

**Dakota Communications Center
Board of Directors
Special Meeting Minutes: August 19th, 2021**

Members Present: John Bergman – Apple Valley; Mike Supina – Eagan; Jen Fox – Hastings; Ultan Duggan – Mendota Heights; Jeff Weisensel – Rosemount; Lori Hansen – South St. Paul; Dick Vitelli – West St. Paul

Members Absent: Vince Workman – Burnsville; Mike Slavik – Dakota County; Katie Porter – Farmington; Rosemary Piekarski-Krech – Inver Grove Heights; Michelle Volk – Lakeville

Alternates Present: Maryliz Holberg – Dakota County; Katie Bernhjelm – Farmington; John Bermel – Lakeville; Julie Eastman – West St. Paul

Others Present: Tom Folie, Cheryl Pritzlaff, Jen Hildebrandt – DCC; Jerilyn Erickson – DCC Fiscal Agent; Matt Smith – Dakota County

1. Call to Order

Recognizing a quorum Chair Weisensel (Rosemount) called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

x	Apple Valley	John Bergman		Clint Hooppaw
	Burnsville	Vince Workman		Dan Gustafson
	Dakota County	Mike Slavik	x	MaryLiz Holberg
x	Eagan	Mike Supina		Gary Hansen
	Farmington	Katie Porter	x	Katie Bernhjelm
x	Hastings	Jen Fox		Mary Fasbender
	Inver Grove Heights	Rosemary Piekarski-Krech		John Murphy
	Lakeville	Michelle Volk	x	John Bermel
x	Mendota Heights	Ultan Duggan		Stephanie Levine
x	Rosemount	Jeff Weisensel		Paul Essler
x	South St. Paul	Lori Hansen		Todd Podgorski
x	West St. Paul	Dick Vitelli		Julie Eastman

Members and staff in attendance are noted above.

4. Approve Agenda

Discussion:

Folie (DCC) informed members that item #6 of the agenda had been modified to include consideration of approval of the Fiscal Agency Contract. Folie noted the updated background and supporting documentation was distributed electronically on August 13th, and hard copies were available for anyone who needed one.

Action: Motion by Weisensel (Rosemount) to approve the agenda with modified item #6. Second by Duggan (Mendota Heights). Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Consent Agenda – Board of Directors Chair

- a. Approve Minutes from the May 20th, 2021 meeting
- b. Receive Adopted and Ratified Paid Claims
- c. Receive and Approve Unaudited Financial Report
- d. Receive Executed Contracts and Agreements
- e. Receive and Approve 2022 Medical Insurance Premiums
- f. Approve Surplus Furniture Disposal
- g. Receive Employee Handbook Updates

Discussion: No discussion.

Action: Motion by Duggan (Mendota Heights) to approve the consent agenda as presented. Second by Bergman (Apple Valley).

Aye	Apple Valley	John Bergman		Clint Hooppaw
	Burnsville	Vince Workman		Dan Gustafson
	Dakota County	Mike Slavik	Aye	MaryLiz Holberg
Aye	Eagan	Mike Supina		Gary Hansen
	Farmington	Katie Porter	Aye	Katie Bernhjelm
Aye	Hastings	Jen Fox		Mary Fasbender
	Inver Grove Heights	Rosemary Piekarski-Krech		John Murphy
	Lakeville	Michelle Volk	Aye	John Bermel
Aye	Mendota Heights	Ultan Duggan		Stephanie Levine
Aye	Rosemount	Jeff Weisensel		Paul Essler
Aye	South St. Paul	Lori Hansen		Todd Podgorski
Aye	West St. Paul	Dick Vitelli		Julie Eastman

Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Action Items

6a. 2022 Operating & Capital Budgets

Discussion:

Folie (DCC) recapped the proposed 2022 Operating and Capital Budgets stating that the increase from 2021 was just under 1%. Folie explained that there were a few factors that contributed to the minimal increase.

1. Rent Payments to Dakota County were ending in August of 2022.
2. The increase of .5 Full-time Equivalent increase of the dispatch staffing level was removed.

