

911 COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

January 19th, 2022

Members present (Virtually): Chief David Moore; Janesville Police Department; Chief Deputy Craig Strouse, Rock County Sheriff's Office; Chief Brian Raupp, Orfordville Police Department; Chief Dan Pease, Beloit Fire Department; Chief Jim Ponkauskas, Janesville Fire Department; Chief Andre Sayles, Beloit Police Department; Chief Randy Pickering, Edgerton Fire Department; Chief Tom Kunkel, Town of Fulton Police Department

Members Not Present: Brian Snyder, Town of Beloit Fire Department;

Others present: Kathy Sukus, Brian Becker, Fredd Carr and Faith Quinlan, Rock County Communications Center; Sara Herzig and Tom Kavanaugh, Rock County IT

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

- A. Chief Pease called the meeting of the 911 Communications Commission to order at 2:00pm.
- B. Motion to approve the agenda by Strouse. Second by Kunkel. All approved.

2. **Minutes – October 21, 2021**

- A. Motion by Strouse to approve minutes as written. Second by Pickering. All approved. October 21, 2021 minutes approved as written.

3. **Comments from the Public**

None

4. **9-1-1 Commission Vice Chair – Nominations and Appointment**

Moore made a motion to nominate Ponkauskas as Vice Chair. Second by Pickering. Ponkauskas accepted. All approved. Ponkauskas will serve his new term as vice chair until January 2024.

5. **Information Technology – Updates**

- A. 911/IT Building Expansion: Sukus discussed the upcoming changes expected during the building expansion, which is partly on hold at this time due to supply issues. Pease asked if the 911 center would need to use the Beloit command trailer during the transition but Sukus said likely not, because staff would be moving into the conference area while construction occurred in the dispatch room. The temporary change is expected to last about 8-10 weeks, with a potential move-in date in mid-May. Once roofing supplies are in, work on the IT side will begin. Completion for the project is not expected until the end of 2022. Staff may potentially have to use the backup site if construction noise is excessive.

6. **Information Items and Updates**

- A. CALEA Onsite: Sukus discussed the upcoming CALEA assessment, scheduled to take two full days, 2/14 and 2/15/22, and will be virtual this year due to COVID. Becker went on to explain that the RCCC has been accredited through CALEA since the 1990s, and that we are the only communications center accredited agency in the state of Wisconsin, and the longest accredited agency nationwide. He emphasized that the two days will be packed with activities, and the evaluators will be interested in speaking with both large and small partner agencies. Assessors may ask

user agencies questions about recruitment, training, and operations related to the center. The review will include a call-in portion, where anyone is welcome to call-in. It will be a 2-hour session, and agency representatives will be limited to 10-minutes each in order to provide an opportunity for all those who wish to speak. This information will be included in Sukus' press release regarding the assessment. Pease asked if anyone will need to go to the Town of Beloit Fire Department (backup site), to which Becker stated that on the second day there will be a virtual tour of the backup site. Pease suggested that Becker send out standards information to the agencies in advance so they have time to prepare.

- B. Radio System Study - Update: Sukus shared that the network/radio system assessment is nearly complete and is hopeful to have a draft by the end of January. Once finalized there will be a virtual presentation of the findings but Sukus is unsure of the format for the presentation at this time. Sukus also confirmed she would send a summary of the report information to the group before it is officially published.
- C. Staffing: Sukus provided updates on the Center's staffing situation, which remains a struggle. The last round of hiring yielded zero candidates. While Sukus wanted to offer three interviewees a position, two changed their minds and another eventually declined. There are five vacant telecommunicator positions, and two supervisor spots to fill. She mentioned that Becker, herself, and Training and QA Manager Carr are filling in on positions when needed. A staffing study was approved, which will begin after the renovations and radio study are complete. Pease asked if salary played a part in the staffing shortage. Sukus replied that telecommunicators and call takers received approximately \$2 per hour raises last year, and now are getting a 3% base increase as part of the 2022 County-wide raise. While money is important, she said many staff want more flexible schedules and time off. The County is conducting a compensation study, which may offer more insight and possible solutions to staffing problems. Improvement will likely not be seen until 2023.
- D. NEW: Sukus indicated she is currently working with Drywater Productions on producing a new video. She will be reaching out to agencies for participation, and emphasized that several people have already shown interest in helping. More information will be provided to departments as it becomes available.

7. **Adjournment**

Strouse moved to adjourn the 911 Communications Commission meeting at 2:16 pm. Second by Kunkel. All in favor.

Next Meeting – April 20th, 2022, @ 2pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Faith Quinlan
Administrative Secretary
Rock County Communications Center