

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

DATE: February 13, 2015
Room 417, Dennis Building
2:00pm

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Board (RFA) Meeting

ATTENDEES: *Board Members* - Chad Walldorf-Chairman, Howell Clyborne, Emerson Gower, *Executive Director*, Frank Rainwater, *Staff* - Diane Porter, Robert Martin, Karen Rhinehart, Greg DiBiase, Les Boles, Lisa Jolliff, Lisa Wren, Jade Dunbar, Gordon Shuford, Will Roberts, Matt Wellslager, David Morrison. *Guests* - Michael Hirsch (Governor's Office), (Comptroller General's Office), (DOR), (B&CB), (Treasurer's Office), (W&M), (Senate Finance), David Seigler (Executive Budget Office), (Senate Research), (SC Tech), (CHE), (Dept. of Education), (SCDMH), (Lottery Commission), (DJJ), (DSS), (SCPRT), (PEBA), (DHHS), (E911), Nikki Rodgers, Joe Mergo, David Kerr (Lexington County), Rebecca Vance, Shaun Greenwood (City of Cayce), Chief Wallace Oswald (Town of Batesburg-Leesville), Captain Shane Phillips (City of West Columbia).

Press:

1. Chairman Walldorf called the meeting to order.
 2. Frank Rainwater presented team project information. (See attached)
 3. David Morrison presented information on the E911 strategic plan.
~Frank Rainwater mentioned that a consultant will be selected and RFA staff will work with that vendor.
~Chairman Walldorf asked if community interest was good, to which the staff indicated it was.
 4. A discussion was held concerning the Lexington County E911 plan.
~Mr. Rainwater mentioned that Lexington County was concerned about continuing to maintain the cost of the E911 program for the county and would like the City of Cayce, the City of West Columbia and the Town of Batesburg-Leesville to be included in their plan to help absorb the cost.
~Mr. Gower asked if data exists on the number calls annually at these separate locations-the information is available.
~Chairman Walldorf asked that the representatives from Lexington County share first.
~Joe Mergo shared the following:
*The new E911 building is state-of-the-art but help is needed to handle the call volume so there is less stress on employees; more dispatchers are needed as well. Funds are being re-directed from dispatch to response services and the general fund to support 911 program. The local government fund cuts and Act 388 were the cause of the current issues.
~Chairman Walldorf asked if the new facility is able to handle all of the calls for the county and Mr. Gower mentioned that GPS should be on all emergency response vehicles so that dispatch can detect where the vehicles are in relation to the call.
~Mr. Mergo replied that they have a great system which includes a backup facility and have increased their responses by 11 calls per day. They are also dispatching fire for West Columbia. Joe also mentioned that a new plan is needed to replace the 1994 plan with updated technology and that costs need to be met to provide the citizens with prompt service. He felt they are not receiving help from the legislature so another plan is needed.
~Mr. Walldorf felt it was necessary to look at all of the issues; effectiveness, efficiency and finances. The State should not absorb the cost for an inefficient system when other options exist. Mr. Mergo stated that more funds would enable them to answer more calls.
- ~Rebecca Vance from the City of Cayce:
*Cayce is thankful for the Lexington county facility but they have a local issue with coming under Lexington County. They know their Cayce citizens and locations and feel they can provide a

better level of service more quickly because they know the people and the area. The Cayce city council does not want to be a part of Lexington county 911 service. They would like to remain independent but be reimbursed for equipment and receive 911 tariff funds.

~Chairman Walldorf asked if they received 70% funding for equipment would that be helpful. Also would it be a possibility for City of Cayce personnel to work at Lexington County.

~Ms. Vance replied they were already receiving that funding but she did not know upgrade costs. While it would be possible for Cayce employees to work at Lexington County, they would prefer their employees not be under the supervision of Lexington County.

~Mr. Gower felt that all parties should work this out among themselves. He was familiar with all of the arguments and felt that consolidation would reduce cost and increase service. Calls would be handled more efficiently with consolidation.

~Ms. Vance restated the fact that they know their area and citizens and could respond more quickly than a call coming to folks in a larger area who don't know local landmarks.

~Mr. Gower replied that since GPS exists, location should not be a problem. He also asked if there was not a way the City and county could work this out.

~Ms. Vance replied they were willing to allow Lexington County to handle calls if the City of Cayce handles dispatching.

~Mr. Clyborne asked the likelihood of being able to work through this-he understood the situation as he used to be in law enforcement.

~Ms. Vance stated that it could be worked out but there must be a resolution by July 1.

~Shaun Greenwood restated the effectiveness issue. The City can answer calls much more quickly than having the calls go through Lexington County.

~Chairman Walldorf asked if the parties had spoken with the City of Charleston since they recently went through consolidation.

~Captain Shane Phillips, City of West Columbia:

*A cost analysis has been done on the Viper System and revenue for the next four years; they will break even for the next four years.

*They are willing to work with Lexington County, but the residents are uncomfortable with others dispatching.

*They would like to have their own PSAP so they could provide the best service to their citizens.

*Response time is usually under two minutes – would that time be met using option three? They are open to option three but would like to retain dispatch because they know the area. Familiarity and responsibility is important.

*If the system goes down, can they call the City of Cayce? What if Lexington County goes down and there is no one else to help with calls?

~Chief Wallace Oswald, Town of Batesburg-Leesville:

*They want to service the people well-two officers have been there thirty years and know all of the elderly folks.

*Batesburg-Leesville is poor; high unemployment and low income. They would need matching funds for their own PSAP.

*If dispatch is lost, vital services will be lost.

*Their police station is open twenty-four hours every day for assistance

~Chairman Walldorf asked the Board members if they had any thoughts.

~Mr. Gower asked all parties involved if they needed to discuss the issue more.

~Joe Mergo discussed the need to update the 1994 plan. Lexington County now dispatches for other police departments and things go smoothly.

~Ms. Vance: The City of Cayce has not seen the letter that went to Mr. Rainwater stating they would give the cities three options on the 911 plan.

~Frank Rainwater: RFA will provide the City of Cayce with a copy of the letter. Changes need to have good coverage; options two and three are internal matters, option one requires that there is no gap in coverage.

~Chief Oswald: The Town of Batesburg-Leesville was left out of option one on the meeting information and would like to be included. However, without funding they would be unable to do option one.

~Chairman Walldorf: A consultant will be hired soon to assist with this situation, it would be better to wait and not vote on this issue now. Costs to State funding need to be assessed.

~Mr. Mergo: City councils need to have more info-is a March vote possible?

~Chairman Walldorf: A vote in March would depend on the information and the cost.

~Mr. Mergo and Mr. Rainwater will work together on a cost spreadsheet to show current information and also with Lexington County controlling the plan.

~All Board members agreed that no action would be taken at this time.

5. Future Meetings (See attached)

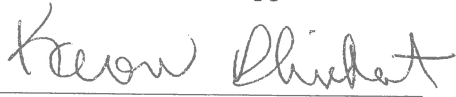
With no further business pending, the meeting adjourned at 3:35pm.

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, March 19, 2015.

Attachments: Agenda, Meeting Materials

Public Notice of this meeting was posted at: <http://www.rfa.sc.gov/calendar?m=08&y=2014>

These minutes were approved on 2/10/16.



Karen Rhinehart
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