

Fayette County 911 Advisory Board

February 29, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Appointed Members

Dale Munson, Commissioner	Kelly Vanmeter, 911 Director
Randy Bolos, Connersville PD Chief	Eric Lower, Glenwood Fire Department
Clint Hardin, Fayette County EMS	Zac Jones, Sheriff
Nick Freeman, Everton Fire Department	Jabin Collins, City Council
Scott Jones, Connersville Fire Department	Nate Stevens, Connersville Fire Department
Wade Walling, FC EMA	Nicholas Freeman, Everton FD
Bentonville Fire Department (ABSENT)	County Council (ABSENT)
Connersville Board of Works (ABSENT)	

Guests/ Speakers

Nick Freeman, Everton Fire Department	
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Meeting was called to order at 17:36 by Director Vanmeter

EMA Director Walling spoke about the training with IPSC Trainer Amanda Smith that occurred on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. He pointed out the number of busy signals and radio denials that were experienced in January 2024 and the snowstorm on Friday, February 16, 2024. This was a result of too many people trying to talk simultaneously on trunked talk groups. Members of the same agency in close proximity (less than one mile) would be encouraged to use direct channels for longer, lower risk operations. These channels are not recorded but could be monitored by dispatch.

Kelly spoke about the number of channels and phone lines that are being recorded at dispatch. EMS Chief Hardin had requested a recording from 21-EMS Ops but for some reason there was no recording to be found. This is being investigated to possibly expand the number of recording channels. More information will have to be obtained.

Old Business

Staffing continues to be an issue in dispatch. Director Vanmeter has been working a significant amount of time as a dispatcher and her role as director is suffering. Currently there are three new dispatchers that are still in training.

Signage on the river; there has been no developments or progress thus far. This is to give mile markers or wayfinding markers on the Whitewater River so that tubers and rafters know where

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they are. EMA Director Walling said that the signs could be made by the Indiana Department of Corrections at a significant savings vs from a commercial vendor.

The new 911 phone and computers have been installed. They are still working out some bugs and it continues to be a learning process.

Headsets have been ordered and they are on backorder. Hopefully this will eliminate or decrease the background noise. The background noise continues to be an issue and makes radio traffic hard to understand. This will integrate with the new console.

Director Walling spoke about the Tornado warning siren. It has been installed and working. He said that it is to be set off for severe storm warning and tornado warnings. The siren can be active by EMA Director Walling and by dispatch.

The topic of multi frequency/ talk group dispatching was brought up again. We need to remember that we only have a five channel tower with one being a control channel, so only four lines are available but these are shared with not only Fayette County Agencies but multiple state agencies. There was another discussion about having all Fire and EMS in Fayette County (including city) being toned on the same 800 talk group. This could be 21-FCF Dispatch but this would require 800 toning capabilities that needs to be coordinated with IPSC.

It was brought up that less is more with radio traffic. Relevant information needs to be relayed but not every detail needs to be shared.

New Business

There was a discussion about the mapping for the dispatch center. There is a possibility that the Motorola mapping system could replace the current GIS system. This is part of the new Spillman server upgrade.

Mobile spillman is being investigated. This will integrate the Spillman system with the ability to access information from phones. This could replace E-Dispatch that is currently being used. This is also tied to a Motorola Rapid Notification system.

Dispatch received a mini grant from the Fayette County Foundation to replace polo shirts as well as promotional items, a table and other public awareness and public education items to increase the Dispatch Center's ability to do community outreach.

The piece of equipment known as the combiner is one of the last original pieces of equipment. This helps the radio traffic be directed from the dispatch center out on the multiple talk groups. This is more important with the current 800 system than it was previously. Director Vanmeter has received quotes but there has not been any appropriation talks thus far. One bid is roughly

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\$14,000 and there is doubt whether the county will appropriate these funds. Director Vanmeter proposed the idea of having the item being funding jointly from the city and county. This could be a possibility. It was also noted that the City of Connersville increased their funding of the 911 Dispatch Center by \$12,000. This was not reciprocated by the county.

The public safety tax was discussed. This could be used to help fund dispatch and possibly give raises to the dispatchers. There is a concern that any funds generated by the public safety tax will be taken just be taken back from the department general funding.

Director Vanmeter opened the floor for board discussion and comments.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2024 at 5:30PM in the Commissioners' Room at Fayette County Courthouse.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:10 by Director Vanmeter.

Kelly Vanmeter

Fayette County 911 Center Director

Recording Secretary: Clint Hardin, Chief Fayette County EMS