

Executive Board

City of Bellevue
City of Kirkland
City of Redmond
City of Mercer Island
City of Issaquah



Eastside Public Safety
Communications Agency

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD
SUMMARY OF MINUTES**

May 8, 2014
10:00 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Kurt Triplett

ALTERNATES: Mark Hagreen (John Marchione), Mike Eisner (Brad Miyake), Scott Behrbaum (Bob Harrison)

ABSENT: Noel Treat

OTHERS PRESENT: Scott Hatfield, Jessie Morgan

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:14 a.m. by Kurt Triplett, who presided.

2. Roll Call

3. Approve Agenda

Scott Hatfield would like to make two additions to the agenda: 5a) Resolution authorizing continuing investment of monies in the State Pool and an Executive Session for the performance review of the Executive Director.

Mark Hagreen motioned to approve the amended agenda, it was seconded by Mike Eisner and carried 4-0.

4. Consent Agenda

a) Approval of Payment Vouchers: the following vouchers/warrants were approved for payment: Voucher (warrant) numbers 5821 through 5838 for a total of \$51,025.92.

b) Approval of Minutes of April 10, 2014

Mike Eisner motioned to approve the consent agenda, it was seconded by Mark Hagreen and carried 4-0.

5. Action Items

a) Resolution authorizing investment of monies in LGIP

Scott Hatfield distributes "Resolution Authorizing Investment of Eastside Public Communications Agency Monies in the Local Government Investment Pool". Scott Hatfield reports that this would allow us to continue to invest in the State Pool as we have been. This is Resolution 13.

Mark Hagreen motioned to approve the resolution authorizing investment of monies in LGIP; it was seconded by Scott Behrbaum and carried 4-0.

6. Reports

a) Rebanding Updates

Scott Hatfield reports that there has not been much progress in rebanding since the last meeting because we are still in a deadlock with Sprint/Nextel regarding the replacement dispatch center recording radios. An issue was discovered regarding the recording radios. The radios need to affiliate to the system in order to ensure that they can record. We proposed to Sprint/Nextel to add control station combiners which allow multiple radios through a single antenna. Without the control station combiners, a radio would back feed and destroy all the other radios in the chain when it keys up. Sprint/Nextel has balked at this remedy and has offered replacement recording radios instead. This replacement radio is no longer supported by the manufacturer, nor do we have maintenance records regarding these replacement radios. In similar cases, other entities have not been successful in arbitration against Sprint/Nextel. We came to an agreement that certain testing requirements had to be met by each of the replacement radios. Many replacement radios have failed the tests and we will likely be going to arbitration. Going to arbitration will delay rebanding work for the infrastructure but will not affect our services. Scott Hatfield believes it is in EPSCA's best interest to wait.

b) PSERN Discussion

Kurt Triplett reports that the County is beginning to accelerate its push that all the sub agencies need to go away. EPSCA will entertain the concept but no data has been provided showing that changing governance makes sense and the request for this information appears to be falling on deaf ears. EPSCA needs to have a high level discussion regarding changing governance structure as the County appears to be unwilling to go to the ballot without it. Mark Hagreen reports that the City of Redmond is not prepared to go forward to a different model of governance right now. Kurt Triplett reports that Kirkland is also not ready to go forward. Scott Behrbaum reports that Issaquah is in agreement with Redmond and Kirkland regarding changing the governance model. Scott Hatfield reports that he spoke with the Director of ValleyCom and their position has not changed, they are open to the idea of changing the governance structure but have not received enough information to make a decision. Scott Hatfield characterized EPSCA as open to listening and wants assurances that this is a better way to go and if so, would agree to a change in governance structure towards one entity but otherwise, would not.

Scott Hatfield elaborated that currently, EPSCA operates as a management organization with contracted services. We do not have in-house staff that perform maintenance and repair duties. We pay a certain fee to our vendor who subcontracts this work out to Day Wireless resulting in very low overhead for EPSCA and employee cost. This will be reflected in the next budget where total staffing costs including benefits are less than 30%

of total costs. What is being proposed for the new system is a customer owned and maintained system, which King County and Seattle currently have. This type of organization employs their own technicians in house and has smaller contracts with the vendor because of this. Estimates are that in the 1st year, costs will be \$5.9 million (pre-warranty) and in the 3rd year, \$8 million (post-warranty). This equates, with 16,500 radios on the system, to a subscriber fee of \$30 per month, first year and \$40 per month in the third year. Since these numbers have been released, it has been estimated that the first year costs will likely increase another \$2 million. In a contracted services model, the costs are a fraction of what it is in a customer owned and maintained model. In a contracted services model, the new system would have 5 employees instead of the 18 (or more) and all maintenance will be bought from the vendor at a set price in the RFP for the life of the system. This equates to first year costs of \$3.4 million (pre-warranty) and 3rd year costs of \$6.2 million (post-warranty). In terms of subscriber fees, \$17 per radio and \$31 per radio, respectively. Both of these models have eliminated the replacement reserves because built into the cost of the new system is a system refresh every two years which updates the system so that it will not need to be replaced.

Kurt Triplett would like Scott Hatfield to explore worst case scenario options in case the levy fails. There were no objections from the other Board members. Scott Hatfield reiterated that for many of the smaller agencies, the high subscriber fee of the customer owned and maintained model is not sustainable. It would become a vicious circle where radio rates go up, less radios are used and then the rates would need to go up further. Scott Hatfield also believes that regardless of what model of governance chosen, be it the same as it is now or a single entity coupled with either a contracted services model or customer owned and maintained model, subscriber service will be maintained, the differences between the models are cost and local control via representation. Scott Hatfield also stressed that in the new system, standards need to be maintained, the end user needs to not know or care which system he/she is on, the radio must work seamlessly.

On May 19th the RFP evaluation will be completed and on the 20th, the chosen vendor will be forwarded to the Steering Committee to begin negotiations.

7. Other/Information

Scott Hatfield reports that the State Auditor requests that the start and end time of the Executive Sessions be clearly announced as well as the estimated duration.

8. Executive Session

Kurt Triplett announced the Board will adjourn into Executive Session at 11:08 a.m. to discuss a personnel review and is expected to last 10 minutes. The Executive Session concluded at 11:19 a.m.

9. Adjourn

Being no further business, meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

**Next Meeting
Scheduled for:**

**June 12, 2014
10:00 a.m.**