

**WHAT-COMM COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD
MINUTES
May 27, 2021
Meeting held Via ZOOM**

Present were:

Administrative Board Members: Bill Elfo, Sheriff, WCSO; Seth Fleetwood, Bellingham Mayor; Rud Browne, Whatcom County Council Chair of the Finance Committee; Mel Blankers, Chief of Everson Fire Department; Scott Korthuis, Lynden Mayor; John Crawford, Fire Commissioners Association Representative; Chief Florence Simon, Bellingham Police Department.

Absent: Dan Hammill, City of Bellingham Council Chair of the Public Safety Committee; Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive and Bellingham Fire Chief Bill Hewett.

Other Panelists in attendance:

Bellingham Fire Department, Prospect Division Chief, Dan McDermott; Scott Grunhurd, Bellingham Police Deputy Chief and Director of WHAT-COMM; Greg Erickson, Deputy Director of WHAT-COMM and Forrest Longman, Bellingham Deputy Director of Finance.

Opening comments:

Sheriff Bill Elfo called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Sheriff Elfo asked the public if they had comments. There were no public comments made.

Approval of the Minutes

Approval of meeting minutes from the May 5, 2021 special meeting.

Discussion: No discussion.

Sheriff Elfo called for a motion to approve the minutes.

Seth Fleetwood motioned that the minutes be approved, and John Crawford seconded the motion.

Sheriff Elfo called for a vote to approve the minutes. None opposed.

WHAT-COMM/PROSPECT Budget Format and Content

Presented by City of Bellingham Deputy Director of Finance Manager, Forrest Longman.

Forrest shared 2021/22 with 5-year history budget information, as well as the document that represents how the budget costs are allocated.

Scott Korthuis asked why the 911 tax revenue is shown as 2 million year-over-year? Forrest explained that the number of taxable phone lines in Whatcom County are holding steady year-over-year, around the same number. Julie Knight further explained that the "actual 911 tax" received over 2 million as a year closes, is used to offset the next year's costs.

Scott Korthuis asked at what point does the City of Lynden and Bellingham see EMS levy funds reflected as an offset of their City's fees? Forrest explained that we don't have the actual document at this time to show the break down in fees for 2022, but that document will show the allocation of costs. You will be able to see how the EMS allocation of cost offsets other agency's share of cost. That document will be presented at the September meeting.

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911 Service Fact-Finding Sub-Committee Update

Presented by Scott Korthuis

Scott shared that the committee held its first meeting on Wednesday May 19th. The committee split up tasks that each member would take on.

Jim Peeples: Collect data and information on service response times.

Scott Korthuis: Collect data and information on WHAT-COMM and PROSPECT existing departmental structure.

Rud Browne: Will be calling and/or touring facilities to gather information. He asked for recommendations of locations to visit.

This is a list of some of the main areas of information he hopes to explore:

1. Facilities with the lowest response time to begin CPR
2. Best examples of consolidated 911 facilities
3. Best examples of split 911 facilities
4. Facilities that have been split that have now been consolidated
5. Facilities that have been consolidated but have since been split

Scott Korthuis indicated that the committee's next scheduled meeting is next Thursday, June 3rd. They plan to continue meeting once every 2 weeks.

New Business:

Greg Erickson announced that he is retiring on September 1 of this year.

He thanks the board for their support of the centers and of our community over the 30 plus years that he has worked as a dispatcher and more recently as Deputy Director of WHAT-COMM.

Sheriff Elfo and others thanked Greg for his many years of service.

Scott Grunhurd announced that he is retiring at the end of June and John Crawford announced that he is retiring on June 15 of this year. Rud Browne shared that he is also retiring at the end of this year.

Bellingham Police Chief Flo Simon mentioned that she is working on filling both the Director (Scott Grunhurd) and Deputy Director (Greg Erickson) positions at WHAT-COMM. She announced that she is retiring on September 1st.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 pm.

Next scheduled meeting is Thursday September 30, 2021 at 1 pm.