

Marion County E911 Board Minutes
December 14, 2016 at 6:00 pm
Marion County Public Health

1. Chair Marcia Slycord called the Marion County E911 Board meeting to order at 6:07 pm, but stated due to a lack of an in-person quorum this will be a discussion meeting only. Sheriff Sandholdt stated he and Mark Raymie had discussed making him the alternate Marion County member if that would work for the quorum. Slycord advised Sandholdt that due to there being no paperwork on file designating him as the alternate that it would not work. Raymie advised via phone he did not intend for this to occur until after the first of the year. Slycord advised they will go through the agenda and have the discussion, but we will not take any votes.

2. Kim Pettyjohn took a verbal roll call and the following members were in attendance:

City of Bussey	Absent
City of Harvey	Dennis Seibert
City of Knoxville	Brian Hatch
City of Melcher	Terry Fisher
City of Pella	Marcia Slycord
City of Pleasantville	Absent
Clay Township	Brice Loonan
Indiana Township	Absent
Knoxville Township	Kenny Thompson
Lake Prairie Township	Doug VanGorkom
Marion County BOS	Absent
Pleasant Grove (Pleasantville)	Absent
Red Rock E (Monroe)	Absent
Red Rock W (Runnells)	Absent
Washington Township	Absent
<i>Also present</i>	
Marion County EMA/E911	Jeff Anderson
Marion County EMA/E911	Kim Pettyjohn
Marion County Sheriff's Office	Martha Dykstra
Marion County Sheriff's Office	Jason Sandholdt
Marion County Zoning/E911	Melissa Poffenbarger
Pella Police Department	Robert Bokinsky
Pleasantville Police Department	Joe Mrstik

3. Anderson advised the only item on the agenda is the Pella PSAP Grant Radio Distribution for discussion only. Anderson asked Chief Bokinsky if he would like to lead this. He stated he would introduce it, but was not prepared to lead it. Bokinsky advised at the last meeting the Board discussed the grant. We designated at the last meeting approximately \$130,774 of E911 funds to be dedicated to the purchase of P25 compliant digital radios to spread around the county. We left untouched what the distribution of those radios would be. Today the matter at hand is to figure out equitable distribution of radios. Bokinsky also stated that Marcia tasked Jeff with gathering data so we would have data points in front of us and know what the need is. The thought being that with the information we could make an equitable distribution. The hope is we can move forward as a county and get this taken care of. It would

not be appropriate for all the radios to go to Pella Community Ambulance, we are looking at where the needs are, who needs the radios, a way to help the whole county. Anderson advised he has all the data for the departments and can put up the info for each and hand out paper copies. There was a discussion between Bokinsky, Sandholdt and Anderson on the amounts of what the actual grant was and where the funding was coming from for parts of it. The total on the table is the \$261,548, with half being matched funds from the E911 Board and the City of Pella.

Anderson advised they tried to come up with an equitable distribution with as few outside factors as possible. They could not ignore the size of the departments. They cannot distribute 10 radios to a department with only six people. Bokinsky advised that was assumption number one, if we were going to go equitably by the size this made the most sense. Bokinsky asked Thompson if they were already up to speed on portables and Thompson confirmed that they are. Bokinsky did not want to penalize them, so they thought it would be good to start the mobile process for them. Mrstik asked if the cost of the radios are paid out of E911 funds and grant money, who technically has ownership of the radios and should there be an MOU in place. Anderson's recommendation to the Board is that something like that should be put in place, that would be a good plan, it gives the board flexibility, if the department dissolves or is no longer in operation it's fair to the other departments to put those radios back in to play. Thompson stated some fire departments only have three members. Anderson stated this is just a recommendation, rather than convene a meeting and sit here for 6 hours they took a stab at it. Bokinsky stated this is where we started. Anderson stated the Board would make the decision. Sandholdt asked what was the rationale in Pella PD and Marion County not getting anything. Bokinsky stated they took care of their need. They both have PSAPs and this was more for agencies that do not have a PSAP or a way to raise funds. He did not want to take radios out of fire departments hands, like a Harvey or Pleasantville, we are able to purchase at 50% the radios they got on their side of the grant and in future years, he will just budget for it. On the Marion County side, he was not aware that they still had a need for more radios. Sandholdt advised they do not have a need for it, but just for Mark's benefits. Mark has to decide if he wants to pay for it all out of the county budget or part as the E911 Board have it paid for there. VanGorkom stated this grant would not have been available, you would have still gotten your \$200k from the BOS and that is taxpayer's dollars. He does not see why it cannot stay the way it is. You used your grant all on yourself and did not share with anyone else; at least they are trying to help the rest of the county. VanGorkom does not think the BOS should get any part of this 911 money. Sandholdt states but they are part of the Board. That is the equitable side of it and they were ahead of the game and utilized all of the money. Had they not used previous grant money to get other needed items they would have been able to do this. It is up to the Board and you have the numbers and to exclude someone from E911. Doug states if he got a grant and got 50% we would have it all ready. If it is split more, everyone gets less. Sheriff how do you decide if all of us are part of the Board, if everyone pays into it to come up with the \$400K, as a combined Board we are all in it together. If the board says they will pay for it then that is fine, but Mark is not there and he has to represent the county and what is a fair equitable amount. Sandholdt asks how many different agencies are going to use a VHF frequency, VHF digital frequency or 700/800, for a plan who is going to utilize what? VanGorkom advised Jasper is going 700/800 so they will have to utilize what they have to speak with them. Mrstik asked when they decided on dual band radios was it the intention to give command staff the Harris radios so if they went to an IC they could have the dual band frequency. Anderson advised they are going to award each department a level of interoperability with a department around them or county around them with a different radio

