Metro Emergency Operations Center
Board of Directors Special Meeting
October 28, 2024 – 12:00am
Minutes

Present:

Kanawha County Sheriff Mike Rutherford
Chief Virgil White for South Charleston Mayor Frank Mullens
Derek Johnson
Chuck Boggs
Board President Jennifer Herrald
Dave Armstrong
Tom Blasingim
Emergency Management Director of Kanawha County CW Sigman
Justin Alford
KCEAA Director Monica Mason
WVSP F/Sgt. Talia Davita for Col. Jan Cahill
Emergency Management Director of Charleston Chad Jones

Staff:

Director John Rutherford
Dep. Director Rick McElhaney
Dep. Director Russell Emrick
Josh Knox
Lindsay White
Lisa Moore
Haleigh Moses
Jenn Adkins

Guests: None

Call to Order

Board President Jennifer Herald called the meeting to order at 12:05am.

Roll Call

Roll call was noted.

Proposed 911 Landline Rate Increase – Director John Rutherford

- As discussed at the last meeting, it has been approximately 10 years since the last 911 landline fee increase, it's now prudent to consider an increase. Metro staff reviewed several options, including both a one-time increase and a stair-step increase over a three-year period. After a thorough review, Metro will be requesting Board approval to present a request to the Kanawha County Commission for a one-time increase on residential landlines from $5.60 to $7.95 per line, and an increase on business lines from $8.96 to $12.75, for the first eight lines, with additional lines being assessed at $2.25 each. This is projected to generate about $3.7M and meet funding needs until June 2027. CW Sigman asked if this was only related to Frontier customer, and Lindsay explained there are dozens of landline service providers, and the new fees would apply to all of them uniformly. Director Rutherford explained that there are additional efforts being made to expand funding sources beyond landline fees at the legislative level.

Motion made to propose a one-time 911 landline fee increase on residential landlines from $5.60 to $7.95 per line, and an increase on business lines from $8.96 to $12.75, for the first eight lines, with additional lines being assessed at $2.25 each to the Kanawha County Commission at the November 12th Commission Meeting.

Motion: Dave Armstrong
Second: Monica Mason

The motion carried unanimously.

Dave Armstrong asked for clarification on how the wireless fees are disbursed by the State. Director Rutherford explained that the half that is taken by the State is redistributed after funds are allocated to tower and other expenses, and then divided among the counties evenly without consideration of operation needs, number of calls received or any other criteria. This has been in place since 2005, and would be an uphill battle to change in the legislature, because it benefits all but a handful of the largest 911 centers in the State.

Discussion of the Retirement of Director John Rutherford – President Jennifer Herrald

- President Herrald stated that Director Rutherford has been with Metro 911 for 12 years. She noted that Director Rutherford has turned things around at Metro 911. He has taken care of employees personally, and always shows up for emergencies. He will be missed and we all thank him for everything he's done for Metro 911. Director Rutherford thanked the Board for taking care of Metro and for working so well to meet the needs of staff. Director Rutherford thanked the staff for being so dedicated and efficient. Russell Emrick stated that Director Rutherford has left Metro 911 in a better state than he found it and has made lasting improvements to 911 statewide.

Schneider Electric UPS Service 3-Year Contract – Rick McElhaney

- We received a proposal of approximately $23,000 for a 3-year term for service of Metro 911's building UPS system. This is for the new UPS that was purchased in 2021 that included an initial warranty as part of that purchase. Now that the initial warranty is up, we have received the proposed service contract, which was approved by the Finance Committee/Executive Board pending final review of Director Rutherford and President Herrald.

Old Business

New Business

Public Comment

Announcements

Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 10th, 2024.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Sheriff Mike Rutherford
Second: Chief White

The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:19AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jol Ruth