Folie explained that the dispatching staffing level had not been increased for a few years, and would likely return for consideration in the 2023 budget with one FTE. Folie added that the DCC fund balance policy called for a fund balance between 8.3% and 14%, and the proposed 2022 budget maintained a fund balance of 12.5%.

Folie (DCC) recapped some of the anticipated operating budget expenditures that included expanding on the Laserfiche effort that was currently underway, a move to Microsoft 365 Office, which allowed for greater collaboration amongst staff, and an increase to fiscal agency fees. Folie then referred to the anticipated capital budget expenditures stating replacement of CAD PCs and monitors, supervisory computers, and one piece of exercise equipment were all part of a regular replacement schedule.

Folie (DCC) acknowledged that there were some unknown expenses that could potentially impact the proposed budget, including pending labor agreements, E911 fees, Dispatcher PERA fund designation, and overtime. Folie referred to labor contracts and acknowledged that negotiations would begin in September after a delay due to representative changes in the union(s). Folie referred to the E911 fees and explained that all residents had a \$.95 charge on their monthly phone bill that was taken by the state and passed on to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) across the state. Folie further explained that the good news was that the pass-through doubled effective August, 2021, but the bad news was that the State was considering changing the calculation that determined how much of the pass-through each PSAP would receive, potentially favoring some of the out-state smaller PSAPs. Folie referred to the Dispatch PERA fund designation and noted that a workgroup had been developed to consider changing the Dispatcher retirement fund designation. Folie explained that one option would be to join the Dispatchers with the Corrections fund, which would increase the employer contribution and also decrease the retirement age to 55. Folie commented that in addition to the increased employer contribution, employers would also need to make up the actuarial difference per dispatcher going back to their PERA eligibility. Folie acknowledged that the Dispatcher fund discussion was not new, and was something the DCC would need to remain aware of. Folie then referred to overtime costs and noted that the DCC had been very lucky during the pandemic with very few

people leaving. However, while overtime was always a bit of an unknown, overtime during a pandemic is much more difficult to forecast.

Folie (DCC) referred to member cost allocation and noted that many member police departments stopped responding to medical calls during the pandemic. Folie noted that some already had a practice of not responding to medicals, this procedural change was likely what accounted for most of the member cost allocation fluctuation. Folie noted that a column that reflected the percentage change was added to this budget document as requested.

Folie (DCC) recapped that with all the aforementioned considerations, staff was able to propose a 2022 budget that reflect a 0% increase to overall member fees over 2021. Folie reported that after review and recommendation for approval by the Executive Committee budget workgroup, the Executive Committee recommended approval as presented at their August 4th, 2021 meeting.

Supina (Eagan) referred to member fees and asked for further explanation of how the member fees were calculated. Folie (DCC) explained that member fees were based on the number of calls for service to each member Police and Fire discipline. Folie noted that this consideration included a 3-year average to help even out any sort of fluctuations. Folie acknowledged that there were a handful of non-billable incident types that were removed from the incident counts for each agency.

Supina (Eagan) referred to the E911 Fees and asked for further explanation on how they factored into member contributions. Folie (DCC) explained that during the Executive Committee Budget Review Workgroup meeting, the group decided to recognize the increased funds in the proposed budget, and because they would put the consortium over the 14% fund balance limit, apply enough of those funds toward the member contributions as to reflect an overall 0% member contribution increase.

Duggan (Mendota Heights) referred to overtime expenses and PDs reducing their response to medical calls and asked if there was any connection. Folie (DCC) responded that he didn't think there was any connection. Folie noted that FEMA grants had been received to help mitigate excess overtime expenses during the pandemic emergency schedule.

Folie (DCC) reminded members that per the DCC JPA and Bylaws, action on budget approvals is based on a weighted vote. Folie explained that current action will be based on current member contributions, as noted in the approved 2021 budget.

Action: Motion by Duggan (Mendota Heights) to approve the proposed 2022 operating and capital budgets as presented. Second by Hansen (South St. Paul).

