

MINUTES
MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNING BOARD
MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022

The Central Communications Center Governing Board met in regular session on Monday, August 22, 2022 at 11:00 am in the City Council Room on the 2nd Floor of the Crawfordsville Building, 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Present were Board members Board Chairman John E. Frey; Board Vice Chairman Mayor Todd Barton, County Councilman David Hunt, Commissioner Jim Fulwider and City Councilman Andy Biddle.

Also present Board Attorney Dan Taylor; Central Communications Center Director Sherri Henry; County Administrator Tom Klein; Crawfordsville Chief Aaron Mattingly; Crawfordsville Fire Chief Scott Busenbark; County Auditor Jennifer Andel, Barry Ritter, Nicole Parker, and Board Secretary Lori Dossett.

Call to Order

Board Chairman John E. Frey called the meeting to order @ 11:00 am.

Minutes – February 28, 2022

Mayor Barton moved to approve the February 28, 2022 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Fulwider. Motion passed 5-0.

Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Report

Director Henry reviewed the July, 2022 financial statement.

Councilman Biddle moved to Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Report as submitted. Seconded by Mayor Barton. Motion passed 5-0.

Central Communications Center Director Sherri Henry

Hiring & Retention of Employees

Director Henry stated she is down four dispatchers. She recently hired six new dispatchers and only one person made it through training. One dispatcher cited emotional issues, too stressful and increased anxiety. In September she will lose one dispatcher to Avon Lifeline and in October she has one dispatcher going to Hendricks County. This will take her total number of dispatchers down to six. She also has a dispatcher going on maternity leave soon which will also affecting the staffing at the dispatch center. The Power Phone Certification alone has an expense of \$1,400 for each dispatcher. She is planning to request that the Council give the dispatchers more than a 2% raise for 2023 to entice more applicants. Commissioner Fulwider stated that he is unsure that the financial line will fix emotional issues of the position as has been reported. Councilman Biddle questioned the current salary schedule and how does it compare. Director Henry stated a lot of the departments offer a \$3 p/hour shift differential. Montgomery County starts out at \$41,000; Hendricks County - \$43,500; Purdue - \$48,000; Boone - \$45,600. Commissioner Fulwider stated that he will meet with the Mayor to discuss the terms of the upcoming agreement which expires in March of 2023. Mr. Ritter cited low pay, horrible hours and stress as the main hinderence of hiring qualified dispatchers. The issue is being felt all over the nation. If the center is going to lose 34% of its workforce, that would be considered a crisis mode. One other issue as a result of the forced overtime is burn-out. Director Henry added that the Council is in the process of approving and instituting a PSAP Lit.

Jurisdictional Concern Discussion

Mayor Barton stated two weeks ago there was a report of a small plane having an issue with a landing gear and in speaking to Sheriff Needham and Aaron Mattingly the Sheriff covers the airport. Mayor Barton stated that a volunteer fire department was dispatched to an aircraft emergency which should not happen. Only the City Fire

Department should ever be dispatched to the airport. There was also an issue on CR600W & SR32 where New Market was dispatched. Director Henry stated that there are some problems with mapping.

New Business

Ritter Strategic Services Report & Task Order

Barry Ritter stated the agreement between the City and the County will expire in seven months and decisions will need to be made to prioritize large capital expenses and a determination of the future of the center including questions of buying two or three radios per station. The radio vendor has been asked for an updated estimate. The estimate from a year and a half ago for the radio system is \$500,000.

Mr. Ritter will pick up on the Policies & Procedures portion of the study to redefine the Operations Boards duties to be policy and not personnel and it will require some joint communications for multi-jurisdictional issues.

Board members questioned Mr. Ritter on an estimated equipment cost and what kind of lead time should be expected. Mr. Ritter stated that radio equipment as other equipment is back-logged and he would expect six months for the radios.

Adjournment

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lori Dossett, Governing Board Secretary

Minutes approved this 22ND day of August, 2022.

John E. Frey, Board Chairman

Attest:

Lori Dossett, Board Secretary