system. Mrstik asked if a department could opt out and get P25 versus the Harris? Anderson advised he is not saying they could not, but they would have to do trade with another department because they have ordered this number of radios. Sandholdt confirmed the radios are already ordered. Then stated there is no discussion on the type of radio, the \$264k has been spent and you are just deciding where they go. Anderson advised in order to stay in timeline with the grant. He also stated several board members contacted him and said let us get them ordered. Sandholdt states that changes his approach. The way they are going and his goal is that everyone will work off of 700/800 dual band radio, if these are already ordered, P25 won't work off of state tower so that changes the approach. Anderson advised a fire fighter in the corner of the county with a handheld would not hit the state tower without the use of a vehicular repeater. Sandholdt said he was told something different and that is new info to him. He said the reason there is going to be a 300-400 foot tower, so that they could all hit that state tower. Anderson advised it was not their intention to have these radios touch that network. He advised Fire Chiefs are telling him there is no way they can do it with price of radios. Sandholdt stated the fire departments are getting new radios so what are new radios going to benefit over what they have now? Anderson said they'd be P25.

Sandholdt stated it should be decided what structure is being used before radios are decided on. Anderson stated he was advised to look into multi-tower infrastructure for the county, but does not have any of that information right now. Mrstik stated he has been being told for 7 years we're going P25 and now they have a system in place that will give small departments to have at least something to switch over to. Sandholdt asked what are they switching over to. Mrstik advised P25 because of the cost of the digital. Sandholdt asked who is going to pay for the infrastructure out of those departments, who is going to be build the multi-tower system, who is going to do it. Anderson advised they have good idea of what it will cost to build out a network on the state for this County. Wapello went P25 digital and got back most of the range they lost when they narrow banded. Sandholdt states P25 digital is a good system, but it has to be developed, you have to have the infrastructure, you do not just have radio and be good to go. Anderson advised three of four repeaters they have are upgradeable to P25 but if they did not act on this, they would not be receiving any funding right now. Sandholdt stated there was a thought process that went into this, there was some type of discussion in order to come up with this, there will be infrastructure costs. Loonan asked if these radios will work with the system already. Anderson confirmed they would and Loonan stated so they will not just be sitting there. VanGorkom advised this is something they can slowly do, like one a year on a truck. Anderson told Duane Vos he has grown tired of propagation maps being inaccurate, the computer says a radio should work here and it does not, so it had been discussed putting up a digital repeater somewhere in county and see what coverage is. Sandholdt asked why you would not use 300-400 foot and stated to put up anything else there is a cost to it. Anderson advised all information was completely visible at the last meeting. The numbers should not be a surprise. Anderson advised they made some minor changes to get radios in proper hands and proper departments so those changes were necessary. Sandholdt asked if there was discussion on mobiles. Sandholdt asked if there any mobiles that will be 700/800. He asked several other questions and if it had been decided that they are going to the Racom system. He then asked if you decide to go with state how are you going to do that. Anderson stated most have told him they are not going to the state tower because it is too expensive. VanGorkom advised his trustees could not afford to give everyone a portable that is \$4000. Sandholdt stated you could do it multiple ways; there are other options, as long as everyone knows that, he is good. Fisher advised if they go 700, it will probably be one person or a vehicle but it will be minimum. Mrstik advised Pleasantville and

