

**Robertson County Emergency Communications District****Board Minutes of – August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014****2014-08-01 Call to Order**

The regular scheduled 911 board meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by the Chairman, Kathy Spears. The meeting was held at the Emergency Communications Center.

**Roll Call - (7) Board Members Present (2) Absent and Excused**

**Board Members Present:** Bruce Dean, Ron Gallagher, Russell Gupton, Nancy Johnson, Gwen Martin, David Thompson, Kathy Spears.

**Board Members Absent:** Bill Holt, @ Conference, Excused  
R.L. Douglas, @ Dr. Appt., Excused

**Others Present:** Chad Gregory, Jerry Herman, Joe Palmer, Pat Brady, Robertson Black, Jimmy Hamill, Ryan Martin, Hope Petersen, Cathy Lowe, Jeff Perigo, Gerald Wakefield, Derek Noe.

**2014-08-02 Minutes of July 15, 2014**

The Chairman, Kathy Spears asked all board members to review July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 board minutes at this time. David Thompson mentioned a correction that needed to be made on page 2 very first sentence. Cathy Lowe will review the recording of the July 2014 meeting. David Thompson mentioned that the correction was that the radio maintenance would not go away **but be greatly reduced**. Cathy Lowe will correct and e-mail each board member a corrected copy.

Motion was made by Gwen Martin to accept the July 15, 2014 minutes as reviewed. Motion was seconded by Russell Gupton.

**Roll call Vote: (7) Yes (2) Absent (2) Excused**

**2014-08-03 Financial Statements for June 30<sup>th</sup> & July 31<sup>st</sup> 2014**

**Kathy Spears** asked the board to over look the June & July 2014 Financial Statements prepared by the Robertson Co. Finance Office. Cathy Lowe mentioned that the June 2014 was not closed out until July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The July 2014 Financial Statement shows line items that will need to be amended due to the 2014-2015 Budget not being approved at this time. Motion was made by Russell Gupton to accept the June & July 2014 Financial Statements. Motion was seconded by Nancy Johnson.

**Roll Call Vote: (7) Yes (2) Absent (2) Excused**

**Page 2.**

**2014-08-04 Other Reports from Committees**

**Chairman,** Kathy Spears asked for update from Homeland Security – David Thompson mentioned the Training was completed in July for law enforcement personnel with Springfield and District 7.

**Public Safety Advisory Board - David Thompson** speaking for the PSAB. David stated that we have been talking about going digital and also talking about a partnership with Greer Communications. David stated that no official action has been taken by the 911 Board on this yet. We are at the point now where we have new budgets, people are planning to purchase, we have a number of agencies asking when to buy. We feel this is something that needs to be brought before the 911 Board.

We have a proposal from Greer Communications that we received a couple of months ago, that instead of owning or building our own system, now the city and county own the buildings, antennas, towers and they essentially pay for maintenance and licensing fees, it is divided up and billed to all agencies in use on Robertson Co. system. We are looking at the proposal from Greer Communications because we know we are going to have to upgrade we know that digital is coming and that the FCC will tell us it's only a matter of when. We also know there is a public safety issue, when you get out of Springfield you have dead spots you cannot communicate. We have tried this out with the digital system and we have eliminated those dead spots so whether you are EMS, Police or Fire, when you get out with the digital system we know you have better coverage so that's an improvement there.

So we know we are going to digital, so the questions before us now are:

1. Do we go out and buy our own system, own repeaters and maintain it, etc.
2. Or do we partner with Greer Communication. Greer has come to us with a proposal of partnership that would put all of us on this system, it would be a part of the whole region, you would be able to talk to each other and also to all your adjoining counties that are currently on this system. Instead of us buying, maintaining, paying on equipment Greer is proposing a (usage or air-time fee) is \$8.00 per radio per month.

If you do the math you would not have the upfront fees, expenses, and there are other reasons for considering that. David Thompson passed out papers for all present to review, now David turning the questions and discussion over to Jeff Perigo w/Greer Communications.

