

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

FOSS 

CHILCOTT 

IMAN 

STOLTZ 

BURROWS 

Members Present.....Commissioner Suzy Foss, Commissioner Greg Chilcott, Commissioner J.R. Iman, Commissioner Ron Stoltz and Commissioner Jeff Burrows

Date.....August 1, 2012

► Minutes: Glenda Wiles

► The Board met at 8:30 a.m. to witness Interim Commissioner Jeff Burrows being sworn in by Commissioner Suzy Foss.

► The Board met at 11:00 a.m. for a discussion regarding potential dispatch reorganization. Present at this meeting was Sheriff Chris Hoffman, 911 Director Joanna Hamilton, 911 Assistant Director Eric Gustafson, Human Resource Director Robert Jenni and Deputy County Attorney Howard Recht.

Commissioner Iman stated it is the Commissioner's obligation to manage the budget of the county in a fiscally prudent manner. Both 911 and the Sheriff's Office have requested more personnel during their respective budget meetings. Commissioner Iman feels it is important to look at the needs for personnel allocation and possibly place 911 back under the direction of the Sheriff.

Commissioner Foss asked Sheriff Hoffman if he was willing to take back the 911 Center under his supervision. Sheriff Hoffman stated when he took office in 2003 he had supervisory responsibility of the 911 center and for a number of reasons he relinquished the supervision back to the Commissioners. He stated the Sheriff's Office is capable of running the 911 Center, which he believes could benefit both the Sheriff's Office and 911. He is willing to undertake this supervision again noting he was approached by the Commissioners and is not something he requested.

The Board discussed budgetary considerations as well as the Sheriff's request for more full time employees to input warrants and temporary orders of protection. Under the direction of the Sheriff the Civil Section enters these orders/warrants. When the Commissioners assumed supervision over 911, his office had to add CJIN terminals upstairs for his civil employees. These terminals added annual costs as well as additional CJIN licenses.

Commissioner Chilcott addressed the overlapping services for 911 and the Sheriff's Office noting there might be some inefficiency. He also noted the 911 advisory council did not seem to 'take off' in their management assistance. Sheriff Hoffman stated there are a number of 911 centers that operate in the current manner and they run efficiently. He also noted there is no statutory authority for the Sheriff to run a 911 center, it is an option not a necessity, but he sees some budgetary benefits for his office to take over 911. If he were to take the center over, he would not operate it under the same model that it runs under now.

Commissioner Foss stated what has been proposed seems very reasonable to her. A member of the audience asked what has been proposed?

Commissioner Iman indicated there are some options, one of which is to do nothing, second is to hire the requested positions (adding an additional \$98,000 in salaries) or thirdly, request the Sheriff take over the supervision which would allow a sworn officer giving direction to staff on the input of the warrants/orders.

Robert Jenni stated he was asked to look at the options in regard to costs. Adding 1.5 employees to the Sheriff's Office and 1 employee to 9-1-1 operations would cost \$98,000. The .5 position is not within this dollar amount because that is already in the budget. Utilizing a Senior Deputy to oversee the center would cost \$82,000 plus the costs to replace that Deputy would be approximately \$60,000, thus he sees a savings to the Sheriff at \$19,000. This option would also keep the director and assistant director at their regular salary which adds them to the number of dispatchers which all can then enter the warrants and orders. He figures that cost would be \$63,256.00. Robert stated the budget will not be reduced rather the overall budget will go up. Commissioner Chilcott noted the level of service would be elevated, and he sees a savings of \$35,000 by taking option three.

Deputy County Attorney Recht stated the Sheriff's Office can take it over agreeing it is not a legal requirement. He stated it is important for the Commissioners to look at all options in regard to cost and efficiency. He indicated Human Resource had addressed the budget, noting option three is a reasonable option and fulfills the purposes of law enforcement. Attorney Recht suggested the Commissioners receive input from 911 and the citizens.

Assistant 911 Director Gustafson suggested they consider allowing the night dispatchers the input of the orders/warrants. While the Sheriff's Office can handle this, he felt it would be a difficult transition if 911 dispatchers were not involved in the entry.

911 Director Joanna Hamilton declined input at this time.

Commissioner Iman stated it appears the county could save approximately \$35,000 if the Sheriff took over the 911 Center. Commissioner Foss felt there would be better service to the community as well as a financial savings and her goal would be to keep the director and assistant director at their current salary. Commissioner Iman indicated the director is not a union member thus there would be some legal questions with counsel. Commissioner Chilcott stated if they are not management they will be dispatchers and covered by collective bargaining. Attorney Recht concurred. Commissioner Iman indicated if any qualifications for management would be up to

the Sheriff if they had the Sheriff assumes management. Commissioner Chilcott agreed that option may include re-organization and management positions would be open to those qualified. Commissioner Foss stated it is up to the Sheriff to come up with the model, then as an Elected Official he can run it as he sees fit, with budgetary constraints obviously.

Sheriff Hoffman stated he has not drawn up any organizational charts but he knows that since this is a 24-hour operation someone will be responsible for each shift. And he would seek current management's input in order to make this successful for our community. Commissioner Chilcott reiterated they must demonstrate a cost savings with the appropriate level of service before he would make any changes.

Attorney Recht suggested the Sheriff bring his organizational model back to the Commissioners based upon finances and services.

Commissioner Iman made a motion to have the Sheriff assist the Human Resource Director and the Commissioners in the development of a plan. Commissioner Chilcott suggested as an Elected Official the Sheriff should make up the plan and bring it to the Commissioners. Sheriff Hoffman stated he will need current management's input. Commissioner Iman withdrew his motion.