

ABILENE / TAYLOR COUNTY 9-1-1 DISTRICT

555 Walnut Street

Abilene, TX 79601

phone 325.676.6674 fax 25.676.6050

The Abilene / Taylor County 9-1-1 District Board met in regular session on September 23, 2020 at City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, City Council Chambers, Abilene, TX.

Members Present:

DeWayne Bush, County Representative and Chairman
Tommy Pope, County Representative
Philip Wicker, Municipal Representative
Vincent Cantu, Municipal Representative
Gene Dettmann, Volunteer Fire Department Representative

Staff Present:

Bob von Wolfradt, 9-1-1 Program Director
Ed Boyle, 9-1-1 Assistant Director
Mike Saxton, 9-1-1 Program Coordinator
Blake Tulloch, GIS Tech
Evan Ellis, GIS Tech

Others Present:

Michael Rice, Abilene Assistant City Manager
Becky Mackiewicz, Abilene Police Department
Mike Rains, City of Abilene, Finance
Michael Burden, City of Abilene, Fire
Kelley Messer, City of Abilene, Legal
Nate Lester, City of Abilene, Office of Emergency Management
Nellie Doneva, City of Abilene
Ricky Bishop, Taylor County Sheriff
Jodi Dyer, Taylor County Sheriff's Office
Chuck Statler, Taylor County
Steve Campbell, Merkel City Manager
Jay Strong, City of Tye
Nancy Moore, City of Tye
Belinda Hohhertz, City of Tye

Item 1 – Call to Order

Chairman Bush called the Abilene / Taylor County Emergency Communications Board meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Item 2 – Pledge to the United States Flag and the Texas Flag

Item 3 – Approval of Board Minutes

Boardmember Pope motioned to approve the item as presented. Boardmember Dettman seconded the motion. Motion carries.

AYES (5): Boardmembers: Bush, Pope, Wicker, Cantu and Dettman.

NAYS (0): None

September 26, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes Approved.

A copy of the minutes will be posted on: <http://abilenetx.gov/714/Agendas-Minutes> and a voice recording of all minutes is on file at the City of Abilene.

Item 4 – Presentation and Acceptance of Annual Audit for Year Ended September 2019

Mike Rains presented detailed financials: \$7,300,000 in total assets, \$78,000 increase over previous years and Accounts Payable balance \$352,000. Total Revenues \$2,863,000, which was an increase of \$275,000 from previous years, generated primarily from wireline services fees and investment earnings. Expenditures were \$3,000,000, an increase of \$1,500,000 from previous years, caused by Communication center equipment and decrease in fund balance by \$137,000 leaving Fund Balance at \$6,966,353. In conclusion, Total Revenues estimated \$143,000 (over budget) and Total Expenditures (\$306,000) (under budget), which = \$450,000 positive.

Chairman Bush motioned to approve item as presented; Boardmember Cantu seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AYES (5): Boardmembers: Bush, Pope, Wicker, Cantu and Dettman.

NAYS (0): None

Item 5 – Discussion, Consideration and Action Regarding ESInet Upgrade for Abilene Police Department and Taylor County Sheriff's Office

Asst. Dir. Boyle explained that ESInet is a necessary building block for next Gen 9-1-1. He stated that this is the only district in the region without it. It is an IP network within an IP network that fosters redundancy and failovers (auto connect to another network) and gives callers the ability to use smartphones to send pictures and videos to dispatch. Users to include call takers and dispatchers only. Asst. Dir. Boyle presented costs as: 1st year = \$350,857.00, then years 2 – 5 = \$300,430.56 each. Administration recommends approval.

Boardmember Dettman motioned to approve item as presented; Boardmember Cantu seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AYES (5): Boardmembers: Bush, Pope, Wicker, Cantu and Dettman.

NAYS (0): None

Item 6 – Discussion, Consideration and Action Regarding Budget Strategy for Dispatch Staffing Reimbursement

Director von Wolfradt began by stating that the Administration received a direct request from the board for guidance on strategies for recommending dispatch staff reimbursements. The Director went on to detail, the “Trend” moving forward, the Administration will present updated Fund Balance including Expenditures for and Projections of and Unfunded issues at every annual Board meeting.

The Director then stated that there was “substantial” time spent on analyzing a formula that will represent and portray sustainability, transparency and appropriateness. He explained that within the formula is 3-5 years of projected anticipated expenses. The Administration's recommendation for reimbursement of 9-1-1 boards primary function, dispatch services, is 60%. Each dispatch operation will submit their budget annually for the 60% reimbursement of staffing positions. With this formula, TCSO and APD would be getting an increase from years past.

Boardmember Pope motioned to approve item as presented; Boardmember Dettman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**AYES (5): Boardmembers: Bush, Pope, Wicker, Cantu and Dettman.
NAYS (0): None**

Item 7 – Discussion, Consideration and Action Regarding Taylor County Sheriff's Office Hardware Refresh

Asst. Dir. Boyle explained that TCSO PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) equipment and consoles are out-of-date and currently on extended warranty, and running Windows 7. Administration strongly recommends the \$494,317.20 be approved so equipment can be replaced as soon as possible. This is 100% 9-1-1 board applicable, and can expect to be getting hardware refresh every 5 years.

