

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE:** Legislative Committee  
**CHAIRPERSON:** Jody Covert  
**DATE/TIME:** July 16, 2014 @ 10:00 am

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jody Covert	Steve McIntyre	Merri Berlage
Ron Smith	Margie Montelius	
Terry Stoffregen	Don Zillig	

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Senator Tim Bivins, Sheriff Turner, Mike Moser, Bill Kimball

Jody Covert called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. and read the third floor evacuation policy.

1. Citizens' Comments - None
2. Minutes Approval – **Don Zillig made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2014 Legislative Committee meeting, seconded by Margie Montelius, and motion passed.**
3. Unfinished Business - None
4. New Business

Discussion with Senator Tim Bivins regarding 9-1-1 funding issues and legislation: Steve McIntyre thanked the Senator for voting yes on HB 2453 which gave us a little extra funding.

Senator Bivins commented on HB 2453 that went into effect July 1, 2014. That bill does two things; it gave the City of Chicago the ability to raise their 9-1-1 rates about 9%. They can go up to \$3.90. The other thing that it did within the 9-1-1 monies that are collected for the wireless carriers such as Verizon and Sprint, there is a portion of that money that goes to the carriers, but the carriers have never collected that money so it is sitting there. Early on in the session there was an attempt to capture that money to fund the Illinois Poison Control Center and they were trying to move monies out of 9-1-1 which touched off a firestorm. They abandoned that and funded it separately with a different mechanism. Now that carrier money will be disbursed to the ETSB's throughout the state. As of July 1<sup>st</sup> the carriers will have 45 days to move that money to the Commerce Commission and the Commerce Commission has 45 days before you should start seeing a portion of that money. How much that will be will depend on the county and how much is being collected. The wireless surcharge is set by statute and is only .73 that you can collect on wireless. Personally, Bivins feels that needs to be looked at. No one anticipated way back when that everyone would drop their land lines and go wireless. It is appropriate to raise that fee. Most people won't complain if it is for 9-1-1.

Mike Moser commented that from our 9-1-1 perspective he applauds what they have done with the new 9-1-1 Services Advisory Board. There are four legislative members along with members of the Sheriff's association, chiefs of police and talks of adding a fire

component to that board. They are looking at it statewide. We need to continue to support the efforts of the Advisory Board. Locally and at the state level we need to support Dean and appco legislative committees. We need to ask for more funding at the local, regional and state levels as well. Regionally, don't support other entities that are looking to get a piece of that pie. The efforts of this advisory committee are looking at putting guidelines together on what we can and cannot spend money on as well. A lot of people are looking for that kind of clarification.

Dan Reimer thanked Senator Bivins for being there today and commented on 9-1-1. There are several people here who have spent a lot of time the past few years planning for some major improvements and some of them we have accomplished. We have just completed our radio communication project which was about 1.2 million dollars over a three year period. Finding revenue to do that has been our biggest dilemma. The ETSB fund has been dwindling in fund balance over the last few years and now with some of these major purchases on our doorstep it is like triage trying to decide which is most important. Tomorrow the County Board signed a letter of intent for the ETSB 9-1-1 Board to enter into negotiations for CAD records management and jail management system. The ETSB board will fund a portion of it but they can't afford it all because they don't have the money and the sheriff doesn't either. We are looking at revenue sources barring going out for a referendum. The County Board did set aside funds in FY2015 to help fund the NG-9-1-1.

Senator Bivins asked if it was possible to increase the hotel/motel tax to collect funds specifically dedicated for 9-1-1. Dan Reimer replied that currently hotel/motel tax in Jo Daviess County by ordinance is set at a maximum of .05. Reimer doesn't know if it would be possible to allow an increase in hotel/motel tax to something more that is dedicated to a specific purpose. Right now we cannot use hotel/motel tax to fund anything other than tourism promotion.

Senator Bivins stated we should look at all of our fees and see if there is anywhere in there that we could put a small amount dedicated to 9-1-1. Maybe legislation wise we need to look at lowering the hard line amount and raising the cell phone amount. It would be a good compromise.

Our 9-1-1 functionality needs to change to support the digital world which requires us to upgrade our equipment.

Merri Berlage commented that our ambulance districts have special funds. Why can't we do that for the County for 9-1-1? If it would cost me as a homeowner \$25 or \$50 a year it would not be a hard sell. Is it possible to put on our real estate tax bill as a 9-1-1 special fund?

Mike Moser introduced Mr. Tucker is the consultant looking at the consolidation. Mr. Tucker commented that his background starts before 9-1-1. Part of the original Emergency Telephone System Act was for wire line only. Part of that act the phone companies filed a tariff that charges the ETSB's .15 per hard line for any alley service. If legislation were to be initiated and passed the ETSB could recover 20 percent more surcharge on the wire line side. That is a possibility to rather than raise the surcharge is to eliminate some of the expense to the ETSB that effectively raises the amount received. NG-911 is a massive change to 9-1-1 period and it is going to be an expense on the ETSB side for equipment to support, however the technical mechanism to initiate when 9-1-1 was first started it was

dropped into the laps of the ETSB's who deal with the Local Area Transport Authority (LATA) and they gave you the floor plan of how to implement 9-1-1. You bought the equipment that met their standards and moved on from there. That changes with NG-911 because it is no longer phone company specific. It is data specific. Right now you can get data lines not only from the phone companies but from commercial providers and in the case of Jo Daviess County you have the ifiber project which may or may not serve as a backbone to NG-911. The Illinois State Police was given a major roll in the legislation for this NG-911. The possibility exists for the state to take the primary role in essentially receiving the calls from all of the phone companies in the state and distributing them to the individual psaps. That mechanism would eliminate a lot of software and hardware costs to the individual psaps and it would be an approach that would save money in the long run. The requirement for training 9-1-1 communicators is at this point unfunded. The possibility exists to provide a uniform state training course through state facilities or state process to take that expense away from the ETSB. The EMD requirement is through the Illinois Department of Health. Right now Jo Daviess County provides EMD using the minimum staffing of two people. Many counties including the neighboring county do not have the resource to provide two person minimum staffing. This has not been pushed as a regulatory requirement, but in the future the possibility does exist. For all these smaller psaps that do not have two person minimum staffing they will be forced to do that and many will be forced to consolidate to achieve that level of staffing.

Discussion and possible action as a result of discussion: Don Zillig made a motion because of the time limitations to move item 4. b) and 4. c) to the next committee meeting. Seconded by Steve McIntyre and motion passed.

Discussion of additional items not listed:

5. Committee Member Concerns: Don Zillig thanked Senator Bivins for his time coming here.
6. Citizens' Comments: None
7. Motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m. following a motion made by Terry Stoffregen and seconded by Steve McIntyre. Motion carried.