MEETING MINUTES

Emergency Telephone System Board
Thursday, July 25, 2019, 5:30 P.M.
Fire Department Administration, 909 Lake St., First Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Division Fire Chief Kimberly Kull, Communications Coordinator Perry Polinski, 6th Ward Alderman Thomas Suffredin

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

Staff Present: Deputy Police Chief Joseph Dugan, Deputy Fire Chief Paul Polep

Presiding Member: 6th Ward Alderman Thomas Suffredin

Declaration of Quorum
With a quorum present, Chairman Suffredin called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of January 24, 2019
It was moved by Mr. Polinski and seconded by Deputy Chief Dugan that the minutes of the January 24, 2019 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved as written. As a follow up to an item that was mentioned at the last meeting, Mr. Polinski advised that it was reported in “today’s” Wall Street Journal that the Justice Department is poised to approve the merger of the Nation’s #3 and #4 wireless carriers – T-Mobile and Sprint.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. New Board Member – Mr. Polinski introduced new Board Member Kimberly Kull who was recently promoted to Fire Division Chief of Emergency Management and Logistics.

NEW BUSINESS

A. ONESolution Freedom License & Software Purchase – Deputy Chief Polep requested expenditures in the amount of $15,980 and facilitated discussion for the purchase of software to be installed on iPads that recently replaced end-of-life windows-based in vehicle computers currently being utilized by the Fire Department to receive CADS (Computer Aided Dispatch System) data, and allows firefighters to conduct vehicle checks, building inspections and pre-plans, as well as record public education duties. This would result in reduced hardware and applications costs and contribute to the Fire Department’s goal of leveraging the use of technology to maximize service while enhancing safety and efficiency. Deputy Chief Dugan moved to recommend approval of the purchase, seconded by Division Chief Kull. The Board voted 5-0 to approve the purchase.
A. **Don’t Break Up the T-Band Act of 2018 (S. 3347)** – A recent (June 21st) Government Accountability Office (GAO) report highlighted the challenges local governments and emergency personnel anticipate in relocating their communications and recommended that Congress allow public safety continued access to T-Band spectrum.

As I reported at our September 2018 meeting, A Bill to Repeal the T-Band Spectrum Auction was introduced in the Senate in July 2018. Companion legislation, the “Don't Break up the T-Band Act,” was introduced in February 2018 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.

As you may recall, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-961) includes provisions to fund and govern a Nationwide Safety Broadband Network. As part of the law that created “FirstNet,” a portion of the spectrum known as “T-Band (470-512 MHz) is to be returned to the FCC and sold. Requires the FCC to recover and auction T-Band spectrum, currently in use by public safety agencies (including the Evanston Police Department), for commercial use by February 2021. Additionally, the Act requires the FCC to clear public safety operations from this portion of the band within two years of auction close (i.e. early 2023).

Additionally, recommendations have been made to grant T-Band license renewals pending outcome of the proceedings. One legislator proposed delaying T-Band take-a-way with ending 9-1-1 fee diversion -- if an entity doesn’t sweep 9-1-1 funds, they don’t have to vacate T-Band until 2024.

In spite of recent developments and proposals, staff recommends migration of the Police Department’s existing UHF T-Band analog radio system to the Starcom digital system. Starcom is a public-private venture developed for the State of Illinois by Motorola. Starcom is a much more robust, feature rich system. The current police radio system was last updated in 2006 and much of its infrastructure (base stations and portable radios) have reached end-of-life and is in need of refreshing, which would cost thousands of dollars. Additionally, this will allow for interoperability with our neighboring (Norcom) agencies; Skokie, Wilmette, Lincolnwood, Winnetka, Morton Grove, Kenilworth, Niles, Glencoe, Northbrook, and Glenview, all of which have already moved to Starcom. Chief Cook has initiated discussion with the Manager regarding this as a 2020 CIP budget item.

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**STAFF REPORTS**

A. **911 accomplishments over the past year from a speech recently given by FCC Chairman Ajit Pai**

- Passed Kari’s Law (H.R. 582) which requires hotel, office complex, etc. multi-line telephone systems to access 9-1-1 directly without having to dial “9” first. This was covered in our September 2018 meeting.
• Passed Ray Baum’s Act (H.R. 4986) which creates rules to ensure that a “dispatchable location” is conveyed with all 9-1-1 calls originating from multi-line telephone systems. The FCC is currently in the process of deciding whether to expand 9-1-1 location tracking to other calling platforms such as VoIP. (Chairman Pai has produced draft rules that would see dispatchable location information provided to emergency call takers “regardless of the technological platform used.”) This includes connected VoIP calls, multi-line telephone systems, fixed telephone services and telecommunications relay services.) Mr. Polinski pointed this out as another example of technology outpacing regulatory as the industry is already leveraging Wi-Fi and Bluetooth beacons to determine a caller’s location and that we’re doing this now. Last September we implemented software that allows us to locate callers that utilize location services (iPhone/Android) similar to ride share (Uber, Waze) apps.

• Working to ensure that wireless 9-1-1 calls are routed to the proper PSAP based on the location of the caller as opposed to the location of the cell tower that handles the call. (Currently, when a call is made near a city border, the nearest cell tower may be in a neighboring jurisdiction, so the 9-1-1 calls ends up being answered by another PSAP which must transfer it to the appropriate jurisdiction. This wastes precious time resulting in a delayed emergency response.) Evidence is being reviewed and the FCC is weighing how it can best promote wireless 9-1-1 call routing improvements. Mr. Polinski advised that this would be addressed in the NG9-1-1 ESInet as GIS map layers will be used as a basis for routing wireless emergency calls.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. NG911 Expenses Grant – In February, we applied for a “NG911 Expenses Grant” to upgrade the 9-1-1 telephone system, which was originally installed in 2010. Mr. Polinski reported that the Evanston PSAP was recently notified that a $240,000 grant had been awarded and an agreement was signed to be finalized and executed. At the January 2018 meeting Mr. Polinski advised the Board that the Illinois NG9-1-1 Feasibility Report (Phase 1 of the Illinois NG9-1-1 Project) as authored by Mission Critical Partners, Inc. was posted by the Illinois Office of the Statewide 9-11 Administrator in October with Phase 2 – Procurement & Phase 3 – Implementation estimated completion in 2021.

B. 9-1-1 Altitude Location (Z-axis technology) – At our last meeting (in January) while minutes from the September 27, 2018 meeting were being approved, Alderman Suffredin and Deputy Chief Dugan asked how elevation is provided and whether or not it was in feet. I have since confirmed that the proposed solution would deliver 9-1-1 caller’s height in meters.

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Chief Dugan moved and Mr. Polinski 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