

**MINUTES
of the Meeting of the
CARSON CITY
9-1-1 SURCHARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

June 5, 2009

1. Call to Order

Chair Anne Keast called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

2. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Members present were Anne Keast, Karin Mracek, Tina Petersen, and Bernard Sease, which constituted a quorum. Absent was Dan Berger.

Also present were Stacey Giomi, Carson City Fire Chief; Pat Irwin, AT&T; and Lance Gallagher, PlantCML.

3. Approval of January 27, 2009, Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Bernard Sease, seconded by Karin Mracek, with motion carried, that the January 27 meeting minutes be approved.

4. Public Comments on Non-Agendized Items

Pat Irwin introduced Lance Gallagher from PlantCML, which is the manufacturer of the 9-1-1 system currently used by Carson City.

5. Discussion of Report to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008

Stacey Giomi said that the FCC had been charged at the direction of Congress to gather information regarding Nevada's implementation of the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008. As part of that, the FCC needed to get a series of questions answered from the state, and because in Nevada, any imposition of the surcharge was not done at the state level but rather at the county level, the Nevada Association of Counties was requested by the state to provide input through each of the counties.

Copies of the related correspondence, including the letter written by Stacey to answer the requested questions relative to the imposition of the surcharge, were distributed. Stacey mentioned that this information might be requested again in the future by the federal government, including the amount of monies Carson City collected through its surcharge, but

that the information would actually need to be supplied by the state and not the counties—and the counties only supplied the information this time as a courtesy to the state.

6. Report on the Status of the Implementation of the 9-1-1 Surcharge in Carson City

Stacey distributed a report on the funds collected from the 9-1-1 surcharge by the Carson City Treasurer's Office. As of two days ago, total payments of \$6,097.25 have been made by three vendors—Charter Fiberlink, Sprint PCS, and New Cingular Wireless. The letter regarding this surcharge was sent out in March by the City Manager's Office to everyone who the Treasurer's Office had listed as being licensed to provide telephone service. Although some of those who were sent the letter were only long-distance carriers who did not provide local service, it had been decided to send the letter to everyone and have them make contact with us to say that they did not provide local service. A specific date had not been placed in this letter in regard to collecting the surcharge, but Stacey said that he expected the bulk of payments would be received in July.

Stacey mentioned that the budget of the Sheriff's Office relative to the 9-1-1 service wasn't altered during the last budget process because it wasn't known exactly how much would be collected through the surcharge. In addition, the charges paid by the Information Technology Department for software maintenance remained in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Stacey said that they had approached the City Manager and the Finance Director, saying that since they didn't know how much the surcharge would bring in, it was their hope this money could be used to not just operate the system but to do replacement. The agreement they have with AT&T for maintenance runs until around 2012, and since this will probably be the last maintenance agreement they will be able to obtain, replacement will need to be accomplished prior to that time. Pat Irwin said that with the emerging technologies, Carson City would probably want to switch out even sooner. He then mentioned that the new hosted system for Douglas County should be up by the end of July, and he would like to take the committee on a tour of both the host location in Reno and the system in Douglas.

Stacey said that since it would probably be at least six months before they figured out the exact revenue patterns, he would furnish one of these revenue reports to the committee at each of its meetings. The committee could then take a look at the revenue from a budget perspective at its first meeting of the year when the City works on its next year's budget.

7. Report on Senate Bill No. 59 Regarding Changes to the Nevada Revised Statutes that Affect the 9-1-1 Surcharge

Senate Bill No. 59 (which was passed by the Legislature) was distributed to the committee. Stacey said that Washoe County had proposed this bill which consisted of changes to the 9-1-1 ordinance. Washoe County's intent was to have the bill only affect itself, but some legislators in that county were approached to amend the bill so that the provisions would also affect counties with populations over 40,000.

The key component of the bill was to redefine and expand the definition of what a telephone system was by adding “wireless or internet technology, facilities or equipment,” specifically “for transmitting information from an emergency responder to the user or from the user to an emergency responder.” By this language, they broadened the whole process and were now talking about getting 9-1-1 data from someone calling the 9-1-1 system into the dispatch center and then out to an emergency responder.

Stacey said that one of the most important changes was on the last page under No. 4, which allows counties with populations over 40,000 to accumulate \$1 million (instead of the previous \$500,000) by the end of the fiscal year. He said that one of the arguments he used in support of this provision was that because they did not know the exact cost of emerging technologies, the \$500,000 limit might not be enough for them to accomplish what they needed to accomplish. So instead of counties having to deplete those funds for an interim solution, it would be much more beneficial for them to be able to build that fund up a bit higher in order to accomplish a more permanent solution.

Stacey said that these changes will be incorporated into the next update of the Master Plan.

Pat mentioned that Washoe County was getting inundated with calls from Dixie, OnStar, and Intrado, who were arguing that once a county signed an agreement accepting their calls or data into its 9-1-1 system, the companies were exempt and grandfathered in and wouldn’t have to pay. So basically the companies were saying that if they were allowed into a dispatch center for free originally, they would not have to pay the surcharge. Washoe County was therefore advising counties to not sign any such agreements, although Pat felt these companies would ultimately lose their arguments in a court of law.

8. Report on the Status of the FY 2009-2010 Budget

Addressed under Item No. 5.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, at 8:30 a.m. in the meeting room of Fire Station #1.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Recorder: Judy Dietrich