

## MEETING MINUTES FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Joint Emergency Communications Services Association of Johnson County  
Policy Board  
Friday, December 17, 2010, at 8:00 a.m.  
4529 Melrose Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa  
Policy Board Conference Room

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Coralville: John Weihe (Ellen Habel)  
Iowa City: Regenia Bailey; Mike Wright  
Johnson County: Lonny Pulkrabek; Pat Harney  
Johnson Co. EMA: Don Saxton and David Wilson  
North Liberty: Tom Salm

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

Wright called meeting to order. Weihe was alternate for Lundell. Both Saxton and Wilson were present for Johnson Co. EMA.

### 2. Action to approve minutes of December 17, 2010, Policy Board meeting.

Motion by Bailey; second by Salm. Motion passed unanimously.

### 3. Comments from public.

Members of the public commented a 16% increase in salaries and wages was unusual and in this economics situation, a freeze in salaries was more common. Comments were also made about increases in the rentals and leases, capital outlays, and contractual services. Finally, comments were made about the half million dollar increase in budget and the Directors were urged to be responsible in their budgeting.

### 4. Update from User Advisory Committee Meeting.

Bedford stated the December 7, 2010, meeting was a short meeting. Bedford stated the integrity testing had gone well and anticipated acceptance in a few days. Bedford anticipated a transition in the first week of January. Bedford wanted the public-safety users to be on the new system as soon as possible.

Bedford stated TAC 10 had made progress on certain items and had made requests to be compensated for additional work. Rocca asked for payment for CAD Monitoring. Jones said the CAD Monitoring setup would cost \$5,000 and Iowa City would pay the annual fee after that. Pulkrabek asked about the outstanding items. Bailey said invoices should be for work as the work is completed and pulling specific items out of invoices is difficult.

**5. Update on P-25 System and discussion of acceptance procedure.**

Jones stated Elert & Associates submitted a punchlist with remaining items to be completed. Jones stated Elert & Associates was comfortable with the progress that was being made. Stone commented on the contractual requirements for acceptance. Wilson inquired about the number of punchlist items remaining. Jones replied that there was nothing major on the punchlist and the patches had been installed successfully.

**6. A public hearing to approve Resolution 2010-09 setting the levy rate and approving the operating budget for the Fiscal Year 2012.**

After the work session, Jones incorporated the changes suggested at the work session and invited Bob Saunders, Insurance Associates of Iowa City, to this meeting. Wilson said that certain radios were not needed, such as the four mobiles and four portables for the bomb squad and the County rescue truck. Jones reduced the capital account and suggested using inventory first. Jones stated the TAC 10 maintenance would be picked up using E911 funds. Harney asked if this would continue in the future. Jones did not know. Pulkrabek expected approximately \$214,000 of E911 funds to be transferred to JECOSA. Pulkrabek introduced Vanessa Wierman, Johnson County Human Resources.

Saunders stated Johnson County and Iowa City self-administered plans, which is not feasible for JECOSA. JECOSA only had one year of history and there is the potential to change rates going forward. Saunders commented on the medical history of this smaller-sized group. Wierman presented several options and potential implications, including JECOSA employees becoming Johnson County employees as Johnson County had done for Chatham Oaks and the Iowa State Ag Extension. Wierman stated the deductible would increase and the out of pocket maximum would increase on July 1, 2011. Saunders stated the cost could be positive or negative change by JECOSA going with Johnson County. Saunders identified the potential loss of grandfather status as one disadvantage. Saunders identified another issue in that there has to be a business reason for JECOSA to join Johnson County. Bailey requested a numerical comparison. Saunders said this might not be allowed simply to save JECOSA money and could potentially cost Johnson County more than JECOSA saves. Saunders said losing the grandfather status is a big deal; for example, it would require 100% payment for preventative health care.

Saunders presented ideas about saving money such as paying for an employee-only plan, modifications to the Delta Dental plan, and raising the deductible while promising to pay the employees' portion of the raised deductible. Pulkrabek asked if the future healthcare rates would be higher or lower than a 12% increase. Saunders said numbers would be given in April or May. Saunders said this was a new entity with no history. The potential savings for change in the deductible could be \$50,000 a year. Another suggestion could be adjustments to vision or dental.