10.84%	Apple Valley	John Bergman		Clint Hooppaw
	Burnsville	Vince Workman		Dan Gustafson
	Dakota County	Mike Slavik	7.5%	MaryLiz Holberg
16.14%	Eagan	Mike Supina		Gary Hansen
	Farmington	Katie Porter	3.45%	Katie Bernhjelm
5.55%	Hastings	Jen Fox		Mary Fasbender
	Inver Grove Heights	Rosemary Piekarski-Krech		John Murphy
	Lakeville	Michelle Volk	12.72%	John Bermel
2.97%	Mendota Heights	Ultan Duggan		Stephanie Levine
4.60%	Rosemount	Jeff Weisensel		Paul Essler
7.19%	South St. Paul	Lori Hansen		Todd Podgorski
6.69%	West St. Paul	Dick Vitelli		Julie Eastman

Motion passed unanimously among members present reflecting 77.65% approval.

6b. Financial Management Agreement between the DCC and City of Lakeville.

Discussion:

Folie (DCC) referred to the Financial Management Agreement between the DCC and City of Lakeville and noted that the agreement hadn't been updated since 2010. Folie reported that the agreement had been updated to reflect current services provided, and also staff costs associated with those services. Folie acknowledged that DCC staff worked very closely with the City of Lakeville in numerous capacities that were reflected in the proposed agreement. Folie added that the costs identified in the agreement were considered in the approved 2022 budget.

6a. Motion by Vitelli (West St. Paul) to approve the Financial Management Agreement between the DCC and City of Lakeville as presented. Second by Duggan (Mendota Heights).

Aye	Apple Valley	John Bergman		Clint Hooppaw
	Burnsville	Vince Workman		Dan Gustafson
	Dakota County	Mike Slavik	Aye	MaryLiz Holberg
Aye	Eagan	Mike Supina		Gary Hansen
Aye	Farmington	Katie Porter		Katie Bernhjelm
Aye	Hastings	Jen Fox		Mary Fasbender
	Inver Grove Heights	Rosemary Piekarski-Krech		John Murphy
	Lakeville	Michelle Volk	Aye	John Bermel
Aye	Mendota Heights	Ultan Duggan		Stephanie Levine
Aye	Rosemount	Jeff Weisensel		Paul Essler
Aye	South St. Paul	Lori Hansen		Todd Podgorski
Aye	West St. Paul	Dick Vitelli		Julie Eastman

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Authorize Executive Director to engage services of Keystone Compensation.

Discussion:

Folie (DCC) informed members that in 2015 the Board of Directors adopted a policy to administer a professional compensation study every 3 – 5 years. Folie commented that while every 3 years seemed too frequent, every 5 years seems appropriate. Folie recapped that Dakota County representative Ray Kennedy had administered the compensation study in 2015, and recent discussions determined that it would be best to have the study done by a third party vendor to avoid any potential conflicts. Folie added that Kennedy recommended the DCC consider engaging Keystone Compensation for the 2021 study as they were very familiar with area municipalities.

Folie (DCC) reported that the Executive Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve engagement of Keystone Compensation for the 2021 DCC Compensation Study. Recognizing ongoing confusion related to the compensation practices for the two DCC director positions, the Executive Committee also recommended the service include a recommendation for a revised compensation structure for those two positions. Folie noted that the inclusion of the added evaluation and recommendation would bring the total quote to \$7,350.

Bernhjelm (Farmington) asked if there was any identified timeline for completion of study and report. Folie (DCC) responded that the contract suggested 7 – 8 weeks after signing, but the consultant had only promised it could be completed before the end of the year. Bernhjelm (Farmington) referred to the budget and asked if any recommendation would be for consideration as part of the 2023 budget. Folie (DCC) responded that 90% of DCC staff was represented by unions so that would be subject to contract. Folie noted that beyond that, any action would be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Action: Motion by Bermel (Lakeville) to authorize the Executive Director to engage services of Keystone Compensation as presented. Motion further to include the evaluation and recommendation of a modified compensation structure for the Executive and Operations Directors. Second by Vitelli (West St. Paul).

Further Discussion:

Duggan (Mendota Heights) asked if there would be any consideration of increasing or lowering pay ranges. Folie (DCC) acknowledged that Keystone Compensation would look at all the comparable, factor in all considerations, and make a recommendation for consideration.

