed. This includes the current 911 contact person (Mr. Polinski) and E911 Board members. The System’s error ratio as provided by 9-1-1 system provider AT&T, which is basically bad location information, was 0.0% and is based on an access line count of 60,500 telephone numbers. With respect to access line count, Mr. Polinski explained that, up until a several years ago, “current access count” consisted of AT&T dial tone lines only. This means that, in the past, AT&T line counts were more closely related to the surcharge counts which made it easier to estimate 9-1-1 surcharge revenue. The total number submitted annually by AT&T now includes VoIP, wireless and competitive local exchange carriers’ as well as traditional “copper” lines. Mr. Polinski reviewed the 911 Network diagram, which is updated annually by AT&T, and includes: the total number of wireline and wireless trunks as well as the primary, secondary, and back-up PSAPs. There have been no significant changes since two additional wireless trunks were added in 2007. Mr. Polinski explained that the Elk Grove selective router is the central switching location for receiving and routing all 9-1-1 calls. He further explained that the Northbrook ALI data center handles the “dip” that translates telephone numbers into locations with a backup center in Southfield, MI. Renewing “Call Handling Agreements,” which outline how misdirected 911 calls from adjoining jurisdictions are routed and responded to, is also part of the Annual Filing and were mailed on December 18th. Finally, Mr. Polinski advised
that it was reported that the Sprint and T-Mobile merger has been postponed due to the government shutdown.

B. 2018 9-1-1 Call Statistics – Total 2018 911 call activity, both landline and wireless, was 36,642 (64.5% were initiated by cell phones – some PSAPs receive upwards of 70% - this demonstrates the continuing decline in wireline as more affordable technologies continue to emerge). Alderman Suffredin asked why ours was less. Mr. Polinski responded that Evanston callers have so many other options: the non-emergency number, 3-1-1, Text-to-911 and Text-A-Tip. 2018 call totals were slightly down over the year before. This reflects a 10% decrease in the number of 9-1-1 calls answered over all compared to 2016. The current estimate of U.S. wireless subscriber connections from the CTIA (Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association) is over 400 million.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. NG911 – Mr. Polinski updated the Board on state grant availability and advised that he is in the process of completing a grant application which will assist with upgrading the existing 911 call handling equipment to make it next generation capable.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Suffredin moved and Deputy Chief Dugan seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 6:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry J. Polinski
Communications Coordinator, Police Department