

DELAWARE COUNTY 911 BOARD
MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2009
DELAWARE COUNTY EOC

In attendance at the meeting was: Tom Homan, Steve Lutz, Bill Shively, Shelley Pfan (for Sheriff Davis) Chief Vest, Chief Martin, Chief Honeycutt, Chief McIntire, Chief Donahue and Chief Schuiling (for Chief Farmer).

Absent: Commissioner O'Brien

Also in Attendance: Bill Swatsworth (Kimball Corporation) and Chief Morris

- I. Chairman Homan called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Reading and Approval of Minutes
 - A. Motion to approve the minutes of January 7, 2009 as presented by Chief Honeycutt, seconded by Chief Vest, and passed unanimously.
- III. Committee Report
 - A. Technical Committee – None
 - B. Standards and Protocols – None
 - C. Administrative –None
- IV. Unfinished Business
 - A. Kimball Corporation - Chairman Homan introduced Bill Swatsworth with Kimball Corporation, who will be conducting an operational review of the Delaware County 911 Communication System and make a recommendation to the 911 Board. Under the contract with the County, Kimball will also be assisting with the hiring of a new 911 Director.

All personnel in attendance introduced themselves.

Bill Swatsworth stated that last week a kick-off meeting was conducted. Bill provided a brief overview of his and Kimball Corporation's experience working in 911 Communication Centers, and providing consulting work.

Bill stated that he arrived on Monday at the dispatch center. He is currently gathering information, and running quality control analysis. He has received the organizations Standard Operating Procedures and requested the assistance through Kimball Corporation of an additional person to assist and analyze that information. The additional person will be on-site on Wednesday.

Bill asked what type of report the Board would like. Option 1 is the information concerning the study. The second option is a thicker document that would include historical information, and information on the governments. The 911 Board stated that they wanted Option 1 that was inclusive of what needed to be completed.

Chairman Homan asked that the 911 Committee's set-up time to meet with Bill Swatsworth to discuss the work undertaken by them.

B. Meeting with OWU and Otterbein

Chief Martin stated that representatives from OWU and Otterbein met with the County concerning interest in being dispatched by the County 911. The Colleges were looking at what capacity and functionality were available to them. They are looking at a fee basis for the service. Chief Martin stated that the Sheriff Office stated that they could handle the additional workload. Otterbein College is looking at becoming a certified Police Department in the next 12-18 months. Shelley Pfan from the Sheriff's Office stated that they have set-up another meeting for late February. Otterbein is currently in discussions with other dispatching agencies including Westerville and Franklin County. Chief Martin stated that if an agreement is worked out, he would expect it to be presented to the 911 Board for review and approval. No action is needed by the 911 Board at this time.

V. New Business

A. Chairman Homan asked about the status of the Genoa/Harlem and Delaware County feasibility study. Chief Honeycutt stated that the study is in the preliminary stage of development. This week the consulting agency will be meeting with Delaware County EMS.

B. Chairman Homan stated that he received a letter/position statement from the Delaware County Fire Chiefs'. Chief Donahue distributed the letter to all in attendance.

Chief Donahue stated that the letter will be placed on the agenda for the February 3 meeting to discuss. Chief Donahue stated that these positions have been provided to two of the County Commissioners and the third one will be presented with it on Thursday. The first position is the County Fire Chiefs have strong feeling of apprehension and opposition to a 911 Communication Center run under the Delaware County Sheriff or any other end user. The Board provides an equal balance of end users and all should be equal partners. Second position is that the Fire Chiefs recommend that the current 911 Board be granted the full authority to oversee and lead a state-of-the-art 911 Communication Center. The third and final position is that the Fire Chiefs strongly advocate the development of a truly consolidated 911 Communication Center, encompassing all the fire/EMS agencies, law enforcement and the Sheriff's Department. Chief Donahue stated that the

County Fire Chiefs' are very supportive of the consolidation, the 911 Board and this letter is further providing a vote of confidence as the 911 Board moves forward.

Chairman Homan asked if the Justice Group would be doing something similar to this. Chief Martin stated they will bring this to their next meeting scheduled for Wednesday. Chief Donahue stated that having 13 County Fire Chiefs sign a position certainly makes a difference and provides a desired direction for the 911 Communication System.

- VI. There being no further business before the Board, meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.
- VII. Next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2009.

January 9, 2008

Chairman Tom Homan
Delaware County 911 Board
1 S. Sandusky St.
Delaware, OH 43015

Dear Chairman Homan:

The Fire Chiefs' Association of Delaware County desires to assist in the development of a state-of-the-art 911 Communication Center. To attain this, it is essential to focus on means to develop the most effective and efficient emergency services. The current County operated communication system has not met the needs and desires that have been requested by the customers. Concerns of lengthy dispatch times and poor decision-making on management levels and by the dispatchers have plagued the center, as has been depicted in news reports.