Aye	Apple Valley	John Bergman		Clint Hooppaw
	Burnsville	Vince Workman		Dan Gustafson
	Dakota County	Mike Slavik	Aye	MaryLiz Holberg
Aye	Eagan	Mike Supina		Gary Hansen

Aye	Farmington	Katie Porter		Katie Bernhjem
Aye	Hastings	Jen Fox		Mary Fasbender
	Inver Grove Heights	Rosemary Piekarski-Krech		John Murphy
	Lakeville	Michelle Volk	Aye	John Bermel
Aye	Mendota Heights	Ultan Duggan		Stephanie Levine
Aye	Rosemount	Jeff Weisensel		Paul Essler
Aye	South St. Paul	Lori Hansen		Todd Podgorski
Aye	West St. Paul	Dick Vitelli		Julie Eastman

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Approve Vesta 911 Support Contract with Motorola

Discussion:

Folie (DCC) informed members that the DCC was looking to change the 911 phone support vendor to Motorola. Folie explained that the DCC had a long-running relationship with IES for 911 phone system support and the current contract was scheduled to end on September 30th, 2021. Folie noted that based a potential for a future Motorola cloud-based 911 phone solution, staff would like to make the move to Motorola effective October 1, 2021. Folie disclosed that making this move would put the expenditures overbudget by just under \$1,000, but noted that the move to Motorola support was likely going to happen anyway because Motorola didn't allow outside vendors to service their cloud products. Folie reported that Scott County had made the transition to the cloud-based 911 system in July and while more follow-up was needed, he had not heard of any issues. Folie assured that the 2022 costs associated with this contract were covered in the approved 2022 budget.

Bermel (Lakeville) asked for clarification on what a cloud-based phone system was. Folie (DCC) responded that currently the DCC hosted most of the phone equipment in-house and when there was an issue, that equipment needed to be serviced and replacement was on the DCC. Folie noted that the hardware replacement costs were approximately \$440,000 every 5 years. Folie explained that moving to the cloud, the DCC would pay a higher monthly fee, but there would be little on-sight hardware that needed to be serviced and replacement would be on Motorola. Bermel (Lakeville) inquired if there were any concerns about who owned the data that was stored on the cloud. Folie (DCC) responded that he didn't believe there would be any issues as other agencies were already transitioning to the cloud. Folie added that he had met with the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board (MESB) to talk through what a move to the cloud would look like and there were no concerns there other than how the MESB would access the information.

Weisensel (Rosemount) asked if there were any other service providers than Motorola. Folie (DCC) confirmed there were two other cloud-based options. Folie noted, however, that moving to the Motorola cloud-based solution would be nice as it would be an upgrade with no need for a formal RFP.

Action: Motion by Duggan (Mendota Heights) to approve the Vesta 911 support contract with Motorola. Second by Bermel (Lakeville).

Aye	Apple Valley	John Bergman		Clint Hooppaw
	Burnsville	Vince Workman		Dan Gustafson
	Dakota County	Mike Slavik	Aye	MaryLiz Holberg
Aye	Eagan	Mike Supina		Gary Hansen
	Farmington	Katie Porter	Aye	Katie Bernhjelm
Aye	Hastings	Jen Fox		Mary Fasbender
	Inver Grove Heights	Rosemary Piekarski-Krech		John Murphy
	Lakeville	Michelle Volk	Aye	John Bermel
Aye	Mendota Heights	Ultan Duggan		Stephanie Levine
Aye	Rosemount	Jeff Weisensel		Paul Essler
Aye	South St. Paul	Lori Hansen		Todd Podgorski
Aye	West St. Paul	Dick Vitelli		Julie Eastman

9. Website and Rebranding Discussion

Discussion:

Folie (DCC) noted that the DCC website had a copyright date of 2012 which gave an indication of its age. Staff has known for a while that there were some vulnerabilities. Folie acknowledged that while this discussion had come up a couple years prior, quotes to rework the website ranged from \$5,000 - \$50,000 and considering the DCC website is not very complicated, the effort took a low priority during the pandemic. Folie noted, however, that earlier in 2021, staff learned that the .gov domain was free to government entities, and allowed for some added security, along with government recognition. Folie noted that it seemed like a good time to proceed with the website and domain modifications. Folie suggested because these changes would require modifications to printed material, and considering the level of confusion related to the name Dakota Communications Center (DCC), it would be a good time to consider a total rebranding. Folie noted that DCC doesn't clearly identify the organization as 911. Folie added that there was already a Dakota County Communications Division within County operations, and there was continual confusion with applicants and member referring to the DCC as Dakota County Communications. Folie explained that recently, a vendor came to the facility to work on the generator and informed staff that the power would be down for approximately 40 minutes. Folie noted that there was nothing in the name of the building that indicated it was a 911 center which, in this instance, could have been problematic.

