

DU-COMM

DuPage Public Safety Communications
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Special Call MEETING – MINUTES

Wednesday, January 4, 2023 – 7:30 a.m. - Hybrid
DU-COMM, 420 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL

Mayor Brummel noted a meeting to review the Des Plaines membership proposal. Intention to provide additional information for a decision to provide direction and called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 7: 33 a.m.

1. Roll Call

Mayor David Brummel (Chairman)*	City of Warrenville
Mayor Rod Craig (Vice-Chairman)*	Village of Hanover Park
Manager David Fieldman (Secretary)*	Village of Downers Grove
President Brent Frank	Lisle-Woodridge FPD
Administrator Michael Guttman*	City of West Chicago
Manager Scott Niehaus*	Village of Lombard
Police Chief Phil Norton*	Village of Glen Ellyn
Fire Chief Rick Sanborn, Jr.	York Center FPD
Police Chief John Madden *	Burr Ridge PD
Fire Chief Mark Bozik*	Roselle FPD

Staff: Executive Director Jessica Robb*, Advisor Balling*, Deputy Director Lamela*, Deputy Director Baarman*, Finance/HR Manager Athitakis*, Executive Secretary Keifer*

Guests: Attorney John Kelly - Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.*,
Bloomington Fire Chief Matt Beyer, Lisle-Woodridge Fire Chief Keith Krestan, ETSB DD Theusch

* at 420

2. Public Comment

None

3. New Business

A. Member admission practices and policies

Advisor Balling summarized an initiative from Des Plaines in the fall. Their ETSB funds their operation in partnership with the Village of Wheeling. The Village of Wheeling requested and received approval to join Northwest Central Dispatch (NWCDS). Des Plaines requested membership in NWCDS, but was denied. Des Plaines police currently operate out of the Wheeling municipal facility. Des Plaines also contacted ACDC to explore membership. DU-COMM met with the City Manager, Finance Director, Police Chief, and Fire Chief and our proposal was issued on November 30.

The preliminary proposal used the current budget, the financial impact to DU-COMM was favorable, and provided them an idea of costs. Advisor Balling noted a policy barrier, the need to amend our bylaws, as Des Plaines is not in DuPage County, plus the need to address their ETSB issue, and our board would need to approve. If questions are answered today, would plan to discuss a recommendation at the January Executive Committee and brief the Board. The police calls would join 7S, and fire would join Fire West. The budget includes a new deployment of Call Takers and Call Takers would be increased if Des Plaines were to join.

Mayor Brummel noted the policy decision, whether this is something to consider. Identified some benefits for the organization, financially, they would be our biggest member, but staff is already overworked and stressed and the agency in the midst of a leadership transition. Short term considerations need to be balanced with long-term benefits. Asked what is needed for the next meeting to consider this matter. Mayor Craig noted Fire West has the greatest capacity, and why it was selected, but unknown what the impact would be. Advisor Balling noted Des Plaines does not have TCs to share, as police officers currently dispatch Des Plaines and the cutover would likely be 2024.

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Manager Fieldman noted he does not support membership expansion at this time with an organization this large and outside the county. We have many high priorities that demand our complete organizational capacity. Believe we will succeed in the areas we face now. The change with top leadership itself is a significant undertaking. Not close to staffing current operations, and the union contract is not finalized. Imperative to understand the challenges of executive leadership, as we continue to work with the ETSB on important IGAs and improve the working relationship for the betterment of both organizations and the county. Speaking from experience, moving an organization of this size to DU-COMM is extensive work and took about a year. Recognizes the potential upside, but with all the current high priority action items, and the time it will take to address them, pursuing this now could not only have negative short-term implications, it could affect service levels to current members.

Mayor Brummel noted if everyone thinks this is not a good idea, the decision could be made today. Manager Niehaus echoed the comments of Manager Fieldman for almost the same reasons. Many unknowns, the Des Plaines budget includes \$1.3 million from their ETSB and they don't know if it can move with them. Manager Niehaus considered what President Frank asked at the last meeting about our growth policy. State legislation regarding PSAP consolidation forced Downers Grove to join, and DU-COMM had an obligation to absorb them. Taking a step to Des Plaines sends a mix signal to our neighbors, and ACDC, due to redundancy. Noted nine years ago he left an IRMA community to join Lombard, IRMA called to offer a quote (Lombard is self-insured). IRMA would have saved the Village \$50,000, but the juice was not worth the squeeze. In this case, \$60,000 for Lombard, is probably not worth the squeeze. The \$60,000 could be used up quickly in added staffing. If he were the Des Plaines Manager, a quick no is more valuable than a played out maybe.

Mayor Brummel noted again if in a position to decide this is not something to pursue. Des Plaines is in a tight spot and we don't want to keep them hanging, if it doesn't look like we will follow-up. Administrator Guttman echoed what Manager Fieldman and Manager Niehaus said and noted, the Chief Operations Committee did not vet this request, which is a key part of our governance. If we go forward that meeting would be needed, and unsure it can be fully vetted before the next Executive Committee meeting. After the recruitment of Director Robb, this group, and the recruitment team reached the conclusion that we struggle internally, and healing is needed. How can that be done at the same time we try to take on this largest member. Sees competing interests and not doing either well is worse than where we are now. Chief Bozik noted it speaks volumes when three Administrators note it is not about the money. Asked what advantage Des Plaines brings operationally. They don't border us, the majority of our agencies will not interact with them, and don't see any operational efficiencies. Sensitive to the needs of Des Plaines, but we must look at the agencies we serve, and DuPage county, and don't think this is a good fit now.

