

The METCAD Policy Board convened for a regular session on Thursday, October 4, 2007 with the following in attendance:

MEMBERS MPB

Dorothy David, Acting Assistant City Manager City of Champaign
Chief Mike Bily, City of Urbana Police Department
Chief Krystal Fitzpatrick, U of I Public Safety (Chair)
Division Chief Tony Foster, Urbana Fire Rescue Services (for Mayor Prussing)
Denny Inman, Administrator for Facilities Management and Procurement
Chief Dave Penicook, Champaign Fire Department
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

OTHERS:

Chief Paul Farber, Village of Rantoul

ABSENT:

Mayor Laurel Prussing, City of Urbana

The meeting was called to order at 8:35.

Chief Bily made a motion to approve the August 23, 2007 regular meeting minutes; Chief Penicook seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Abbott gave an update on the status of the radio system project. All police agencies have been converted to the new system. Staff attended the Village of Rantoul Board meeting Tuesday evening to answer any questions about the radio system. Chief Raney asked what the status was of the out of range message. Mr. Abbott said that Motorola engineers have been working on the problem and an antenna exchange will occur next week and testing will be completed with the change. METCAD started the thirty day burn in period and we are currently on pause until the out of range message is solved. Chief Fitzpatrick asked about the public safety microphone issue. Mr. Abbott responded that if they don't use the proper microphone they will continue to experience problems. There are three different cord lengths that they can use. Mr. Abbott said there is a delay when you key the microphone and has created some confusion and will take a little time to get use to it. There is also a perception that units can cover METCAD, but there is a safety feature that allows METCAD to remain keyed up and an officer can talk. The unit is not really covering METCAD. There was a recent use of the emergency button from a CPD officer traffic stop that ended in a foot pursuit.

Director Kallmayer discussed the need for equipment called bi-directional amplifiers to be installed in the Urbana and Mahomet Police Departments and the Champaign County Courthouse. Currently these critical public safety facilities do not have adequate signal coverage inside the building and could create an officer safety situation. This equipment will extend in-building coverage. Staff has worked with Barbeck Communications to engineer solutions and has received proposals for Urbana Police Department and the Champaign County Courthouse. Staff estimates that the Mahomet Police Department's installation costs will be about the same or less than Urbana Police Department's estimate. Staff's recommendation is to use the Motorola regional service provider, Barbeck Communications to make sure that the equipment will interface with our current system; and that METCAD pay for the three bi-directional amplifiers or do a cost sharing option.

Chief Smith asked if a performance guarantee would be included as part of this installation to make sure that it wouldn't deteriorate the radio system. Mr. Abbott stressed that this is a proven method to fix this type of problem and has been used in many buildings. Mr. Inman asked how the building coverage was on campus and Chief Fitzpatrick responded that the UI has better coverage inside the buildings on campus. Mr. Inman responded that he is concerned about this type of problem and that there are all kinds of current and new buildings that this issue could be identified in the future. He suggested some kind of language needed to be added to an ordinance to cover this issue. Chief Penicook advised the Board that it should have been included in the most recent update of the building safety code ordinances but was overlooked. The codes will need to be revised to address this issue for future buildings. The Board expressed concern about expending funds for this issue and how many other buildings might need this equipment and to only fund these three facilities. Chief Smith reminded the Board that the rural fire departments haven't come onto the system yet and it might be a problem for some of their facilities as well. If we are going to stop funding this equipment at some point then we need to include some language to cover rural fire departments in-building coverage if they need this equipment.

Director Kallmayer advised the Board that it would be possible for METCAD to distinguish between full-time public safety buildings that are occupied most of the time by public safety employees and private buildings. When the system was originally built the industry wide design specifications have 95% reliability coverage for twenty feet inside the main entrance of the door. Motorola warned that areas inside of buildings below ground level might not have good coverage and they would not guarantee it. Chief Smith said when we bought into this system we knew going into the project that we might have this problem with public safety facilities and we would have to fix them. There is a difference between private sector buildings being built and current public safety facilities. Sheriff Walsh responded that he recalls talking about this issue when we were doing the project and sees public safety buildings as being different. We often have officers inside the courthouse and they might need to communicate. Chief Bily commented that he thinks this issue was missed somewhere along the way because the Urbana Police Department is entirely underground and staff knows we are having some operational issues inside our building. Chief Bily reiterated that there is a difference between public safety facilities and private buildings and this issue needed to be fixed as soon as possible. Mr. Abbott responded that this issue will need to be looked at on a case by case issue.