Folie noted that staff had requested LOGIS secure Dakota911MN.gov and start a transition toward Dakota 911 as an official name, which was what staff often referred to themselves as already. Folie noted that while it would really be an AKA until any JPA modifications were made, consideration of logo modifications could begin in anticipation of a full rebrand.

Folie stated that taking all the information into consideration, staff had reached out to a local Rosemount company by the name of Henderson Design who quoted \$5,150 for a website and logo redesign. Folie added that there would be a fee of \$600 for annual hosting. Folie noted that considering the quote and needed print material, the total project was anticipated to come in under \$10,000 which was a small expense for website enhancements and security upgrades, and to alleviate continuous confusion. Folie continued stating that when presented to the Executive Committee, staff was encouraged to ensure that the designer included translation and adherence to any ADA requirements. Folie added that the Executive Committee encouraged staff to reach out to member agencies for feedback on possible logo options.

Folie noted that in the end, the Executive Committee recommended expenditures not to exceed \$15,000 for the website and logo design and print material.

Vitelli (West St. Paul) commented that it seemed as though this would be money well spent. Bergman (Apple Valley) agreed. Supina (Eagan) also agreed but questioned if the low cost was concerning. Folie (DCC) acknowledged the concern but clarified that the DCC website was nowhere near as robust as member websites. Folie assured that he had been in direct contact with Henderson Design to ensure they understood the needs including a website that was mobile friendly.

Supina (Eagan) referred to the name and clarified that the consideration was to go from DCC to Dakota 911. Folie confirmed that was the ultimate goal.

Holberg (Dakota County) suggested that given the governance conversation that was on the table, maybe the effort was premature. Holberg clarified that if the ultimate direction was for the Sheriff to take over the dispatch operation, the Sheriff and County Board may want to have some input in the rebranding conversation. Holberg commented that she thought capturing the domain name made sense, but maybe the rebranding discussion could be tabled to the November meeting. Folie (DCC) acknowledged Holberg's concern and assured that all agencies would have an opportunity to provide feedback in some capacity. Holberg then commented that depending on the governance direction, maybe the Sheriff would want to bring the DCC under the Sheriff's umbrella. Holberg reiterated her concerns about a full rebranding given the pending Governance discussion. Bernhjelm (Farmington) agreed and suggested if the County were to take over the operation, it would make sense for the DCC to be part of the County website. Bernhjelm acknowledged that the rebranding needed to be done, but suggested it be delayed for the County governance decision.

Bergman (Apple Valley) asked if the DCC had spoken to the Sheriff about the rebranding. Folie (DCC) responded that there had been no communication outside of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors yet.

Vitelli (West St. Paul) commented that he would be ok with waiting to November, but that he would encourage the rebranding effort to Dakota 911 after that time.

Holberg (Dakota County) reiterated that the DCC should grab the domain name as there was no commitment.

Supina (Eagan) referred to the comments about the current website and its vulnerabilities and asked if someone was accountable for that. Folie (DCC) deferred to Hildebrandt (DCC) who noted that the site was created by a local Web Designer and Developer. The agreement was to develop the site and teach staff some basics on how to update information. At the time, there was nothing detailing government requirements nor continuing maintenance. Since that time, the DCC has been able to maintain the website because of its minimal content. In addition, if the site encountered an error that staff couldn't resolve, the web designer was able to fix it quickly at no charge. Hildebrandt acknowledged that because of multiple JavaScript issues, the site had been requiring more assistance from the designer who was working part-time and not always readily available.

Bermel (Lakeville) asked if DCC would have the ability to make changes to the site or if all changes would have to go through Henderson Design. Folie clarified that the DCC would have control over editing and would be responsible for updating content. The vendor, however, would be responsible for any technical issues and keeping the WordPress version up to date.

