Special 911 Advisory Board Meeting

06/29/2023

Those in attendance:

Roze Frampton Alvin Thompson

Theresa Kelly Eric Reeter

Ed Douglas Jonathan Nolan

Jon Maples Tracy Bradley

Curtis Hays Dana Thomas

Sindy Thomas Dustin Woelfle

Michael Claypole Cindy Hanavan

 2 Citizens

Roze Frampton brought the meeting to order at 1330 hours. She advised that the Mayor and Council approved a pay increase for the Dispatchers. They will now start at $17.00 an hour and after MULES certification, they will receive $.50 an hour raise, bringing them to 17.50. This is an increase of $1.75 an hour.

She also advised that several of us went to Marceline, Linn Co 911 Center, and attended a Board meeting. We were there to see if we could possibly have them dispatch for us from 6p-6a daily. After our discussion, we were advised that it would take possibly 8-12 months before they could be ready. We couldn’t wait that long for a solution. We also found that they have approx. 15,000 calls for service a year and we have over 35,000 a year. They are also down in staffing, their consoles are full and can’t add our frequencies to them. This would be a large cost to make this happen.

We lowered the age from 20 to 18 and hired a new dispatcher that is 18 years old.

She turned it over to the Chief.

He advised that Sindy, Dustin, Dana, and he had been working on what we need to look like in the future. 8 dispatchers and 2 call takers. The pay will help with recruiting. We’ve moved them to a 10 hour schedule and in the gaps, we’ll use officers, deputies and Kathy from the Sheriff’s Office. Once we have 6 dispatchers and a call taker, we can take the officers, deputies and Kathy out of there. If we hire a call taker and train her/him, then we have a dispatch opening, they can transition to that position if they want. We need to build our department instead of outsourcing our dispatch center. He asked for approval to add the call taker. Ed moved that we hire a call taker. Roze seconded it and all were in favor.

Chief brought up the call tree (recording at beginning of phone call to the PD). The citizens didn’t like it when we did it the first time. This will not be permanent. It will be taken off when we have a call taker. This will take effect tomorrow (Friday). Chief will put out a news release on this.

He then talked about the meeting in Linn Co and how they have funding and a 911 board.

Sindy talked about the board and how it would be created. The county attorney suggested the 190.335 state statute. (I have taken this from the statute.) This would be a sales tax and the board shall be elected. Eric said that there is about 20 million dollars in funding available. I had a man from the state come in and talk to me about the new funding available for infrastructure. I will stay in contact with him on this. Sindy said that if 911 could be on its own, it would help a lot. She said the Sheriff’s Office would take 911 back in January if the board doesn’t work. If they take it over, the Sheriff would be in complete control to hire and fire and they would be county employees. Then the city would pay them for our percentage.

Sindy said that Kathy Tuttle used to be a dispatcher and if she can make the same $ amount that Wade makes, they will allow her to dispatch Monday-Friday dayshift. She would come back to the Sheriff’s Office after we become fully staffed.

Ed had Sindy speak about hiring a part time person to enter Warrants.

Sindy asked that the call taker learn the mapping system before they take over. I will be training the new call taker, but Sindy said she would help if needed. The Sheriff asked (through email) if when we start the interview process, he wants someone from their department to sit in. We advised that they do sit in on them now if available. Roze said that we should do 2 interviews and have them sit in to watch dispatch before being hired. I also checked with a couple places here in town about hearing tests. I will continue to research this. HMC doesn’t have this.

Chief advised that we are also looking at advertising with KCHI, the shopper, etc.

Roze advised that if we were to get multiple applicants, we will only be able to train 2 at a time. Sindy said that if we had more than 2 applicants that were good, instead of turning them away, we could have them do ride-a-longs with all our departments. This would be something we could rotate them in and out of.

Roze suggested that we meet monthly, instead of quarterly. Everyone was okay with this. We decided to keep the July 25th meeting at 11 AM. This will be at City Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 1420 hours.

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Cindy Hanavan