



MURRAY CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Murray City Municipal Council met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 29, 2013, in the Murray City Center, Conference Room #107, 5025 South State Street, Murray Utah.

Members in Attendance:

Brett Hales	Council Chair
Dave Nicponski	Council Member
Darren V. Stam	Council Member
Jim Brass	Council Member
Jared A. Shaver	Council Member

Others in Attendance:

Dan Snarr	Mayor	Gil Rodriguez	Fire Chief
Janet M. Lopez	Council Office	Jan Wells	Mayor's COS
Frank Nakamura	City Attorney	Jennifer Brass	Resident
Pete Fondaco	Police Chief	Craig Burnett	Police
Braint Farnsworth	Attorney	Blair Camp	Resident

Chairman Hales called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Discussion Item 2.1

Valley Emergency Communications Center (VECC) Agreement- Jan Wells

Ms. Wells updated the Council on the status of the agreement. The agreement was put together by a special committee of COG (Council of Governments) led by Mayor Johnson from West Jordan. COG has given their approval of the agreement. The Board of Directors also agreed to move the agreement forward.

The Salt Lake County Council approved the agreement on Oct. 22nd, along with \$1.4 million for the equipment needed to move to Versaterm. The County Council is the budget arm and has the budgetary direction. There are political issues whether or not the Sheriff is willing to follow their direction. Mr. Shaver asked if the funds had been approved also. Ms. Wells replied that she wasn't sure, but it was probably set aside in Mayor McAdams budget that would be adopted in January.

Chief Fondaco has a few concerns about the agreement. When the VECC building was constructed, there was a five year commitment to be part of the organization to cover the bond. The five years has elapsed and the building is nearly paid for. The new agreement also calls for five years of commitment, and it is questionable as to why that needs to continue.

Recently, Sandy City walked away from VECC and therefore lost the interest that they had in the building. That brings another question if this would apply to the rest of the group if the building were only used by some of the organizations. Chief Fondaco is concerned about the interest in the building.

Another concern for the Operations Board has been the weighted voting. The contract cities of UPD (Unified Police Department) and UFA (Unified Fire Authority) plus the other individual entities, leave the remaining cities without a voice. It gives UPD and UFA an unfair block of voting. The Trustees are working on organizing the voting. Weighted voting isn't applicable in the majority of occasions, but it has been used in some situations.

When VECC was organized, the Board of Operations had the authority to act for the day to day operations of the organization. The Board of Trustees was put in place to oversee the budget. As time has passed, the Board of Trustees has taken on a more active role in management decisions and have taken some authority from the Board of Operations.

The Operating System is a big issue. Murray City uses Spillman, and this is an opportunity to have everyone on the same system. One of the components of the County coming to VECC is having everyone involved on the same system. Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City, and Sandy City use Versaterm. The rest of the cities are using Spillman. Chief Fondaco would like to see a study done of both models for a year and then make a decision. The County has put out this \$1.4 million to help the other cities buy the equipment and migrate to Versaterm.

Neither West Valley City nor West Jordan have adopted the agreement, but have plans to address it next month. Their main concern was whether or not the County would actually come, including the Sheriff.

The Legislature got involved and stated that there were too many PSAP's (Public Safety Answering Point) in the County and should be consolidated. Politically, it would be hard to leave VECC or form a new PSAP.

Chief Rodriguez feels like the County is holding some hostage. The offer of money wasn't necessarily for the best system, but for the system the County uses. Chief Rodriguez stated that ideally it would be best to create a new system, but there may not be money for that. He agrees with the idea of determining which system of the two is best.

Chief Rodriguez is also concerned with the weighted voting on the Operations Board. Previously, every jurisdiction had a vote, now it is up to the Board of Trustees to determine the voting. Previously, the Board of Trustees took care of the money, and the Board of Operations made sure that the day to day operations ran smoothly. Chief Rodriguez is concerned about the direction that is heading. Mr. Shaver asked if it was an interlocal agreement as to whether the Board of Trustees and the Board of Operations exist. Chief Rodriguez replied that it was. Mr. Brass asked if it was similar to signing a blank check on the operations side, due to the weighted voting.

Chief Fondaco commented that Chief Rodriguez discussed the main concerns with the agreement. Chief Fondaco is one of the remaining members of the Board of Operations that was involved with dispatch when VECC was created. The Operations Board had a lot of authority in the original agreement. The Operations Board could hire and fire the Director, and also decided what would happen at VECC. The Board of Trustees decided on the weighted vote on the percentage of money that was paid in. The new agreement has stripped the Operations Board of authority and will now be run by bylaws set by the Board of Trustees. Chief Fondaco has concerns that the UFA Chief and the UPD Chief can be a quorum based on the weighted vote. If those two entities voted together, it wouldn't matter what all the other cities voted. He has severe concerns with the day to day operations being controlled by two entities, rather than a Board.

