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COMMITTEE REPORT

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING JO DAVIESS COUNTY EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM BOARD LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS COMMITTEE AND FINANCE, TAX & BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE JO DAVIESS COUNTY BOARD

Wednesday, August 7, 2013 @ 7:00 pm
Jo Daviess County Courthouse, Galena
3rd floor County Board Room

PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John O'Boyle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rick Dittmar	<input type="checkbox"/> Randy Jobgen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Rutz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RJ Winkelhake	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Smith

Other Board members: Brandon Behlke, Gerald Bennett, Terry Stoffregen, Don Zillig, Bill Bingham

Others: Dan Reimer, Kevin Turner, Mike Moser, Joe Kratcha, Bruce Habel, Aaron Abt, Chris Allendorf, Mickey Huseman, Helen Kilgore, Greg Millerschone and Bill Kimball.

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by ETSB Chairman Aaron Abt at 7:08 pm
2. **Citizens' Comments: none**
3. **New Business**
 - a. **Emergency Telephone System Board Five – Year Capital Improvement Plan:**
GIS/IT Coordinator Joe Kratcha discussed a power point presentation entitled, Review of Current Public Safety Software & 9-1-1 Phone System. Presentation topics included:
 1. Review current software modules and 9-1-1 phone system used for Public Safety by Jo Daviess County Government
 2. Identify areas of concern with the current software and 9-1-1 phone system
 3. Review software and 9-1-1 phone system upgrade benefits and replacement costs.

Kratcha discussed the concerns with the current CAD/RMS/9-1-1 software: The current CAD/RMS/JMS software is 17 years old; the current 9-1-1 mapping software is 12 years old; CAD & RMS are supported by one vendor (Archonix), JMS is supported by another vendor (Digital Solutions, Inc) and the 9-1-1 mapping software is supported by a third vendor (GeoComm); Archonix has one support technician that understands the old CAD software being used; the old software is not compatible with newer hardware/operating systems; current CAD server is 8 years old; CAD does not interface the 9-1-1 mapping software or the current 9-1-1 phone system; the JMS software has issues transmitting general inmate information in the proper format to the LiveScan Fingerprinting machine which was installed in 2005 and supported by a fourth vendor – MorphoTrust USA (formerly Identix). This requires duplicate data entry by staff; there is no possibility of having other agencies (i.e. police, fire, and ambulance) use the current CAD/RMS/JMS. Kratcha discussed the benefits of

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upgrading the system: Data could be input one time into central database; software would be fully supported by vendors; eliminates the potential of a catastrophic hardware/software failure; 9-1-1 mapping & support could move to an in-house approach provided by GIS/IT Department; multiple agencies could have access to this system. The estimated cost for upgrading the CAD/RMS/JMS/9-1-1 software is \$400,000 - \$600,000. No action taken

b. Emergency Telephone System Board Revenue Issues:

i. Current Financial Position of the ETSB (911) Emergency Services Fund

Aaron Abt, ETSB Chairman discussed that declining revenue is a major issue facing the ETSB. The major sources of funding are the \$1.75 landline surcharge and the \$0.53 wireless surcharge. Currently, landlines are decreasing year over year and the wireless surcharge cannot keep pace with the lost revenue; Abt referred to a chart which showed a steady decline since 2008. The year end fund balance of the ETSB fund peaked in FY2010 at \$409,417, however in FY2012, expenses grew to \$419,091 when ETSB contributed \$116,000 to help fund a portion of Public Safety Radio Communication Systems Project and the year end fund balance declined to \$296,965. Due to declining revenues ETSB is currently operating at a deficit of approximately \$60,000 per year. By the end of 2013, the fund balance is projected to decline to \$241,027, this assumes that the landline and cell phone surcharges remain the same. At this rate the ETSB fund will run out of money in four years without making any capital improvement expenditures. The current cell phone surcharge was extended by the State for one year and is set to sunset June 30, 2014, with no guarantee for future extensions. The cell phone surcharge is collected from cell phones that have a billing address in the county. Many times the billing address for second home owners is out of Jo Daviess County. Tax collected at point of sale for prepaid phones is remitted to the point of purchase County. No action taken.

ii. Revenue Sources Declining

County Administrator, Dan Reimer discussed telephone land lines in Jo Daviess County and according to AT&T in 2012 approximately 12,400 landlines were still in use. If all landlines were paying \$1.75 per month total revenue should be approximately \$260,000 per year; however land line revenue in FY2012 was only \$159,000. Land line revenue peaked in 2003 at \$354,244 and is estimated to decline to \$130,000 in 2014; this is a decrease of over \$200,000 or 63%. More research is needed but it appears that some of the reduced land line revenue is due to law changes that allow businesses with multiple lines to be billed at a reduced ratio of 5:1 or 12:1. Communications Sgt. Mike Moser discussed the rental housing problem wherein owners cancel their landlines and substitute with an unsubscribed cell phone to serve as the emergency rental housing telephone. This is a public safety issue as well as an issue of possible revenue enhancement. On an unsubscribed cell phone, no information is provided or displayed on an emergency telephone call. No action taken

iii. ETSB Interfund Transfers

Chairman Abt pointed out that approximately \$300,000 or 75% of the FY2013 ETSB expenditures budget is scheduled for interfund transfers. Of this \$220,000 is scheduled for interfund transfers associated with salaries and benefits for 4 Communications Officers. The ETSB Fund also makes interfund transfers for, IT

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support, accounts payable processing, recording secretary, audit fees, and a GIS service agreement. A \$50,000 interfund transfer scheduled for an EDA disaster program grant match will not be made because Jo Daviess County is not eligible for the grant. Dan Reimer discussed that combined the Sheriff's Communications budget, a budget in the General Fund, and the ETSB Fund budget pay for a majority of the expenditures associated with 9-1-1 and public safety communications. Reimer referred to the meeting handout and discussed a combined expenditures spreadsheet for the period FY2004 thru FY2013. Total combined expenditures for FY2012 including interfund transfers were \$1,194,364. Through FY2006 the ETSB budget paid directly regular salaries and benefits for 4 Communication Officers. Beginning in FY2007 the ETSB Fund began making interfund transfers to the General Fund, IMRF Fund, and Social Security Fund for salaries, 911 stipends, health insurance, retirement contributions (IMRF) and social security. No action taken

iv. Possible changes moving forward

Chairman Abt pointed out that a 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan for ETSB needs to be updated. Abt hopes to find a way to balance the ETSB Fund budget while still contributing to the capital improvement needs discussed earlier in the meeting. Abt discussed that time is short for making needed capital improvements and with declining revenue, interfund transfers need to be looked at and difficult decisions will have to be made. No action taken.

4. **Board Member Concerns:** The committees discussed concerns with the ETSB budget deficit and declining revenue from land lines and cell phones. The Committees discussed possibilities for raising revenue; gaming revenue, county tickets issued by Sheriff Department, revenue from Rx card, referendum, tax deductible donations. There was discussion regarding ways to fund necessary projects resulting from state mandates and discussion, if the Sheriff's Office could fund the 4 dispatch communication officers that are now being funded by an interfund transfer from the ETSB fund, funds would be available for the necessary capital improvements and make annual payments on the Radio Communication Systems Project. The committees discussed other capital improvement needs facing the county including funding challenges for road and bridge improvements. No action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m. following a motion by Mickey Huseman and seconded by RJ Winkelhake. Motion passed.