

Chairman Hennard called a special meeting of the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners to order at 4:30 p.m. on this date in the Circuit Court Chambers, Ogemaw County Building, West Branch, Michigan.

All stood for the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Chairman Hennard welcomed everyone to the meeting. He detailed goals for the meeting. He stated commissioner comments would be later in the meeting.

Chairman Hennard reviewed the packet of information that was available for everyone in attendance. He proceeded to cover the information sequentially. When the \$1.38 device surcharge was board approved, 15% of the money generated would be set aside for Central Dispatch "equipment" use. The board actually spent \$56,914.00 more than the set aside amount.

He stated the board has three options regarding the operation of Ogemaw County Central Dispatch. Those options were merge with another county, form a Central Dispatch Authority with a ballot proposal to fund the authority, or continue the status quo.

Amy Beach, Ogemaw County Central Dispatch Director, provided budgetary info on operational costs related to the formation of an authority. She stated what funds would be generated with millage revenues at various levels. Chairman Hennard explained budget amounts resulting from an extra-voted \$3.00 phone surcharge per device. Data from the provided packet information detailed the 911 service funds.

Chairman Hennard invited questions from the audience. Mike Babcock, Churchill Township, stated there was not any negotiation of the service fee levied on local municipalities. Mr. Hennard stated the service fee amounts were recommended by the E911 Advisory Board. Dave Ryan, Mills Township Supervisor, stated the township attorney informed him the service fee would not have to be paid.

Mr. Hennard highlighted the 2014-2016 County E911 audit findings. The findings indicated 100% of the phone surcharge and state fees collected go to County E-911 operation. He proceeded to explain the County ballot proposal lineup. Veterans and Transit renewals will be on the August 2018 Primary ballot. If needed, they would be placed on the November General election ballot. MSU Extension will only be placed on the August Primary ballot. County E911 will be placed only on the November General election ballot. If the County E911 becomes an authority and the millage is adopted, the millage amount would be used for operational purposes.

He proceeded to explain revenues generated over the past three years. E911 revenues range from \$742,000 to \$765,000 per year. Various questions were asked by attendees. Chairman Hennard reviewed a 911 Fiscal year funding timeline. The time line detailed past County ballot proposal outcomes, County Board vote not to consolidate with Roscommon County, the County E911 Advisory Board service fee to township-city service fee, etc. He stated we are here to discuss the County E911 future and should not lose sight of this challenge.

It was stated Cumming Township and the County EMS Advisory Board believe the County E911 Department should be set up as a standalone authority. Mr. Hennard stated an authority would actually cost more per year. He stated he is biased that there should not be an authority.

Mike Babcock stated the County E911 Advisory Board voted 9-1 to establish an authority. It would be the best way to get an operational millage adopted. Sandra Miller, Foster Township Supervisor, stated it really doesn't matter because tax dollars are being used and the property owners pay one way or the other. Karen McIntyre, Foster Township Clerk, stated the County Board should establish an E911 Authority.

County Commissioner Craig Scott stated the idea of not having a County E911 Department has never been mentioned in a County Board meeting. There is a good chance that an E911 operational millage would fail. The County Board would then have to fund it with delinquent tax revolving fund money.

Rose White asked what happened with the consolidation proposal with Roscommon County. Chairman Hennard stated it was not a "local" option and that was why it did not move forward. If a County E911 funding proposal fails, we would have to look at consolidation with another county.

Amy Beach explained why we are not receiving all phone surcharges. Nothing is received for Trac or Obama phones. Commissioner Scott stated the commissioners would not be liable for funding assistance if County E911 ballot proposal is adopted.

Chairman Hennard did a "straw poll" of the local units in attendance about their preference concerning how to fund a County E911 operation. The majority stated a ballot proposal should be offered to the county electorate and a County E911 Authority should be formed.

Commissioner Reetz stated it will be difficult for the County EMS Authority to pay the E911 service fee for two consecutive years. Commissioner Simmons stated the ballot proposal millage amount should be $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mill to help offset future unanticipated operational costs for a County Central Dispatch Authority.

Various comments were stated why the townships/cities could not pay the county-levied service fee.

Chairman Hennard thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. He believed much has been accomplished this evening.

There being no further business to address, Chairman Hennard adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Minutes by Gary R. Klacking, Ogemaw County Clerk.

Attest: Gary R. Klacking, Ogemaw County Clerk.