Boardmember Wicker motioned to approve item as presented; Boardmember Dettman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**AYES (5): Boardmembers: Bush, Pope, Wicker, Cantu and Dettman.
NAYS (0): None**

Item 8 – Discussion, Consideration and Action Regarding Taylor County Sheriff's Office Request for UPS Batteries and Radio Control Computers

Sheriff Bishop stated that it is estimated to cost \$27,000 to completely replace the system. He detailed that every 5 years, batteries and radio control computers need to be replaced. A few years back 3 of the 6 were replaced. It is now time to replace other 3 at a cost of \$8,650.00. Asst. Dir. Boyle added that this is the uninterruptible power source that all equipment uses; and that it is the Administration's recommendation to approve.

Boardmember Dettman motioned to approve item as presented; Boardmember Cantu seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AYES (5): Boardmembers: Bush, Pope, Wicker, Cantu and Dettman.

NAYS (0): None

Item 9 – Discussion, Consideration and Action Regarding Taylor County Sheriff's Office Request for Certification Pay Increase for Telecommunicators

Sheriff Bishop began by stating there had been research and configurations analyzed for comparison to other agencies. He added that TCSO is lagging behind in certification pay increase. His proposed amounts as follows:

Basic certifications = \$1,000

Intermediate = \$2,000

Advanced \$3,000

Master = \$4,000.

Asst. Dir. Boyle explained that a joint, unified request to standardize across PSAP's would be more manageable to compare. Asst. Dir. Boyle stated APD had already made a request at \$126,000, and that TCSO is requesting \$33,000, which is a \$159,950 increase. He went on to state that from his understanding, the City of Abilene, is taking what was already approved and supplementing with city funds. Currently being paid is \$34,000. Asst. Dir. Boyle detailed the TCSO is requesting the following increases:

Basic = 1,000%

Intermediate = 333%

Advanced = 250%

Master = 222%.

Director von Wolffradt explained that the Administration needed more time to analyze recommendations to provide due diligence to all involved.

Chairman Bush asked if this amount is or is not included in the 60% already approved. He stated that this needed to be further detailed before any decisions are made

Boardmember Dettman motioned to Table; Boardmember Cantu seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AYES (5): Boardmembers: Bush, Pope, Wicker, Cantu and Dettman.

NAYS (0): None

Item 10 – Discussion, Consideration and Action Regarding City of Merkel's Request for Reimbursement for FY19, FY20 and FY21

It is the Administration's recommendation to reimburse for FY19 and FY20, for \$20,000 per year = \$40,000 total amount. Asst. Dir. Boyle clarified that for FY21, it is the new 60% reimbursement model outlined in item 6. Boardmember Cantu asked if not an established

PSAP, do 9-1-1 boards have ability to fund? Asst. Dir. Boyle stated Health & Safety Code 772 specifies that it must be a PSAP.

Boardmember Cantu motioned to approve item as presented; Boardmember Dettman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**AYES (5): Boardmembers: Bush, Pope, Wicker, Cantu and Dettman.
NAYS (0): None**

Item 11 – Discussion, Consideration and Action Regarding City of Tye’s Request for Reimbursement for FY20 and FY21

It is the Administration’s recommendation to reimburse for FY20, for \$25,000 total. Requests for FY21 will be covered by the new 60% funding model outlined in item 6.

Chairman Bush motioned to approve; Boardmember Pope seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**AYES (5): Boardmembers: Bush, Pope, Wicker, Cantu and Dettman.
NAYS (0): None**

Item 12 – Discussion and Approval of the Revised FY2020 and Proposed FY2021 Budget

Asst. Dir. Boyle began by detailing (from monitors) Original FY20 and Revised FY20 Budget did not have any notable changes; with the exception of phone service, Gigaman network, is outdated and becoming more expensive. It is currently in the process of being replaced with an ASE (AT&T Switched Ethernet) network. Asst. Dir. Boyle added that an ASE is a fiber network used with PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points). Next, he clarified the FY21 proposed expenditures are \$3,031,276.

Boardmember Pope asked if the 60% reimbursement would affect the proposed FY21 Budget amounts. Detailed by Asst. Dir. Boyle, that the approved amounts are already built into the proposed FY21 amounts. He then pointed out (from monitors, highlighted amounts) at line 40, General Services and Charges, accounts for APD; Line 28, Other Services and Charges, accounts for the sheriff’s office.

Boardmember Cantu motioned to approve item as presented; Boardmember Dettman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**AYES (5): Boardmembers: Bush, Pope, Wicker, Cantu and Dettman.
NAYS (0): None**

Item 13 – Discussion and Approval of Setting the Emergency Service Fee for FY2021

Chairman Bush requested administration's recommendation on this item.
Asst. Dir. Boyle stated the Administration recommends that the emergency service fee remain the same at 6%, as it has been for many years.

Boardmember Wicker motioned to approve; Boardmember Dettman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**AYES (5): Boardmembers: Bush, Pope, Wicker, Cantu and Dettman.
NAYS (0): None**

Adjournment

Boardmember Dettman motioned to adjourn. Boardmember Wicker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board Chairman, DeWayne Bush, Adjourned meeting at 3:14 pm.

Approved: <u>YES</u>
Chairman: <u>[Signature]</u>
Date: <u>5-24-2021</u>
Attested by: <u>[Signature]</u>
Board Secretary
Date: <u>5/24/21</u>