

Minutes

Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee

February 9, 2011

Members present: Rob Reichwein, Dick Miller and John Aasen

Also present: Emergency Management Director Dan Schreiner, Sheriff Richard Anderson, Lt. Tonya Niederkorn, Randy Jensen and Representative from Communications Service.

The meeting was called to order by Reichwein at 2:41 p.m. stating proper posting and notification has met open meeting requirements. Motion by Miller and seconded by Aasen to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Aasen and seconded by Miller to accept the January 12, 2011 meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried 3-0.

Communication Project Update

The project continues on schedule and good to go providing finalization of US Cellular leases. Need five US Cellular leases by the end of February to keep on schedule. The Verizon Osseo lease needs to be completed March and TCC Strum lease by the end of April to keep on schedule. Leases need to be in place before cabling and/or antennas can be installed. Schreiner has met with Corporation Counsel to discuss the lease agreements. Corporation Counsel has made recommendations and has been very helpful. Schreiner submitted the concerns that the county has to US Cellular and waiting to hear back from them.

Schreiner advised it is his understanding Whitehall LEC cabling and antenna work is scheduled for February. Antenna work is to be completed at all sites before shelter / equipment installation.

Reichwein advised that he has signed a letter to be sent to Highway Commissioner Jim Johnson in regards to the tower locations that emergency services will no longer be using. Aasen questioned if the highway will stay at the current tower locations or if there will be room at the new tower sites. Schreiner advised he is sure that the highway could continue to use current tower sites but the lease agreements will have to be updated and highway will have to pay the rent. Schreiner advised he has a meeting with Highway Commissioner Johnson and Corporation Counsel Radtke scheduled for the week after next to deal with the issues that have come up with the towers. If any equipment is added to the sites being used for this project a new loading study would have to be done to add that equipment.

The major components have arrived for equipment staging in La Crosse. Testing and staging of individual items is in progress. Full staging is expected to take place in March.

There are currently two shelters manufactured and waiting in South Dakota. Three shelters are being manufactured and are expected to be ready by March 31st. One shelter order with manufacturer is pending Verizon lease conditions.

Microwave licensing is to be submitted in February. Licensing coordination costs are \$3,000 per site (included in project). CSI advised we must not wait for lease completion in order to keep project on schedule.

The Fire Grant Equipment has all been received at CSI La Crosse office and invoice has been issued. FCC Licenses issued for all Trempealeau VHF radio channels. No more major change orders expected.

Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program

Schreiner advised that as a result of the Presidential Disaster Declaration from the rain/flooding in September the county is eligible to apply for a competitive grant for hazardous mitigation. The recommendation is to apply for funds for a high water warning system for the Trempealeau River Watershed.

Schreiner advised the grant funding is 75% federal, 12.5% state and 12.5% local match. A rough estimate is approximately \$120,000 for the project that would include five stations providing automated data collection of river levels and rain fall. The system would also include six or seven additional rain gauges that would also be automated. The local match for this project would be approximately \$15,000. Schreiner is waiting to hear back

from the National Weather Service as they are going to double check, but they are estimating they should be able to contribute some in-kind funds for this project. Schreiner is also estimating that Trempealeau County's portion of the project could include approximately \$6,300 in-kind funds.

Schreiner advised what he needs from the committee is authorization to go ahead with this grant application. Schreiner will need the County Board Chair's signature on the guarantee that the balance of the local funds will be funded by the County. The recommendation is that the balance be funded in the 2012 Fiscal Year. The project length is estimated at 18 months before the system will be up and running. Schreiner advised he would have to create a budget for this project with the expenditures being approximately \$120,000 and revenues would be approximately \$90,000 to \$105,000 in 2012. Schreiner advised the grant deadline is next Tuesday and he will be submitting the application.

A motion was made at the previous meeting advising Schreiner to move forward with this grant application.

Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA) Update

FEMA teams are wrapping up. Some of the county's and municipalities claims have been Okayed. The rest of the municipalities involved are moving forward. The FEMA team remarked several times that they wished all of the areas they went to were as thorough as the people and entities here in Trempealeau County. They were very happy with the cooperative nature of the individuals they had contact with.

Regarding the project with the snowmobile trails FEMA advised to piggy back the sandbagging on her project. There was authorization to pay for 75% of 20,000 bags at the purchase price of a little over .21 cents per bag. So, the county will be receiving reimbursement between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

Schreiner advised the committee he would like authorization to purchase some sandbags for spring. The ones that were not used in the fall flooding had to be returned or paid for. Schreiner advised he was able to locate some sandbags for .16 cents per bag from a non-governmental entity. Schreiner would like to purchase 30,000 for the cost of \$4,800. Schreiner advised using the money that FEMA will be reimbursing for the bags used in fall should cover the cost for these bags.

Motion by Aasen and seconded by Miller approving the purchase of sandbags for spring at the purchase price of .16 cents per bag. The motion allows for the purchase of 30,000 bags at a cost of \$4,800 in order to develop a central inventory for municipalities. Motion carried 3-0.

Move Dispatch to 2nd Floor & Secure Access from Jail to Court

This item has been tabled until next month.

Jail Addresses

Lt. Niederkorn advised that the jail will be losing the current medical director. The jail has a high percentage of inmates with medical and/or mental health issues.

Sheriff Anderson reported ongoing safety concerns regarding court access from the jail.

Discussion of General Operations

Nothing new to report at this time.

Questions Regarding Monthly Vouchers

Monthly vouchers were reviewed.

Set Next Meeting Date/Time

The monthly Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. in the Wisconsin Room.

Reichwein adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John Aasen
Secretary, Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee

