



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

911 COMMUNICATIONS

Room 412 East
State Capitol

August 16, 2012
10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

[The following is a summary of the August 16, 2012 meeting of the Special Committee on 911 Communications. The file copy of this summary has appended to it a copy of each document prepared for or submitted to the committee during the meeting. A digital recording of the meeting is available on our Web site at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc>.]

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Ballweg called the committee to order. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Joan Ballweg, Chair; Sen. Robert Jauch, Vice Chair; Rep. Amy Sue Vruwink; and Public Members Jim Backus, Thomas Bychinski, Paul Geiszler, James Jermain, Keith Kesler, Pam McInnis, Todd Nehls, Jeff Ranous, Vicki Sanfelipo, Richard Tuma, and Bradley Welp.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sen. Terry Moulton; and Public Members Tracey Froiland and Brian Landers.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT: Larry Konopacki, Senior Staff Attorney; and Chad Brown, Staff Attorney.

APPEARANCES: Mark Brown, Dean of Public Safety, Blackhawk Technical College, Janesville; Kelly Zenz, Dispatch Manager, Wood County Dispatch Center, Wisconsin Rapids; Bob Currier, North-Central Director, National Emergency Number Association, Charlotte, Michigan; Jackie Mines, State of Minnesota 911 Program Manager, St. Paul, Minnesota; and Curtis Pulford, Geographic Information Officer, Division of Enterprise Technology, Department of Administration (DOA), Madison.

Approval of the Minutes of the Special Committee's July 19, 2012 Meeting

Mr. Tuma moved, seconded by Senator Jauch, that the minutes of the Special Committee's July 19, 2012 meeting be approved. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Presentations by Invited Speakers

Panel on 911 Communicator Training: Mark Brown, Dean of Public Safety, Blackhawk Technical College, Janesville; Kelly Zenz, Dispatch Manager, Wood County Dispatch Center, Wisconsin Rapids; and Bob Currier, North-Central Director, National Emergency Number Association, Charlotte, Michigan

Mr. Currier provided information about the National Emergency Number Association and shared information about important considerations related to 911 telecommunicator training. He talked about how the public's expectations, staff professionalism, media scrutiny, and other factors drive the creation of training standards, the roles that professional trade associations can play in training, and challenges to be faced when designing and implementing training standards. He also provided information about telecommunicator training in other states and the roles that the state might play in a training program.

Mr. Zenz talked about funding needs that public safety answering points (PSAPs) in Wisconsin face when contemplating training of staff, the need to keep any requirements flexible enough to work in various parts of the state, and the efforts of the state's Interoperability Council to identify training needs.

Dean Brown talked about efforts to create 911 telecommunicator training programs in the technical college system, compared opportunities for training 911 telecommunicators with the training that occurs with police, fire, and EMS staff, and opportunities for shared curriculum across multiple locations.

Jackie Mines, State of Minnesota 911 Program Manager, St. Paul, Minnesota

Ms. Mines talked about the governance and functions of Minnesota's Division of Emergency Communication Networks, how that office and the functions that it oversees are funded, and the board that oversees its functions. She provided information about Minnesota's transition to a "next generation" capable 911 communications network and its upgrade of its public safety communications network. She also discussed the state's 911 requirements related to multiple line telephone systems and training requirements for radio operators.

Curtis Pulford, Geographic Information Officer, Division of Enterprise Technology, DOA, Madison

Mr. Pulford identified issues related to geographic information systems (GIS) that counties and other PSAPs may face because of differences in the way GIS systems have been created and because of issues with county collaboration on GIS projects. He stressed the need for uniformity in GIS efforts to streamline the possibility of system coordination.

Discussion of Committee Assignment

Chair Ballweg identified topics that the committee may address at its next meeting on September 27th and asked members to identify other topics that they would like the committee to consider. She also noted that the Legislative Council staff would begin preparing a document laying out options for the committee to consider to be used as a tool to move the committee toward its final recommendations.

The committee identified additional information for staff to prepare and disseminate and options to be included in the staff summary. The Chair asked that members forward any additional options that

they would like the committee to consider to the committee staff in the next week and a half for inclusion in the staff summary.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

LAK:ksm