

ST. MARY PARISH 9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting
1200 David Drive, Building B
Morgan City, LA 70380
December 15, 2021
1:00 P.M.

Vice-Chairman Mr. Matt Mayon opened the December 15th, 2021, regular meeting with the roll call. Mr. Mayon, Mr. Beverly, Mr. Rink, Mr. Verret, Mr. Naquin were in attendance. Mr. Ed Smith arrived approximately 20 minutes late. Mr. Blaise Smith did not attend.

Mr. Verret made a motion to dispense with the reading of and to accept the November 2021 minutes. Mr. Beverly seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comment:

The following guests attended the meeting: St. Mary Parish President, Mr. David Hanagriff; St. Mary Parish Fire Association President, Mr. Jason Brown; Franklin Fire Department Chief, Mr. Chuck Bourgeois; and Mr. Blake Comeaux.

Mr. Hanagriff stated that he was in attendance to support the request made at the last meeting of the fire association for 911 to cover the cost for CAD communications.

Mr. Brown asked that Mr. Bourgeois speak on behalf of the fire association. Mr. Bourgeois advised that the fire departments have been receiving poor ratings mainly because 911 is not CAD capable. He provided a CAD system proposal from Motorola (\$241,850) for 3 dispatch positions. He asked that 911 cover the cost.

Mr. Mayon asked Ms. Angeron how much the fire departments currently contribute to 911 for dispatching. Ms. Angeron advised each department puts \$2500 a year into an account for the maintenance of their radio equipment. A portion is set aside in the event a new radio system is needed in the future. She advised that 911 also contributes \$7000 a year into that account. She stated that the fire departments are not charged for dispatching services.

Members and guests discussed the PIAL ratings. Mr. Naquin advised that he might not have a problem spending the money for a CAD system but for the fact that there are so many other areas where points can be gained to improve the ratings. Mr. Bourgeois advised that if CAD is not in place by next year, homeowners and businesses could get hit hard by increased insurance premiums. Mr. Naquin asked how much of an increase there would be. Mr. Bourgeois stated that it's up to the insurance companies. Mr. Naquin advised that we want to try to help, however, there are many other areas where points can be gained to improve the ratings, such as: water supply, training, response to incidents, personnel or community risk and providing a maintenance sheet for generator testing. He said there is no guarantee that buying a CAD system would improve the ratings enough to make a difference.

Mr. Verret asked how much research was done on CAD systems other than Motorola. Mr. Bourgeois and Mr. Rink stated they looked at other companies. Mr. Rink said Motorola is the only one that included everything the fire departments needed. Mr. Comeaux stated that the Motorola equipment can be piggybacked onto Ascension Parish. He also stated that Motorola is a stable company, and they are not going anywhere.

Mr. Mayon asked why 911 should pay the entire cost. Mr. Hanagriff stated that the fire departments are strapped, and everyone is having trouble finding resources. He advised that it's all about upgrading 911. Mr. Hanagriff stated that he believes the Sheriff's Department and everyone else is going to come onboard in the future.

Mr. Mayon asked that the record reflect that Mr. Ed Smith joined the meeting. Mr. Ed Smith stated we would love a CAD system, but the cost is a lot. He stated that we are technically a call center. If we started actually "dispatching," it would increase the payroll cost. He also advised that 911 has been trying to get into a new building.

Mr. Mayon stated that the money that 911 has is for a building we've been trying to get for a long time. Mr. Hanagriff stated that a having big new building is nice. Mr. Mayon replied that it's not just to have a nice new building. He explained that if a Category 3 or 4 hurricane came, employees have to leave. Mr. Hanagriff asked if there was a safe room. Mr. Naquin advised that it's on the hazard mitigation list to be built. Mr. Smith advised that when it's built, it won't be for operations.