**Page 3.**

Jeff will fill in the blanks for all your questions, but essentially we need to make a decision on how we are going to move in the future, are we going to continue with Springfield and Robertson County, if we do the last estimate (up front) will be around \$120,000.00 to do that. Or do we partner with Greer, and expand another opportunity where we would pay a usage fee to be on that system. The User Group has been talking for the past few months that this was a done deal to go with the air-time so that we would get out of the business of buying and maintaining the equipment and it would expand our capabilities. David Thompson mentioned again that nobody has actually made a decision not even the 911 Board, since this is a proposal from Greer. David felt that the 911 Board and all present could feel free to ask questions that they may have. Kathy Spears stated that the digital was discussed by the user group and some at the county commission meeting last night were discussing the fees also. David came from a system where they paid \$29.00 a month per radio ours would be \$8.00 per radio a month. David Thompson stated that the current Analog System is very old the repeaters are in need of replacement and it's time for us to make decisions as a unit.

Jerry Herman asked if the municipalities would still own their tower sites. Jeff Perigo stated that all tower site properties would remain Robertson County. The County and Cities would maintain their property and towers. Jerry Herman asked how long the Maintenance contract would be for 3-5 years. Jeff stated we are looking more towards 5-10 years. Jeff stated that most counties were going with 10 years. Jeff said 1 or 2 counties went with 5 years. Jeff Perigo stated that all counties with Region 7 have signed with Greer Communications, Cheatham County signed yesterday. Jerry Herman asked about Sumner County. Jeff stated they were a different system but you still would have your conventional. David Thompson asked who would maintain the back-up generator. Jeff stated it is part of the physical property of Robertson County. David stated there will be some maintenance costs associated with some of the equipment. Jeff stated it will be like it is now. We have been paying around \$40,000.00 a year, which is actually 2004-2005 rates, so that it is expected to go up anyway, when you negotiate that with Homeland Security on your old system and that it was part of a 7 county (23) tower sites, so it was reduced rate anyway.

**Page 4.**

If Robertson County owns a system or gets a system like this, not a P-25 or anything else, but like this they would be expected to pay around \$70,000.00 for maintenance a year. David speaking so if we partner with Greer what happens to the maintenance of \$40,000.00 now. Jeff stated it would go away. David stated that instead of billing all departments the \$40,000.00 would be eliminated. Jerry Herman asked about the billing of the air-time. Jeff stated he would like to have just one check instead of (30) or more checks coming in. Jerry Herman asking if the air-time fees could go thru RCECD-911. David Thompson volunteered Hope to handle all the incoming air-time fees, so that (1) check would be sent to Greer. Jeff Perigo briefly going over the spread sheet with all present. The main goal of the radio system is to be able to talk. So prior to Homeland Security the passport system had very poor coverage. Jeff explaining you could not talk across the county to another, Jeff giving examples of bad areas within the county.

The NXDN Protocol has very good coverage so looking at coverage we have very poor coverage now, if Robertson County decided to own the system we would have very good coverage in Robertson County and we do have coverage outside the county. If we partner with Greer we will have coverage up to 5,000 square miles. David Thompson asked, the departments that have their own independent radio systems today, like some volunteer fire departments that are not necessarily connected with trunking. Jeff stated that would all stay the same you have the trunking and you might have Conventional, we are not touching the Conventional. The trunking is all Greer would be changing. David Thompson recognized Gerald Wakefield, his question directed to Jeff Perigo, what happens to us as a County or as a Homeland Security District, if Greer Communications goes out of business, bankrupt, etc. Jeff stated that the system is still going to keep on working, the property is in your building and of course you have a (1) year time Jeff stated it would not stop working and that you would have ample time to do something. Of course if this happened we then would have to buy equipment, or as David Thompson stated we would have to rebuild our own system.

Gerald's #2 question for Jeff Perigo. You stated that there are (23) tower sites with the old system. Gerald asked for a number of towers with the new system. Jeff stated there would be (5) towers in Robertson County.

**Page 5.**

Jeff Perigo stated that his goal was for Robertson County to have a better system not to have the same system cheaper or to have the same system that costs 10 times as much. Gerald stated his goal was not to have to turn around in 5 years and buy new radios. Jeff stated a life expectancy is 5 years on a radio. Gerald stated that he has 20 year old radios.

Joe Palmer stated that White House needs a major improvement. Jeff/Greer suggested another test to be done. Much discussion from all in attendance.

Meeting Adjourned

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Chairman, Kathy Spears

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Secretary, Gwen Martin

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Cathy Lowe, 911- Coordinator

Ccl:cl

Cc: 911 Board Members  
911 Minutes Manual