

DELAWARE COUNTY 911 BOARD
MINUTES
November 19, 2008
DELAWARE COUNTY EOC

Special Meeting

In attendance at the meeting was: Tom Homan, Sheriff Davis, Chief Martin, Chief Vest, Chief Honeycutt, Chief Morris (for Chief McIntire), Chief Donahue and Chief Farmer.

Absent: Steve Lutz, Chief Vest and Bill Shively

Also in Attendance: Chief Tom Stewart, Captain Bruce Pijanowski, and Capt Scott Vance.

I. Chairman Homan called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Kimball Consulting

Chairman Homan introduced Mike Fischel from Kimball Consulting.

Fischel stated that he has been with Kimball for eight years. He retired from Fairfax Co VA, where his first project was the consolidation of their Police/Fire 911 System. The Center protected 1,000,000 people and had 200 employees. They built a new \$213,000,000 911/Communication Center.

Kimball stated that Fischel Consulting grew as an outgrowth of a mapping and technology consulting firm. They have 140 employees that work throughout the United States. Their core competencies are consolidation feasibility studies, and assist in implementation of consolidations. They have done projects in Charleston SC, St. Louis, several in New Jersey and Broward Co. Florida.

Chairman Homan provided an overview of where the 911 Board is currently and some of the direction that has been considered.

Fischel stated that they could provide an Interim Director for 3 ½ days a week, but this is not a good investment. They are better as a consultant to develop a plan for the new Director. They could also stay on to assist the 911 Director. The best approach is for them to conduct an assessment of the Center, help with the recruiting of a new director, and assist in providing stability. By providing someone to serve as an Acting 911 Director, as soon as the contract was over, we would not have anything to show for the investment.

Chief Honeycutt asked to confirm that they are not interested in doing a day-to-day.

Fischel stated that they could. He sees that it is best to appoint someone internally who they can work with and get a lay of the land.

Chief Honeycutt asked how long of a process to review and hire a permanent 911 Director.

Fischel stated that they would need to know what is expected, conduct a high level assessment, identify deficiencies in the center, and then recruit. This would all take 3-5 months.

Chief Honeycutt stated that he is reluctant as there is no one currently able to be an internal Acting Director.

Fischel stated he felt that they needed someone today to serve. Kimball would then work and support the person. Kimball serving as the operation person could be done, but not the best.

Chief Farmer stated that he could only think of one of the two current Shift Supervisors who he would consider.

Chairman Homan stated that during his conversation with Dave Cannon, Dave felt that no one was currently capable of serving in that role.

Chief Vest stated that whoever serves in the role, needs the authority to manage. If Kimball served in role, he would see them making a recommendation to the 911 Board. He hopes that the new County Commissioners would provide direction.

Fischel restated that Kimball's time would be better spent assessing the center, not operating it.

Chief Donahue stated that the County Fire Chiefs agreed at the meeting earlier today that it should be managed by a neutral third party.

Fischel stated that their assessment, regardless of who is managing the system, would provide the darkest information on the operations.

Chief Vest stated that there has been a problem with the reporting lines. The 911 Director is a County Employee, but has full responsibility to the 911 Board. The County has a liability, it is there problem we are dealing with.

Fischel stated he would need to know who Kimball would report.

Chief Vest stated that this is part of the problem. A good organization does not walk away from the liability.

Chief Honeycutt stated that we need to have the buy-in from the County Administration and Commissioners.

Chairman Homan stated that one of Kimball's 1st recommendations would be to identify who will be overseeing the operation.

Chief Stewart stated that Kimball could possibly evaluate the current supervisors and provide a recommendation.

Chief Martin stated that from the climate of the discussion, we need to convene an emergency meeting and hire the consultants immediately.

Chairman Homan stated that he will get a proposal from Kimball so that we can move forward.

Fischel stated that they will provide an assessment. He has never seen an organization that had the line of authority from the County Administrator to the line supervisor. The organization has a network of people to potentially pull from.

Motion by Chief Honeycutt, seconded by Chief Farmer, that we recommend to the County Commissioners the contracting with Kimball Consulting for the purpose of assessing, analyzing, and providing direction for consolidating the 911 Center and recruiting a 911 Director with a not to exceed fee. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Homan stated that he would work with Dave Cannon upon his return to get this on the County Commissioners Agenda.

III. There being no further business before the Board, meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

IV. Next meeting is scheduled for December 2.