Members discussed possibly combining agencies and getting everyone to contribute, because 911 can't fund the entire thing. Mr. Ed Smith asked if funds could be taken from our 911 building fund. Ms. Angeron advised that it should come from the fire association fund. She stated that must be very careful because our operational funds by law must be used only for 911 operations. When the new law came into effect, an attachment in that law states that we can only use those pre-paid funds for 911 phone systems and operational expenses; we have to be very careful not to misuse those funds and risk being fined.

Mr. Bourgeois advised that the radio equipment was obtained because the fire departments received a grant. Ms. Angeron agreed and stated that 911 paid the 20% cost (\$40,000) to obtain the grant, not the fire departments. She advised that since 2015, 911 has spent \$121,000 to dispatch for the fire departments. Ms. Angeron stated that she was looking into doing what could be done within the budget to help with the ratings. She stated that she is in the process of ordering NFPA run cards at a \$1600 cost to 911. Mr. Comeaux advised that the run cards could be integrated into the CAD system.

Mr. Naquin asked if the system is compatible with what the Sheriff wants. Mr. Comeaux advised that it will be compatible. He also explained how it will work. Mr. Ed Smith stated it's not that we don't want CAD; the question is who's going to pay for it. Mr. Naquin stated that even if we purchase a CAD system, he doesn't think it will do much for fire ratings. Mr. Mayon said the meeting started with the focus on fire ratings. We should be focused on the people of the parish.

Mr. Ed Smith advised that 911 has been working with the parish to try to get some property so maybe they can meet us in the middle to help with that. Mr. Hanagriff said we must move forward. He stated that 911 should encompass this because getting it from the fire departments is not an option. The money the fire departments have should be used for things like hoses, other apparatus, and equipment they need to fight fires, not for communications. He said that should be directed to 911.

Mr. Naquin advised that we need to explore this further, not just to help the fire departments, but to help everybody. He stated we need to get the other agencies involved. Mr. Naquin said he would like a proposal or demonstration at the next meeting. Mr. Naquin said if Ascension's system is up and running, that would be a good place to go visit. Mr. Ed Smith advised that since this would be public money, we may need to get bids, and investigate other options. We don't want to just go with the 1st company that shows us a proposal.

Mr. Naquin made a motion to expand the agenda and establish a committee to explore the possibility of a CAD system as presented by the fire association. Mr. Verret seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried. The committee will consist of Mr. Naquin, Mr. Ed Smith, and Mr. Beverly. Mr. Mayon made a motion to approve the CAD committee. Mr. Verret seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

Ms. Angeron asked if there was any discussion at the fire association meeting about fire departments or the fire association contributing. Mr. Bourgeois stated the association would not contribute; it would have to be each individual department. Mr. Rink advised that they initially went to the parish for the CAD funding. He advised that Mr. Hanagriff said they should go to 911 because 911 has the funds. There was more discussion about the cost and about the possibility of other agencies getting involved.

The income statement for November 2021 was \$65,089.67. Mr. Verret made a motion to accept the income statement. Mr. Rink seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

The expense statement for November 2021 was \$110,042.76. Mr. Rink made a motion to accept the expense statement. Mr. Naquin seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

A budget to actual comparison was provided to the board for review.

Old Business: None

New Business: Health insurance quotes were given to the board members for comparison. After the members reviewed and discussed the quotes, Mr. Rink made a motion to keep the current policy coverage. Mr. Verret seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

The sexual harassment policy update (a requirement included in the 2022 audit) was given to the board for review. After the members reviewed the policy, Mr. Naquin made a motion to accept the policy. Mr. Rink seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

Director Updates: Mrs. Angeron advised that there were no major issues for the month. One of the positions went down for a few hours, but the Intrado technician came and repaired it expeditiously. She advised that there was an issue with text to 911, which was something to do with Allen's Internet modem. It was quickly resolved. Interest from LAMP still has not picked up too much yet.

General Discussion: The members had another brief discussion about where to get funds for a CAD system.

Adjournment: Mr. Mayon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rink seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

Approved: _____
Ed Smith, Chairman

Attest: _____
Charlette Angeron, Director