The Fire Chiefs' Association of Delaware County has been encouraged and been an active participant with the development of the 911 Board established in November 2007. The 911 Board has been developed and provides equal representation by all end users, while also providing input from other professionals including the County and local governments. Despite the development and solidarity of the 911 Board, concerns continue to remain between the 911 Board and the County Commissioners as well as the Administrators involvement with the operation and management of the 911 Communication Center.

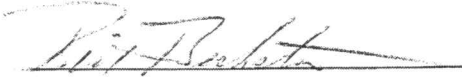
The Fire Chiefs' Association have a strong feeling of apprehension and opposition to a 911 Communication Center that is managed by a Delaware County Sheriff or any other "End User" that may dominate its operation. A system managed in this manner disrupts the balance of equal representation, as the Delaware County Sherriff sits on the 911 Board. Further, this also creates the potential of a political misbalance between the Sheriff, County Commissioners and the 911 Board. It is the opinion of the Fire Chiefs' Association that a system run under the Delaware County Sheriff would cause the 911 Board to report to the Sheriff, the Delaware County Sheriff would then have the sole authority to circumvent decisions made by the 911 Board. Systems run under a specific profession lack priority for the other professions served. Fire and EMS communications run under the Sheriff have the potential to lack this priority. The needs and desires of the Sheriff may be served first, not Fire, EMS or the other law enforcement

agencies, and certainly not the 911 Board, all involved entities need to be treated as equal partners in the operation and management of the 911 center.

The Association strongly recommends that the current 911 Board be granted the full authority to oversee and lead a state-of-the-art 911 Communication Center. This board would be responsible for overseeing the complete 911 and Communication system, operations and setting policy. The Fire Chiefs' Association clearly understands the fiduciary responsibility of the County Commissioners but we feel the 911 Board needs to be more than just an "Advisory Board".

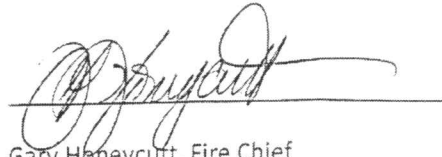
The Association also strongly advocates the development of a truly consolidated 911 Communication Center, encompassing all the fire/EMS agencies, law enforcement and the Sheriff's Department. A truly consolidated 911 Communication Center, run under the full authority of the 911 Board, will better utilize available manpower and resources, ultimately leading to the prevention of a duplication of resources. It continues to cause concern that the City and County will consolidate; however, the entities dispatched under the Sheriff system will not be consolidating, this continues to create ineffectiveness and inefficiency.

The Fire Chiefs Association of Delaware County appreciates the hard work undertaken by the 911 Board. We look forward to continuing to work towards a state-of-the-art 911 Communication Center and we ask that the 911 Board join our organization and formally support and adopt the direction identified in this letter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our 911 Board representatives, or any member of our association.



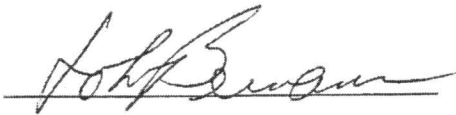
Bill Bechstein, Fire Chief

Berlin Twp Fire Department



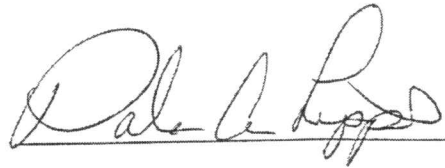
Gary Honeycutt, Fire Chief

Genoa Twp Fire Department



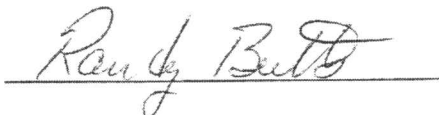
John Bernans, Fire Chief

Liberty Twp Fire Department



Dale Lipps, Fire Chief

Elm Valley Fire District



Randy Butts, Fire Chief

Radnor Fire Department



Marvin McIntire, Fire Chief

Scioto Twp Fire Department



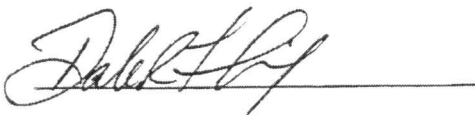
John L. Donahue, Fire Chief

Delaware City Fire Department




Troy Morris, Fire Chief

Tri Twp Fire Department



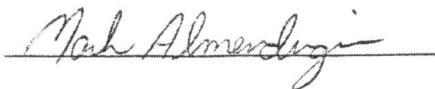
Dale Fling, Fire Chief

Harlem Twp Fire Department



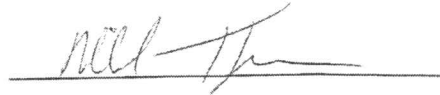
Tom Stewart, Fire Chief

Orange Twp Fire Department



Mark Almendinger, Fire Chief

BST&G Fire Department



Mike Thompson, Fire Chief

Porter-Kingston Fire District



Todd Cooper, Fire Chief

Concord Twp Fire Department