The Board was always set up in the way that one Chief equaled one vote. It was never set up by how much money equaled how many votes. Chief Fondaco believes that this agreement favors UPD and UFA. He doesn't feel that this agreement benefits Murray City.

He believes the CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch System) is a separate issue. The original plan was the Sheriff was going to move into VECC with his CAD- Versaterm. At that point both CAD's would be run for a year and then have the dispatchers decide which system served the communities better. The Sheriff agreed to that and was going to cross-train and teach everyone on the new system. The Sheriff later changed his mind and decided he wanted Versaterm, and the County offered the money.

Chief Fondaco has used Spillman since 1997, and all his records are contained there. The data would not be transferred but left on a dead server to be looked at later. As Ms. Wells mentioned, all the other cities are on Spillman also. His concern is that the Sheriff doesn't own Versaterm, but simply operates it out of Salt Lake City. He doesn't have a server for his records or a CAD. If everybody switches to one CAD, it would be housed at Salt Lake City and be completely under their control. Salt Lake City Police Department owns Versaterm.

Mayor Snarr asked what the option was if Murray didn't approve this interlocal. Mr. Stam asked about the vote and if it is a weighted vote, would all the cities lose anyway if they voted against it. Chief Fondaco said the interlocal has to be approved by the Mayor and Council. Mr. Shaver clarified that the interlocal agreement was different than the operating system. Mr. Stam asked if all the cities voted against it, would they come up with a new agreement. Chief Fondaco noted that it is unknown which system is better: Versaterm or Spillman. He would like time to have everyone try out both systems. The County Mayor said in the CAD meetings that the \$1.4 million would only be given if Versaterm was chosen, not Spillman. Mr. Stam asked if those meetings were public. Chief Fondaco replied that he wasn't sure.

Mr. Shaver asked if the other cities that are not currently on Versaterm have similar concerns. Chief Fondaco noted that the Fire Chiefs and Police Chiefs from all the other cities, with the exception of Sandy, that are currently using Spillman are meeting to discuss the CAD issue.

Chief Fondaco noted that Murray has a large investment in Spillman because all of the records in Spillman and the vehicles use Spillman. There will be a necessary data push from Spillman, and he said the cost of that data bridge is unknown.

Mr. Shaver asked when the agreement would come before the Council. Ms. Wells replied it was currently on the agenda for November 19th. Mr. Nicponski noted that of the 15

cities, plus the unincorporated area for a total of 16 entities, there are only three that have not supported this agreement. They are: West Valley City, West Jordan and Murray. Some of the entities must think that Versaterm is a good idea. Mr. Nicponski disclosed the fact that he represents UFA and UPD on the Hill.

Chief Fondaco stated that there are three agencies in Utah using Versaterm. They are Davis County, Weber County and Salt Lake City and County. Weber County and Davis County are both in the process of an RFP (Request for Proposal) to get rid of Versaterm, it is not working for their Fire Departments. Mr. Nicponski commented that UPD has cities that are members. Chief Fondaco replied that police dispatch is relatively easy, fire dispatch causes a lot of other issues with the CAD. He said Versaterm has been a problem for those counties with fire dispatch, and transition is a problem also. Mr. Stam asked if those entities would be attending the upcoming meeting also. Chief Fondaco replied that they would not. The Chairman of the Board of Operations is the West Jordan Fire Chief and he is meeting with those entities and doing due diligence.

Mr. Nakamura doesn't believe the issue is the weighted voting. The reality is that in the past there wasn't an agency that had contracts with other cities. These separate entities are now contracted with UPD and that is very different. Those cities that would have had individual votes in the past, would now probably vote with UPD. The reason why Murray would be outvoted is because of the County and the cities that are contracted with UPD. He doesn't think the focus should be on weighted voting, it is a new experience because of the contracts that UPD has with several cities. Those cities are also members of VECC and that is the issue. It may be the same issue on the Operations Board. The fact is that Murray will get outvoted because of UPD and their contracted cities. Mr. Nakamura believes the vote would be based on contributions, but the result is the same. He stated that of course, there would be no agreement if Salt Lake County and UPD don't enter in to the agreement.

Mayor Snarr asked if there were any minutes taken from any of the meetings. Chief Fondaco replied that there was not from those meetings, but would be from the Operations Board meetings. Mayor Snarr said there would be dialog and he hoped that the concerns of the other entities would be weighed very carefully. He doesn't believe that UPD will roll over everybody. He is aware that some of the other cities would like to set up a new PSAP, but the legislature would have a hard time with that, and doesn't want Murray left stranded

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28.

Kellie Challburg
Office Administrator II