To help save money, it was suggested the deductible be increased to at least \$1000 (with JECSA making a reimbursement for the higher deductible), which could save \$30,000 in the first year. Bailey inquired about what happens when the pool of people gets older. Saunders stated that a healthier group will result in lower rates. Saunders suggested proactive wellness programs. Weihe stated a program could pay for itself. Bailey stated there could be a benefit in job performance. Weihe appreciated Johnson County's willingness to help, however, wanted more autonomy. Pulkrabek supported adjustments in vision and dental. Saunders made comments about flexible benefit programs. Bailey commented on the levy rate. Pulkrabek made a motion to make changes to the plans. Pulkrabek withdrew the motion because it was not on the agenda. Harney asked about management fees.

Jones discussed the amount held as reserves and the amount outstanding as future expenditures. Bailey commented on future interest income for the amount held in reserves. Pulkrabek asked about maintenance costs. Brennan, RACOM, said millions of dollars had been spent on radios and work needed to be done to keep the radios in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Brennan also said user support would be provided and the users were happy with the support that was being provided. Brennan thought it did not make financial sense to take this work in-house. Bailey asked about preventative maintenance. Brennan said preventative maintenance included training, labor and health-desk support, a local service organization, IT/administrative services, and the loading of software enhancements. Bailey suggested a cost-benefit analysis be done. Wilson suggested looking at third-party vendors. Bailey suggested budgeting with an anticipated spike for maintenance.

Harney asked about the jump in personnel costs. Jones said that the previous budget had not adjusted to the current Iowa City wage rates. Pulkrabek estimated this was a \$250,000 charge. Jones said this estimate was much more accurate. Wilson inquired about abolishing longevity pay. Pulkrabek said it was not completely abolished in the Sheriff's Department. Rocca stated Iowa City had longevity pay. Harney asked about grant money.

Harney asked about a \$.77 levy. Pulkrabek could not support a 14% increase. Bailey said Johnson County made a grave error in setting the levy at a low rate, but that we were not here today to discuss that. Pulkrabek could not support \$1.5 million in reserves. Pulkrabek was comfortable with \$800,000 to \$900,000 in reserves. Pulkrabek suggested a \$.75 levy. Jones said that leaves about \$1 million in reserve for FY 2013. Harney suggested not paying for more radios. Pulkrabek said JECSA was created to provide equipment for public safety. Bailey said additional personnel would require additional equipment. Wright suggested equipment be bought in the future. Salm suggested a \$.77 levy. Saxton agreed. Wright stated this was what was intended. Bailey thought future boards would take heat for this. Habel replaced Weihe as alternate for Lundell.

Motion to approve Resolution 2010-09 and set \$.77 levy by Bailey; seconded by Salm. Roll call vote: Saxton, aye; Bailey, aye; Harney, aye; Salm, aye; Pulkrabek, no; Habel, aye; and Wright, aye. Motion passed, 6 – 1.

There was a public comment that the budget should be within the levy amount and there should be no increase in the budget for personnel. Bailey commented that the original estimate for personnel was incorrect. Pulkrabek stated these numbers had been reviewed in detail. Jones stated some of the new expenses had not been included previously, such as towers and utilities for towers. Bailey stated this was still spending down the reserves.

**7. Other business.**

None. Agenda Item No. 9 was considered before Agenda Item No. 8.

**9. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.**

Pulkrabek stated there could be new representatives from Johnson County. Wright stated Pulkrabek was the Vice Chairperson. Wilson had no interest in becoming Chairperson.

Bailey moved to appoint Wright as Chairperson for the January meeting; seconded by Pulkrabek. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. Consider a Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment or hiring is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(i).**

Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session by Pulkrabek; seconded by Habel. Roll call vote: Saxton, aye; Bailey, aye; Harney, aye; Salm, aye; Habel, aye; Pulkrabek, aye; and Wright, aye.

**10. Consider a Motion to Adjourn the meeting.**

Harney stated that if cuts must be made, the expenditures for radios should be cut. Bedford stated a department could go with a lower quality radio.

Salm thanked Jones for his work. Saxton inquired about taking formal action in open session. It was stated that formal action would be taken at the January meeting.

Motion to Adjourn by Salm; seconded by Wilson. Motion passed unanimously.