Bermel (Lakeville) asked if there had been any thought given to capturing other similar domains. Folie (DCC) acknowledged the idea but reminded that domains other than .gov came at a cost.

Hansen (South St. Paul) commented that she would like to see the effort progress as DCC is very confusing.

Weisensel (Rosemount) noted that \$600 for a domain was cheap as it was usually around \$1,000. Weisensel added that he didn't think people went to the County website for information on 911, but maybe their cities. Weisensel added that there would maybe be an opportunity for inquiries to be redirected.

Bergman (Apple Valley) asked what the Executive Committee had to say on this topic. Folie (DCC) responded that the recommendation was to proceed with the effort. Folie reminded that even if the County did take over in any capacity, it would be over a period of time and there was an immediate need for attention to this topic. Folie commented that it didn't make sense to just go to a better version of MN-DCC.

Bernhjelm (Farmington) questioned if the DCC data shouldn't already be hosted in the County website. Smith (Dakota County) noted that if the DCC site were to become hosted by Dakota County, it would be different from how the County handles other JPA entities. Smith added that there was no way the consortium would get this from the County for \$15,000. Smith commented that he appreciated the comments but that the business functional needs are not something the County would be interested in taking on at this time, nor would it appear to be in the best interest of the DCC at this time. Folie (DCC) agreed noting it would just bring added confusion to those not familiar with the organization such as prospective employees.

Action: Motion by Bergman (Apple Valley) to approve engaging Henderson Design at a cost not to exceed \$15,000 for website revisions and rebranding efforts. Second by Duggan (Mendota Heights).

Aye	Apple Valley	John Bergman		Clint Hooppaw
	Burnsville	Vince Workman		Dan Gustafson
	Dakota County	Mike Slavik	Nay	MaryLiz Holberg
Aye	Eagan	Mike Supina		Gary Hansen
	Farmington	Katie Porter	Nay	Katie Bernhjelm
Aye	Hastings	Jen Fox		Mary Fasbender
	Inver Grove Heights	Rosemary Piekarski-Krech		John Murphy
	Lakeville	Michelle Volk	Aye	John Bermel
Aye	Mendota Heights	Ultan Duggan		Stephanie Levine
Aye	Rosemount	Jeff Weisensel		Paul Essler
Aye	South St. Paul	Lori Hansen		Todd Podgorski
Aye	West St. Paul	Dick Vitelli		Julie Eastman

Motion passed with a vote of 8 ayes and 2 nays.

Information Updates/Discussion

10. DCC Funding Workgroup Update

Discussion:

Holberg (Dakota County) reported that since the last meeting there had been discussions about legislation authorizing the county to set up a subordinate service district. Holberg explained this would allow the county to distribute a levy on the townships allowing more for more contribution to the DCC. Holberg noted that while that discussion was still active with legislative delegation, it was a "hail Mary" with special session in September. Holberg commented that absent that option, she had a sense that Commission support was divided. Holberg noted that she hoped there would be more to report at the November meeting.

Action: No action. Update only.

11. Executive Director Report

Discussion:

Travis's Law – Folie (DCC) reported that Travis' Law was enacted on the very last day of legislative session, and only one month later it was in force. Folie noted that the direction was very confusing and so the DCC requested an opinion from the Dakota County Attorney's Office. Folie stated that the end decision was to add language to all mental health crisis calls that said, "Responders shall refer to mental health crisis teams if available". Folie acknowledged that this would satisfy DCC obligations and allow responders to determine response based on their agency directives. Folie speculated there would be more to come on this new law and there have been many meetings on improving response to those having a mental health crisis.

DCC Local Emergency Expiration – Folie (DCC) noted that the DCC local emergency expired after the 7th member dropped their emergency designation. Folie clarified that date was July 6th, 2021.

Radio Consoles – Folie (DCC) reported that the DCC had recently been made aware that the current MCC7500 radio consoles were no longer being sold and were coming up on their end of life and would be serviced through December of 2028. Folie noted that the current replacement was scheduled for 2026, so it was likely that capital expenditure would be pushed out to 2027 or 2028.