Chief VanNess would stay on P25 so they can talk, but will have access or dispatch will do a patch. It is hodge podge right now. Anderson advised at minimum, it gives each department minimum level of interoperability and if more grant money falls out of sky potentially you could change interoperability. Loonan asked if the Racom system has a monthly fee. Anderson advised it depends on what contract you have and he is hearing each county is a little different. He stated they would have to decide what they want in the system; there will be things available with state radio and Racom system they may want. MICRN has been put into the state radio network, there will be other stuff added, and stuff is expensive. Anderson stated in regards to the MOU for the benefit of staff trying to create this there needs to be discussion as to whether receiving department will need to insure the radios and the board members need to decide. Hatch advised he was going to mention that and Mrstik stated he talked to his insurance company and they recommended at least \$25 per year per radio and he believes it is their responsibility. VanGorkom stated at least maintenance on them and whoever has the radio has to maintain it. It still belongs to the 911 board, if the radio is no longer being used return it and maintaining is each department's responsibility. VanGorkom states the MOU needs to say something about maintaining and that each department will be given a certain number of radios and they always have that number in their possession. Slycord states programming is included and a few exceptions. Slycord asks Hatch if he has any thoughts and Hatch advised it is over his head but he has talked with Chief Losada and Chief Mitchell and they will just be happy with what they get. Anderson stated he talked with Price from Bussey and he is in full support. Hatch asked if Anderson had spoken with Mitchell. Anderson advised Mitchell had not submitted his info until 3:30 that afternoon and he was in support of it. VanGorkom asked to see the project timeline. Anderson advised January 2017 is the P25 Phase. Mrstik stated the MOU needs to be done. Anderson stated that is why he needs the info so he can get it done quickly. Sandholdt asked if they are locked into the radio purchases, they have already, do they have to buy the exact number of radios or can it be changed. Anderson stated unless Duane has somewhere for them to go they are probably locked in. Sandholdt stated he thinks there should be more discussion or talk on whether fire departments or ambulance want portable versus mobile on the 700/800 system. Anderson stated he thinks that is part of what he is looking for from this Board as none of them knows what the legislature is going to do next year and they want to be able to pounce and get what they need. Sandholdt stated if they are going to try to utilize VHF radios through a repeater the mobile side will be very important. They need to look at how it is utilized and if they are locked in, they need to have more of a discussion. He just does not want people 3 years from now wish they had done something different. He stated they could make whatever decision they want to make, but he wants them to make a wise decision. Anderson stated that most fire chiefs have told him they don't want vehicle repeaters on fire ground and the other point is what the chair has instructed us to do to look at system design, it could be a multi-site and stay analogue. He continued by saying no decisions have been made as to what that system make look like. Anderson stated they want to see options, what are we getting for the dollar and what can we afford. VanGorkom stated when they went to narrow band they lost, so they put repeater on a water tower and right now he can take his portable and be in WDM and set the repeater and he can talk to them back at the department. Sandholdt stated they should be able to tell him in about a month if with a P25 if every part of county can talk. VanGorkom stated right now with their repeater he can take an old mobile in his pickup and be on I-80 at Grinnell interchange and he could talk to them back in Pella. He stated if you get the right stuff it works. Bokinsky stated he wanted to make sure he understand and stated to Sandholdt that it sounds like what he is saying is what Mrstik has been pushing for at the last few meetings, which is strategic planning

for the whole county. He stated it would be great to start discussing and have everything thought out so when time comes they can get what they need. Sandholdt stated there should be more discussion on how we are each going to utilize it individually. He stated what they have right now he just doesn't want people to say they wished they'd gotten something else. Anderson stated when Chief filled out the application they put in portables instead of mobiles because across county we need more portables and if a department has to buy radios they have to buy a couple mobiles instead of portables. Sandholdt states he's talking about the 700/800 because the cost is about the same. He continued by saying whatever the decisions the Chief's make that's their decision, he just wants everyone to ask the questions they need to ask. Anderson stated with regard to that conversation Blake just asked we don't deviate, like 1 or 2 radios would be okay, but he doesn't want us making wholesale changes to what the intent of the grant was. He thinks people would write grants under false pretenses to get what they want. Bokinsky said as a reminder this was put together in just a couple hours and it was our best shot under the circumstances. Anderson stated he will start on the MOU tomorrow. VanGorkom, Fisher and Thompson all stated in some way that insurance, maintenance, and replacement should all be in the MOU. Anderson asked if it is close enough for the Board to make a vote on this or do they need to do distribution differently. Thompson stated that before Board Member Seibert left he let them know he doesn't need two of the high dollar radios and that he would take 2 P25's. Anderson advised he didn't want to put him on the spot but their department's budget last year was just over \$5,000. VanGorkom advised he was being very blunt with them and said he doesn't need the expensive radios. Anderson advised there are two ways to go about that, give the radios out as they are and they departments can trade as they want or the Board can say he doesn't want those and the Board can divide them up how they want to. Fisher confirmed the Board is ok with departments swapping radios. Anderson advised as long as he can track radios with the MOU then it's a Board decision. Bokinsky asked if we should email this out and asked if they are sure each jurisdiction shouldn't have at least 1 of the multi-band radios for a large scale incident. Anderson stated there is possibility the department may not exist and the decision should come soon. Sandholdt stated Monroe and Runnells are voting members of the Board and they aren't on here, is that going to be an issue in the future. Anderson advised that's up to the Board, but a lot of land line surcharge in Marion County goes to Jasper County and it's been in play for several years. Dykstra asked why E911 doesn't go after that now. Anderson advised once the Board advises him too he can, but what's the risk versus the reward. There is a lot of area north of the lake and east of Highway 14. Sandholdt stated they aren't here, but if there is enough voting members he just wanted to ask the question. Anderson stated it's been 7-8 years since they got laptops in their cars and they didn't come our way at all and offer to give any assistance with computers or radios. VanGorkom stated if they don't come to the meetings to him they don't have a voice. Slycord asked if there are any other discussions and that Anderson will work on the MOU. The meeting was done at 7:15

Respectively submitted

Kim Pettyjohn