Chief Penicook made a motion to approve alternative one; Chief Smith seconded.

Ms. David added that the Policy Board should develop a policy about this issue for the future use and include language about current buildings versus new construction. Chief Bily asked what the next step would be and a time frame for getting this fixed. Director Kallmayer advised the Board that staff will need to prepare the budget amendment, get a contract prepared, have legal review it and bring it back to the Policy Board for approval at the November meeting.

Ms. David made a motion to amend the current motion on the table and direct staff to execute the contract for the purchase and installation of the equipment necessary to provide in-building coverage solutions for Urbana Police Department, Champaign County Courthouse and the Mahomet Police Department and amend the budget for Fund 65 reducing the fund balance contingency for said purchase based on a life safety issue. The motion passed unanimously. A roll-call vote authorizing staff to proceed passed unanimously.

Director Kallmayer advised the Board that Champaign Legal had some questions about the contract for use of MDICE by non-member agencies. One of the suggestions included trying to simplify the fee instead of having a mechanism to recalculate the fee annually based on actual costs. Director Kallmayer asked the Board if they would like to discuss proceeding along these lines or continue forward with the fee structure as approved in the previous meeting. Mr. Inman suggested doing a phased in approach for the contract and do a two year term based on estimates and then adjust the fee based on actual experience. Chief Smith asked why we should do this any differently than we do it for our member agencies. Everyone has to carry the burden of rising costs and the 8% increase each year is harder for the rural fire and police than it is for the larger member agencies. Director Kallmayer suggested a five year contract term with a renewable five year term with adjusted rates for inflation. Chief Bily wanted to know if we would go back and recapture the losses for the first five year term. There is a difference in resources for all agencies and Sheriff Walsh doesn't see that we should treat Rantoul differently. Ms. David doesn't think we should shift our policies around and they are going to have to live with inflation just like the rest of us. She stated that we should do what is best for our Policy Board and let Rantoul make the best decision for their needs.

Director Kallmayer advised the Board that Rantoul had some specific questions that they would like to have answered. Would the Board consider giving Rantoul a non-voting seat on the Policy Board if they contracted to use the radio system? The Bylaws and Intergovernmental Agreement would require them to become a METCAD member agency and pay a pro-rated portion of the capital costs for METCAD. Chief Smith asked what the difference is between being at the meeting and voicing opinions and being a non-voting member. Director Kallmayer responded that the difference is an entitlement to speak as a non-voting member instead of being allowed to speak when asked for comments from the floor. Chief Bily asked if they would have a seat on the METCAD Radio Advisory Committee, and Mr. Abbott responded that they would. Chief Bily would not be in favor of this. The Policy Board is always open to comments. Chief Farber said that the Village of Rantoul is not interested in being a full member at this time. The Board consensus was to deny Rantoul's request for a non-voting seat on the Policy Board.

Director Kallmayer said the second question was would the Board be willing to add a clause in the contract that allows Rantoul to receive credit for the capital contributions portion of their

radio fee if Rantoul decides in the future to request becoming a full partner agency in METCAD? The Board consensus was to agree with this request to add this language to the contract for Rantoul.

The third question asked for permission to activate the Rantoul METRO radios prior to the execution of the radio contract. Sheriff Walsh recommended approval of this request and the Board consensus was to allow this to happen.

The last question asked if the fact that Rantoul was our backup 9-1-1 Answering Point worth a reduction in fees. The Board consensus was that since this is reciprocal it wouldn't warrant a reduction in fees.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. David; Sheriff seconded at 10:15 a.m.

Prepared by:

Margie Kallmayer
Secretary II