Cloud-based 911 – Folie (DCC) noted that this item had been discussed already but that 911 was likely the first major system moving to the cloud and likely not the last.

FEMA Grant – Folie (DCC) noted that the DCC had been submitting for reimbursement of overtime expenses incurred as the result of the emergency designation and assuming the final submittal is approved the total reimbursement would be approximately \$331,000

Goals Update – Folie (DCC) reported that staff had been making progress on almost all of the 2021 goals. Folie recapped some of the more noteworthy goals:

1. DCC was near 100% completion of dispatcher mental health check-ups.
2. DCC had completed the administration of the employee satisfaction survey and was working to compile results.
3. Laserfiche had been installed and the first effort to convert all personnel files to electronic had been completed and was in the final stage of acceptance. Staff is looking forward to expanding this effort in future months and years.
4. DCC has ended its relationship with open enrollment provider Apprize and will be bringing the effort in-house for the foreseeable future.
5. The establishment of a long-term plan for DCC backup and disaster recovery may be getting pushed back as it looks as though the discussion is happening at a regional level. However, the current backup solution will likely be tested in 2022.

E-911 Fees – Folie (DCC) repeated that the E911 fees were increasing and that the July reimbursement was double what it had been previously. Folie noted this was great news but cautioned that the calculation on how to disburse the funds may be changing. Folie explained that currently, 50% of the funds are split evenly among the 104 PSAPs in Minnesota. The other 50% is split based on population. Folie commented that speculation was that the calculation may change to favor and support some of the smaller out-state PSAPs. Folie assured there would be more to come on that topic but there was certainty that the DCC would receive more than it will in 2021.

Dispatcher PERA Fund – Folie (DCC) noted that this topic had been discussed a bit in the “unknowns” portion of the budget item. Folie commented that staff was watching the progress of this effort closely for a few reasons, including the possibility of a decreased retirement age to 55 without penalty. Supina (Eagan) asked if the pension would have to be retroactive to the date of service and if it applied to retirees. Folie (DCC) responded that he was uncertain on the retirees but was speculating the answer to the retroactive inquiry was likely yes but would depend on the wording of the legislation. Vitelli (West St. Paul) commented that legislature better be ready to help with this as it could be a huge expense.

Labor Negotiations – Folie (DCC) reiterated that staff was anxious to get negotiations started on September 1st.

Wireless Emergency Alerts – Folie (DCC) commented that the Nation Weather Service would now be setting of Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) similar to Amber Alerts, for severe storms that produced 2.75” hail and sustained wind speeds of over 80 mph. Folie commented that the DCC was already activating outdoor warning sirens at sustained wind speeds of 70 mph.

November board meeting – Folie (DCC) acknowledged that the November 18th meeting may be in conflict with another meeting and asked how the group would like to proceed. Folie noted that one week earlier was Veteran’s Day and one week later was Thanksgiving. After discussion about the conflict with the National League of Cities event, and the speculation the NLC may be canceled or moved to a virtual environment, the decision was to keep the current meeting date and time of November 18th, 2021 at 8:00am. Supina (Eagan) inquired if the meeting could be attended remotely. Folie (DCC) clarified that meetings could only be remote if there was a local emergency in place.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vitelli (West St. Paul) noted that West St. Paul was booming and he was attributing it to the rebuild of Robert Street.

Hansen (South St. Paul) noted that South St. Paul was also booming and it was very exciting. Hansen cautioned members stay away from Concord Street for a while as there was lots of construction in that area.

Duggan (Mendota Heights) noted that in 2022 Mendota Heights would be celebrating Neighbors Inc.

Holberg (Dakota County) reported that the emergency services team was working on a county-level continuity of services in response to mental health calls that included follow-up efforts which were necessary for these types of calls.

Duggan/Vitelli – 9:12am.

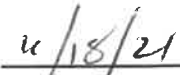
ADJOURN

Action: Motion by Duggan (Mendota Heights) to adjourn. Second by Vitelli (West St. Paul). Meeting was adjourned by chair declaration at 9:12am.

**Next Regular Meeting:
November 18th, 2021
8:00am
DCC Training Room**



Jeff Weisensel, Board of Directors Chair



11/18/2021



Tom Folie, Executive Director



11/18/2021