

MINUTES FOR BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE BRAZOS COUNTY
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT (9-1-1)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021, AT 11:30 A.M.
BRAZOS COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
101 REGENT AVENUE, SUITE 300, BRYAN, TEXAS

Call to order.

Meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM with the following members present:

Eric Buske
Jeff Capps
Duane Peters
Kenneth Utz

Others in attendance:

Chief Marc McFeron, Bryan Fire Department
Chief Joe Ondrasek, Bryan Fire Department
Chief Ricky Van, Bryan Fire Department
Chief Paul Martinez, Brazos County Sheriff's Office
Chief Richard Mann, College Station Fire Department
Chuck Fleeger, Amber Alert Network Brazos Valley
Patrick Corley, 9-1-1 District
Laura Blackburn, 9-1-1 District
Kris Fox, 9-1-1 District
David Dibello, 9-1-1 District
Halley Challis, 9-1-1 District

1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held November 19, 2020.

Minutes were approved on a motion and second from Mr. Capps and Judge Peters, respectively.

2. Discussion / Action on District Investment Report

The most recent Investment Report was presented to the Board. Mr. Corley noted that \$100,000 was moved over to the District Operating account, which is not unusual. Chief Utz made a motion to approve the Investment Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Capps, and passed unanimously.

3. Discussion / Action on Director's Report of Expenditures for FY 2021.

Mr. Corley presented the latest financial reports and noted that expenses are currently at 21%, but he is not concerned at this point in the fiscal year. The financial reports were approved on a motion and a second by Judge Peters and Chief Utz, respectively.

4. Discussion / Action on FY 2021 Quarterly Dispatch Financial Reports.

The Quarterly Dispatch Financial Reports were presented for the first quarter of FY 2021. Mr. Corley noted that expenditures still show to be a little low, however there will be an extra payroll in the next quarter. Additionally, Mr. Corley indicated that training expenses continue to be much lower than usual because of the inability to send employees to off-site training courses. The reports were approved unanimously on a motion from Mr. Capps and a second from Judge Peters.

5. Presentation of calendar year 2020 CAD and 9-1-1 statistics.

Mr. Corley presented the 9-1-1 call volume statistics for 2020 for all PSAPs and noted that call volume dropped county-wide by about 5,000 calls when compared to 2019 call volume. When looking at CAD statistics and Calls for Service by agency, Mr. Corley noted that police calls decreased while fire and medical calls stayed relatively flat when compared to previous years.

Mr. Corley reminded the Board that a 3-year rolling average is used when calculating the percentage split for dispatch expenses each year. Therefore, last year's statistics will have very little impact from a financial perspective.

6. Director's report and Board concerns, including a discussion of current staffing levels and hiring process, COVID-19 impacts, 9-1-1 Datamaster transition, impact of Nashville Bombing on 9-1-1 services, proposed 9-1-1 funding legislation, T-Mobile Location Based Routing, and the status of annual financial audit

The Dispatch center is currently operating with 3 vacancies due to some recent resignations. However, a hiring cycle is planned to begin in February, so Mr. Corley stated that he hopes to have those vacancies filled within the next few months.

Mr. Corley gave an overview of the COVID-19 impacts experienced by the District. He stated that overall the impact has still been very low and all hours missed have been able to be absorbed in the day-to-day dispatch operations. Also, in regards to previous statements about federal tax reimbursements, Mr. Corley stated that public entities do not qualify and, therefore, the District would not be able to participate.

Mr. Corley gave an update on the project to transition ALI database services to 9-1-1 Datamaster. Some recent testing of connectivity already took place and a cut-date is scheduled for January 28th. Currently, everything is on track to be completed very soon.

Regarding the recent bombing in Nashville in December, Mr. Corley expressed his concern about the possibility of a similar situation here locally since the local 9-1-1 network still relies on a Selective Router hosted at a local Frontier facility. The move to a Next Generation 9-1-1 platform will eliminate the Selective Router, which is a single point of failure, and move to geo-diverse servers. Mr. Corley hopes to begin this transition next fiscal year.

An update was given on the proposed 9-1-1 funding legislation. If passed, it would allow 9-1-1 entities to set their own wireless rates up to \$1.25. Mr. Corley will update the Board as the bill progresses.

Mr. Corley also gave an update on a new process that T-Mobile is using to route 9-1-1 based on the device location instead of cell site/sector. Testing was done in Houston and Tarrant County, and there was no noticeable difference in call setup time. The hope is that they will continue to roll this out in other parts of the state and that other carriers will do the same.

The District financial audit is going well and should be finalized in time for the next Board Meeting.

7. Hear public comments.

Chuck Fleeger, Executive Director of the Amber Alert Network Brazos Valley, expressed his thanks for the funding provided by the District. He has provided a quarterly report to Mr. Corley that outlines how the funding was utilized as well as their overall program efforts.

8. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 PM.

Lloyd Wassermann
Chairman

ATTEST:

Laura Blackburn
Recording Secretary