



## Public Safety Committee September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Summary and Motions

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Chair Peggy Henson called the meeting to order at 1:05pm. Committee Members Shevawn Akers, Chuck Ellinger, Bill Farmer, Harry Clarke, Jennifer Mossotti, Ed Lane, Diane Lawless, and Kevin Stinnett were present. George Myers was absent.

### 1. Approval of Summary

Motion by Mossotti to approve the summary. Seconded by Ellinger. Motion passed without dissent.

### 2. Project Life Saver

Commander Armstrong from the Division of Police came to the podium to present on the Project Life Saver program. He said that Project Life Saver is a program of proactive involvement and specialized operations that assist First Responders with incidents where Alzheimer's patients and/or other subjects with related conditions become disoriented and cannot find their way back home. It was started in 1999 in Chesapeake Virginia with 10 clients.

The need is first identified and then contact is made to make the subject a member. Equipment is given to them and maintenance takes place. If needed, Law Enforcement responds and works with the family. The Division of Fire and Emergency Services responds and begins search and rescue activities.

There is a transmitter and battery and a receiver and an antenna. The batteries are \$8 each. Public Safety incurs no cost related to PLS. However, the use of the program reduces personnel allocation related to missing clients. Clients pay a \$300 one-time set up fee to cover equipment and an \$8 monthly fee to replace the batteries used in the transmitter. Information can be provided by Public Safety agencies, most healthcare providers, and many Social Service sources.

There is new technology on the market (GPS). The Division of Police is currently working with the Division of Fire and Emergency Services to review these programs to ensure that they recommend the best services to their clients.

Farmer asked about the \$300 and \$8 fees for clients. Armstrong said that the battery is for 24-hour radio transmission. Farmer expressed concern that the fee might be high for some people. Armstrong said that there are scholarships available for individuals with money flow issues. No one has been turned away.

Lawless commented that hearing aid batteries are likewise expensive. Lawless went on to say that the technology is antiquated. Lawless asked if the technology is the most efficient but said that she thinks the program is awesome.

Armstrong said that they are making improvements to the program.

Akers asked about the cost of the service and if people are turned away. Akers also asked if the program is provided to other people other than Alzheimer's patients. Armstrong said that it is open to everyone

with a medical condition that could lead them to become disoriented or lost. He did say, however, that there may not be scholarships available for everyone.

Clarke reiterated that the technology is antiquated.

Henson commented on the program and said that she wanted the public to be aware of the program. Armstrong said that it is important to be proactive with this type of program. Armstrong agreed to come back to present to the committee when significant improvements take place.

### **3. Smart911**

Commissioner Clay Mason came to the podium to present on Smart911. He introduced David Lucas and thanked him for his years of service. Mason said that the State of Kentucky is using the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government's (LFUCG) model.

Lucas said that Smart911 is a service that allows a citizen to proactively set up a profile. It is a free service. Lucas said that Lexington was the first in the State of Kentucky to use this system. You can enter medical information, addresses, and any other information. 98% of people keep their information up to date.

Clarke asked about Lifeline. Lucas discouraged the use of the product due to concerns about how people are notified. E911 is the third entity notified. They do not have information and E911 cannot speak to the person who is in trouble. Lifeline does not fit the need that the customer is expecting.

Lucas went on to speak about other accomplishments of E911.

Lane thanked Lucas for his service.

Henson talked about promoting Smart911 and Project Life Saver. She spoke about utility bill leaflets to promote the program. Mason spoke about another program with the United States Postal Service (USPS) and the Division of Social Services that is used when mail is not being removed from mailboxes. The mailman alerts the appropriate entity that there may be a problem inside the home.

Lucas said that Project Lifesaver is a great program that compliments Smart911.

### **4. E911 Structural Imbalance**

Henson introduced the item, citing decreased landline use as the problem. She told committee members that Mason would return in October to present a strategic plan.

Mason approached the podium and talked about lobbying for changes at the state level. He said that there are several lawsuits in other jurisdictions about adding fees to other utility bills. The Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) has placed this item at the top of their agenda. They want to look at ways to fund E911.

Mason said that they are in a position to provide input to KLC.

Stinnett asked Mason asked about capital. Mason said that it was for the Division of Police radio project. Lueker said that she would look into it and report back at the next meeting. Stinnett also asked about the

\$3MM fund balance under revenue for FY13. Lucas said that the E911 fund only paid \$1.1MM of the total radio project. Lucas said of the \$2.3MM, only \$250,000 was E911 related.

Stinnett asked if the fund balance was from FY12. Lucas said yes. Lueker said that the only money that is included in the fund balance for E911 is the funds for the E911 radio project, not the General Fund fund balance dollars that were allocated. Those funds are listed under the General Fund for that project ID.

Lueker said that those funds are not reflected in their budget. Stinnett said that he would like to see the funds reflected somewhere because it is part of their budget.

Mossotti said that the E911 fund is mostly funded by landline fees. Lucas said that they collect \$2.58 as of July 1, 2013 for landline fees. Lucas went on to say that nationally 32% of people do not have landlines. There has been a 4-5% decrease in landline use each year for 6 years. Lucas said that when they increased the fee about 6 years ago, they imbedded a 4.5% increase every year. This increase is offsetting the number of people leaving.

Lucas said that they have not used General Fund dollars for years. Lucas said that he cut costs and has delayed projects.

Lawless asked if there was a fee built into cell phones that is lower than the landlines. Lucas said that municipalities get to set landline fees locally, but the State of Kentucky sets the fee for cell phones. It is \$0.70 per month. Prepaid cell phones pay lower fees; \$0.30. The \$0.70 rate was set many years ago. 20% of our total revenue comes from wireless, but 80% of the calls come from wireless.

Stinnett asked for a five year projection on revenues from these fees. He requested both operating and capital projections for the next meeting.

Henson said that they need to make every effort possible to get legislation changed or to balance this in some way.

Henson said that the item would be on the October agenda.

## **5. Items in Committee**

Henson said that she had adjusted committee meetings. She wanted to cancel the September 24, 2013 meeting and reschedule it for October 15, 2013.

Motion by Farmer to cancel the September 24, 2013 meeting and reschedule that meeting for October 15, 2013 at 11:00am. Seconded by Mossotti. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Farmer to adjourn. Seconded by Mossotti. Motion passed without dissent.

*Submitted by Jenifer Benningfield, Council Administrative Specialist.*