

The METCAD Policy Board convened for a regular meeting on Thursday, May 3, 2007 with the following in attendance:

MEMBERS MPB:

Chief Mike Bily, City of Urbana Police Department
Chief Krystal Fitzpatrick, U of I Public Safety (Chair)
Denny Inman, Administrator for Facilities Management and Procurement
Chief Dave Penicook, Champaign Fire Department
Mayor Laurel Prussing, City of Urbana
Chief Rick Raney, Tolono Police Department
Peg Rawles, University of Illinois
Chief Dan Smith, Champaign County Fire Chief's Association
Sheriff Dan Walsh, Champaign County Sheriff's Office

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Rick Kallmayer, Director
Ann Panthen, Operations Manager
Greg Abbott, 9-1-1 Coordinator
Margie Kallmayer, Secretary

ABSENT:

Paul Berg, City of Champaign Assistant City Manager

OTHERS:

Chief Paul Farber, Rantoul Police Department
Larry Riegle, Navigant Consulting

Chief Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Chief Raney made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from March 1, 2007; Ms. Rawles seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Abbott gave a brief update on the radio project. The microwave is up and running and electrical work is continuing in the basement. We are still on schedule for July 2007 implementation. The path between WLRW tower and Thomasboro tower is off by 1.3 degrees but, the system is still passing data and the towers will be realigned.

Director Kallmayer talked about an initial meeting they had with StarCom21 to discuss using two of their talk groups for our use during emergencies. During this discussion the StarCom21 representatives made a proposal to METCAD to consider other ways to achieve a higher level of interoperability between METCAD and StarCom21. Their thought is that we could achieve some level of mutual benefit and provide some cost savings to METCAD over the life of the system. Policy Board direction would be needed to explore this idea in greater detail with more discussions between METCAD staff and StarCom21 representatives. Some of the questions to be explored are how much do we share our resources and what are the benefits. They have to manage their network and if we allowed them to use our controller then they would have to pick

up some of our annual maintenance costs. They have almost maxed out their three system controllers and need another controller. Their options are to buy another controller or partner with METCAD. We own a resource that is in demand and there are a couple of ways we could explore this idea. We think it might be useful to have some exploratory talks with StarCom21 and bring back options for consideration by the Policy Board. Chief Penicook would like to see staff continue to pursue this idea and a backup controller would be beneficial. The next step would be to sit down with them and workup a more detailed analysis of how everything fits together and the issues of value to both parties and how can we combine these. After discussions staff would like to come back to the Board with a couple of scenarios for the Board to consider. If we decide to pursue a scenario we would probably want to use a consultant to negotiate an agreement. Ms. Rawles said that it seems prudent to explore the possibilities but she would want a lot of information about the future and financial stability of StarCom21. Director Kallmayer responded that there sounds like there is a consensus to move forward with discussions with StarCom21 and staff will pursue it.

Mr. Abbott advised the Board that we currently use Rantoul as our back-up 9-1-1 center and UI as our back-up dispatch center. Vermilion County recently contacted METCAD about using our 9-1-1 center as their back-up and vice versus. Vermilion County currently uses Hoopeston as their back-up center but Hoopeston is a small agency and the large center call volumes overwhelm their staff, just as METCAD would overwhelm Rantoul. Some minor equipment changes would need to be made and an Intergovernmental Agreement approved to change the designated 9-1-1 backups for the large Public Safety Answering Points. METCAD would still provide back-up services to Rantoul and Vermilion County would still provide services to Hoopeston if this arrangement works out.

Chief Penicook motioned to adjourn; Dan Smith seconded at 9:05 a.m.

Prepared By:

Margie Kallmayer
Secretary II