

MEETING MINUTES
JOINT EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTER FOR JOHNSON COUNTY POLICY BOARD
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2008 – 9:00 AM
EMMA HARVAT HALL, IOWA CITY CITY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Coralville: Henry Herwig
Iowa City: Regenia Bailey, Michael Lombardo
Johnson County: Lonnie Pulkrabek, Pat Harney
North Liberty: Tom Salm
Johnson Co. EMA: Dave Wilson

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Iowa City: Michael Lombardo for Mike Wright

1. **Call to order; recognize alternates**

Chairperson Herwig called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. **Consider approval of September 26, 2008 and October 3, 2008 meeting minutes**

It was moved by Wilson and seconded by Bailey to approve the meeting minutes of September 26 and October 3, 2008. The motion carried unanimously with Wright absent.

3. **Public discussion of any item not on the agenda**

There was no public discussion.

4. **Discuss budget issues with Johnson County Board of Supervisors**

Present for the Johnson County Board of Supervisors were Chairperson Rod Sullivan, Terrence Neuzil, Larry Meyer, and Pat Harney. Harney is also a member of the JECC Board. Sullivan stated that the principal concern to the Board of Supervisors was public reaction to the overall county tax increase. Sullivan stated that the Board of Supervisors was looking for a commitment to have the special tax levy remain at .77 per \$1,000. Sullivan stated that if the levy increased, other county services would need to be cut.

Bailey stated that she felt that the Supervisors had created divisiveness in the community regarding the Joint Emergency Communication Center. She felt they had been publicly supporting it, but making personal comments throughout the community that were not supportive. Bailey stated she would appreciate if the Board of Supervisors' concerns could be brought to the JECC Policy Board for discussion and resolution. Bailey stated that much of the expense of the proposed radio system was because of costs in the unincorporated portion of Johnson County, and that the JECC Board was committed to good radio system coverage in all portions of the County.

Wilson stated that he felt the JECC Board had been good stewards of public tax money. Bailey and Neuzil debated the support of the project by the Board of Supervisors. Meyer stated he would like support of the tax increase by the JECC Board to take pressure off of the Board of Supervisors. Herwig stated that he concurred that this was a valid request. Pulkrabek stated he felt all elected officials in Johnson County had been supportive of the Joint Emergency Communication Center project. Jeff Davidson, interim project manager, reviewed the current status of cost components of the project. Davidson stated he believed that for FY10 the levy would remain at .77, but that this could not be officially stated until radio system negotiations had been completed.

Lombardo arrived at 9:30 a.m. as alternate for Michael Wright.

Herwig stated that the agenda would be altered to next take up Item 9.

9. **Update on Bond Sale**

Davidson reviewed the known components of the bond sale. Pulkrabek asked if bond proceeds could be paid off early without penalty. Johnson County Treasurer Tom Kris from the audience replied yes. Pulkrabek asked if setting aside funds for future maintenance or replacement was an eligible expense

expense for bond proceeds and Davidson replied that this was an eligible operating expense. After discussion, Davidson stated a formal presentation on the bond sale would be made by the JECC's financial consultant at the November 21 meeting.

5. **Consider authorizing the Chairperson to sign an agreement with Terracon for testing services**

Davidson explained that the proposed agreement was for testing services during the remainder of the construction project. Davidson reviewed contract elements and stated the final version was being drafted. Salm stated that since he was an employee of Terracon he would be abstaining from the vote. It was moved by Pulkabrek and seconded by Bailey to approve the agreement with Terracon. Motion carried 6-0-1 with Salm abstaining.

6. **Update on Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) grant application**

Wilson reviewed the \$1.9 million state PSIC grant which has been awarded. Davidson stated that Iowa City Fire Chief Andy Rocca was monitoring the \$1 million Assistance to Firefighters Grant application which had been made. Rocca stated that it was hoped to hear on status of the application no later than March. Davidson stated the \$125,000 special earmark would not be received.

7. **Executive Director recruitment**

Davidson stated second interviews have been scheduled for November 21, 2008. Davidson stated that following the presentation of the results of the law enforcement investigation of each candidate to the Board, it was hoped to extend an offer to one of the candidates shortly after the November 21 interviews. Davidson asked if the Board preferred he and legal counsel Iris Muchmore to be the point team for JECC in negotiating the initial wages and benefits package for the preferred Executive Director candidate. The Board concurred. Davidson asked if the Board wanted to form a personnel subcommittee to assist with the Executive Director negotiations. The Board stated they did not prefer to form a personnel subcommittee and that Davidson and Muchmore should reply directly to the full Board regarding the negotiations. Davidson stated that he and Muchmore were also determining how the Executive Director's wages and benefits administration would be set up prior to the JECC personnel organization being set up.

8. **Update on radio system negotiations**

Mike Milas of Elert and Associates provided an update on the ongoing radio system negotiations and stated that frequencies and tower sites were the critical issues at this time. After discussion, Milas stated he would bring a recommendation on the radio system to the Board at the November 21 meeting.

10. **Review Accounts Payable**

Davidson reviewed accounts payable and stated the following invoices had been received in addition to the ones included in the packet materials: Neumann Monson September invoice for \$56,945; \$2,000 to move the construction observation trailer; \$62 for radio system negotiation lunches, and \$550 in travel expenses for Executive Director candidates. Davidson stated it was anticipated the groundbreaking ceremony expenses would be approximately \$1,000. Bailey stated that Iowa City had agreed to assume the expenses for the groundbreaking. The Board concurred the groundbreaking had been a very successful event.

11. **Set date of next Policy Board meeting**

Herwig stated the next JECC Policy Board meeting would be held at 8:15 a.m. at the Iowa City Water Treatment Plant prior to the second interviews of Executive Director candidates.

12. **Other Business**

Pulkabrek stated that the E911 Board had funds which could be used to purchase equipment for the Joint Emergency Communication Center. Pulkabrek stated that these funds could not be committed

at the current time because they might need to be used for the existing radio communication systems. Davidson asked for Pulkrabek to notify him as soon as funds could be committed to the JECC project.

Harney asked about fiber optic cable issues associated with the JECC construction project. Mike Milas stated he would talk to Bill Hoefler of Neumann Monson to coordinate regarding fiber optic cable issues.

13. **Adjournment**

Herwig declared the meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.