

IONIA COUNTY CENTRAL DISPATCH
ADVISORY BOARD
Organizational Meeting
January 6, 2010

Call to Order

An organizational meeting of the Advisory Board was held at 545 Apple Tree Drive and called to order by Jim Valentine at 1:08 p.m.

Members Present: Amanda Powell, Jerry Skeltis, Dave Bulling, Bob Bauer, Dale Nelson, Gregg Moore, Pat Richard, Dwain Dennis, Paul Barker and Jani Millard.

Members Absent: Rick Norman and Bob Bennett.

Others Present: Jim Valentine, Vicki Denny, Zenon Cardenas and Nancy Rodriguez.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Officers

Jim Valentine opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Pat Richard nominated Amanda Powell and Dwain Dennis seconded the nomination. Paul Barker made a motion to close the nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Amanda Powell. Dale Nelson seconded the motion. All ayes. Jim Valentine turned the meeting over to Amanda Powell.

Amanda Powell opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair. Dwain Dennis nominated Jerry Skeltis for Vice-Chair and Dave Bulling seconded the nomination. Dave Bulling made a motion to close the nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Jerry Skeltis. All ayes.

Amanda Powell opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. Dwain Dennis nominated Dave Bulling for Secretary and Dale Nelson seconded the nomination. Dale Nelson made a motion to close the nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Dave Bulling. All ayes.

Committee Appointments

Motion made by Dwain Dennis and seconded by Dale Nelson that the same Board members be retained to the Personnel/Finance Committee that were appointed last year. All ayes. Amanda Powell appointed Paul Barker, Jani Millard, Amanda Powell, Robert Bennett and Jerry Skeltis to the Personnel/Finance Committee with Paul Barker as Chair of the committee.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Dave Bulling and seconded by Gregg Moore to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by a voice vote – all ayes.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Bob Bauer and seconded by Dwain Dennis to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2009 meeting as written. Motion carried by a voice vote – all ayes.

There was no public comment.

Review and Approval of Bills

The Personnel/Finance Committee will review and approve payments made for expenditures.

Discussion/Reports

Committee Reports:

Law Enforcement Committee: Dale Nelson reported that the status of the City Watch program was discussed. The main issue is that it continues to be unavailable for use. An alternative program was discussed by the Committee briefly. The Board discussed this matter further.

The other issue discussed by the Committee was toning out Life Ambulance for transports. Jani Millard, Life Ambulance, explained the reasons behind this procedure to the Advisory Board. This was discussed by the Board and others present.

There was no Emergency Management report.

Director's Update:

December Journal Reports/2009 Budget/2010 Budget: The 2009 budget year will not be closed until mid-February, after we receive our 4th quarter surcharge payments. The projections look good on the revenue side and we are 14% under budget on the expenditure side as of December 31st. This year the facility will be paid for and negotiations for leasing the facility should leave us with some capital for improvements and upgrades.

Belding Dispatch: On December 22, 2009 the Belding City Council voted 3 to 2 to disband their dispatch and join with Central Dispatch. This is a politically sensitive issue in Belding and there could be a change in the Council's decision, but in the meantime Central Dispatch is looking at a six months transition period. There will be many issues that need discussion and action so Director Valentine plans to have three transition teams to help make the move go smoothly. The first team will be three or four dispatchers, who along with the director will meet with the Belding Chiefs for the dispatching part. The second team will be the Central Dispatch Administrative Staff, who will meet with the Chiefs and the City of Belding to work on the equipment needs, operating procedures and responsibilities for this change. The third team will be upper management who will work on the final details, including the financial ones. The plan is to be ready for this change, when it takes place. Discussion followed about a redundant system for dispatch as Belding is currently the backup for Central Dispatch.

New Dispatcher Hired: John Wiechenthal was hired on December 16, 2009 to fill the vacant dispatch position. He should be in the shadow phase or close to sitting his own console by the time that we have another vacancy due to retirement at the end of March.

Fiber Optics Project Update: We are now contacting the State person weekly to see the status of our PSIC grant at the Federal level. We are still waiting to hear something.

Dave Bulling and Dwain Dennis left the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Miscellaneous: Central Dispatch has been working with Life EMS to set up conferencing medical calls with Life personnel. Central Dispatch will still dispatch all units, but will have the assistance of Life personnel with pre-arrivals and patient instruction. Life uses the same Pro-QA software as we do, making the way that calls are handled the same for both departments. Central Dispatch personnel will still “own the call” and can stay with the call through the whole process, but if the center is extremely busy, they will be able to assist their partner in the center. Several scenarios were presented to explain how this would benefit both Central Dispatch and Life EMS. Discussion followed.

There was no Old Business.

New Business

Meeting Dates:

Motion made by Pat Richard and seconded by Dale Nelson to approve the meeting of the Advisory Board on the following dates: February 3, 2010, March 3, 2010, April 7, 2010, May 5, 2010, June 2, 2010, July 7, 2010, August 4, 2010, September 1, 2010, October 6, 2010, November 3, 2010, and December 1, 2010. Motion carried by voice vote – all ayes.

There were no Member Concerns.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Advisory Board will be February 3, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion made by Dale Nelson and seconded Pat Richard to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote – all ayes and the meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Rodriguez
Recorder