Mayor Brummel noted a conversation with Director Robb before the meeting and she shares the concerns regarding the situation. The energy needed for the transition may be too much at this point. Staff have concerns at this time. Chief Madden ask about their ETSB. Advisor Balling noted in a perfect world, they continue to operate with their ETSB with the Fire Chief, Police Chief, and City Manager, and use 9-1-1 surcharge fees to pay for the dispatch services. Mayor Brummel noted it is unclear how they would merge with our ETSB. Attorney Kelly noted the statute does not allow for it. They would either remain an ETSB (a paper ETSB that receives surcharge funds) but not have a dispatch center, or PSAP, and would use surcharge funds to fund their membership. Prior to January 1, 2016, when consolidation occurred, there were paper ETSBs operating. With the advent of consolidation and efforts by the 9-1-1 Administrator to limit the number of ETSBs, he cannot recall, and unsure if there are any paper ETSBs left. If Des Plaines was required to consolidate and become a joint ETSB with the DuPage County ETSB, the funds would have to go to the joint ETSB. Des Plaines would not have sole control over those funds. Unsure of the position of the statewide 9-1-1 Administrator would be on a paper ETSB, but personal experience with the Administrator is she would not favor it. What legal authority she would have to force Des Plaines to shut down their ETSB and become part of a joint ETSB with DuPage County, is unclear. Also, would the DuPage ETSB be open to having a joint ETSB. Many unknowns and we have no say in it. Des Plaines expects to use surcharge funds to pay for membership, and if they cannot that would probably eliminate their ability to do it.

Manager Fieldman left the meeting at 8:00 a.m., but remained dialed into the Zoom call.

Chief Madden noted down 20 staff members and concerned about the hiring issues with no TCs from Des Plaines, which might have helped. Attorney Kelly noted important to understand they are a split facility, Fire is currently dispatched by RED Center. They advised RED Center, almost a year ago, the intent to leave them. How that will work now is unknown, but no dispatchers will move with them.

Chief Norton does not disagree with anything. More concerned we will look back in 10-20 years and note a missed opportunity. He does not necessarily think so. Empathetic to the concerns and the stress on staff and the changes at

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DU-COMM. Every confidence that if we were to move forward, we would be okay, but agreed, it just doesn't make sense now. But who knows about the landscape in 25 years. Twenty years ago we did not know there would be only 2 PSAPs in DuPage County.

Mayor Brummel noted Manager Niehaus had suggested a quick no is better than a delayed maybe. If we think this is not a good thing and puts too much stress on staff, given the transition and internal issues, a good message to staff would be: we will pass on this opportunity because we are more concern on their wellbeing, which is our focus. Chief Norton agreed. Mayor Craig noted he came here thinking if you're not growing, you're dying, but hears the challenges and the time is not right today. Agreed a quick no is smart. Mayor Brummel suggested might be best to qualify the quick no with a maybe in six months. Chief Madden noted Des Plaines takes 123,000 call for service a year. Concerned of the issues if they join 7S. Mayor Brummel noted hearing a consensus for a quick no, and not in a position to take them at this point, due to our transition and concerns with staffing. We must ensure the transition is successful, work on the culture issues, and show staff that consolidation would hurt that effort, and it was agreed. Chief Norton asked about impact on the redundancy, if ACDC says yes and a brief discussion ensued. Mayor Brummel noted a conversation with Chairman Schwarze yesterday. He is aware of our position and that they may go to ACDC. What is important now, is the work between the ETSB and DU-COMM to resolve issues. Lots to do and agreed it is best for our organizations to get that work done. Director Robb noted appreciation for the quick and concise decision that will bode well for staff and benefit morale. Will focus energy on the contract, personnel, and the relationship with ETSB.

Manager Niehaus made a motion to provide the City of Des Plaines a quick and respectful pass for the reasons noted, and Mayor Craig seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Brummel asked Director Robb to take the message to staff that the decision was unanimous due to concerns with staff, which is our focus going forward, and it was agreed. Administrator Guttman noted if this issue were to return in the future, the Chief Operations would need to review first. Chief Bozik noted the need to discuss where we go in the future regarding growth, etc., and Director Robb agreed.

4. Executive Closed Session for the purposes of discussing:

- A. Personnel matters (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 1)
 - B. Collective negotiating matters (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 2)
 - C. Purchase or lease of real property (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 5)
 - D. Pending, Probable, or Imminent Litigation (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 11)
- The Executive Committee did not enter Executive Closed Session.

5. Other Business

None

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 following the 7:30 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting
DU-COMM, 420 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL

6. Adjournment

At 8:16 a.m. Mayor Craig made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Administrator Guttman seconded. The motion was approved by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Keifer

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