

## COLBERT COUNTY 9-1-1 BOARD MEETING

October 8, 2013

4:00 p.m.

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chief Dewey King  
Mr. Kirk Jones  
Mrs. Dessie Evans  
Ms. Ronda Hood  
Chief Tim McMullins

### **OTHERS:**

Mr. Mike Melton  
Mr. Michael Smith  
Mrs. Rebecca Narmore  
Mr. Bruce Carson (Keller EMS)

### **I. Call to order:**

- a. The Colbert County 9-1-1 Board Meeting was called to order by Chief King at approximately 4:00 p.m.

### **II. Roll Call:**

- a. All Board Members were present with the exception of Mr. Austin and Chief Blackstock. A quorum was established.

### **III. Resolution:**

- a. Chief King called upon Mrs. Rebecca Narmore to discuss the possible adoption of a resolution regarding ambulance providers in Colbert County.
- b. Mrs. Narmore stated she had been gathering historical data for over a month regarding ambulance providers in Colbert County, and specifically regarding how the county came to have Keller Ambulance as the primary EMS provider for the county. She stated that in the 1980s, there was no provider for the county. At some point, the Civil Defense/EMA Director, Eddie Hicks, approached the county and all cities in the county in regards to developing a county-wide ambulance service. Mrs. Narmore stated that she was able to find a resolution issued by the City of Sheffield that adopted the new ambulance service, but was unable to find anything from the other cities other than discussions regarding funding for the service. The overall intent was to have one ambulance provider for the entire county. Mrs. Narmore stated that when 9-1-1 was developed, because Keller Ambulance was already the county-wide provider, that 9-1-1 decided to continue using that provider for 9-1-1 calls. It was also found that there was funding issued through an alcohol beverage tax for the ambulance service. Mrs. Narmore stated that 9-1-1 has now been in service for 22 years and prior to that, Keller was the ambulance provider, and since then, Keller has been the ambulance provider. She stated she has looked over the recent Attorney General Opinion issued, and also over the law that governs 9-1-1 Boards in Alabama, and she feels like the 9-1-1 Board has the authority to stipulate they will only use one ambulance provider in the county.
- c. Chief McMullins questioned if the 9-1-1 Board was going to follow a 30 year old resolution, something that was issued prior to the 9-1-1 Board being established? He questioned if a resolution like that was in effect

forever? Chief McMullins questioned why the 9-1-1 Board would want to get involved in this and possibly be sued to fight someone else's battle. Chief McMullins also questioned the proposed resolution in the fact that it would include the entire county and all municipalities which would include the Town of Cherokee. Currently the Cherokee Rescue Squad covers the western 1/3 of the county, not Keller EMS.

- d. Mrs. Narmore referred to the 9-1-1 Law Section 11-98-4, Line 6, which gives the 9-1-1 Board the Authority to "enter into contracts or agreements with public or private safety agencies for dispatch services when such terms, conditions, and charges are mutually agreed upon, unless otherwise provided by local law." She states the Board has the authority to make a decision or let it slide. She stated that although the Board has the authority to enter into a contract, she doesn't recommend it.
- e. Chief McMullins referred to previous Board discussions on why we should fix something that isn't broken. He stated the current system isn't broken, but it is bent.
- f. Mr. Jones interjected that the 30 year resolution or contract is still a valid contract, but that any city can get out of a contract at any time. Chief McMullins replied that now there is a city that wants out of the contract for one ambulance provider.
- g. Mr. Melton stated that with Keller EMS, our county has been at "Zero Status" many times, which means all trucks were on calls and if another 9-1-1 call had come in, we would have needed to call for outside resources. Mr. Melton states that if the Board decides to go out on a limb and say that we will only use one provider, we will likely be involved or partially responsible for the actions of that ambulance provider. Therefore, we would need some kind of means or ways to have checks and balances and be able to hold the particular provider to the standard that is set by the 9-1-1 Board. Mrs. Narmore stated that the Board has the authority to require Keller EMS or any other provider to abide by the Board's standards. Mr. Jones suggested possibly entering into a Memorandum of Understanding, rather than a Contract.
- h. Chief McMullins stated that the 9-1-1 Board needed to back themselves and not either of the providers involved. Mrs. Narmore replied that the 9-1-1 Board should say it will support the system that is already in place.
- i. Ms. Hood asked Mrs. Narmore if the Board had not already voted on this issue. Mrs. Narmore replied, "yes." Chief McMullins stated the Board also decided to follow the Attorney General Opinion.

- j. Mrs. Evans asked Mrs. Narmore what was wrong with the agreement we already have in place. Mrs. Narmore replied that the Attorney General Opinion states that we “should” follow the request from Muscle Shoals, but it does not state that we “must.”
- k. Chief McMullins stated the responsibility of this Board was to give the best care to the people of Colbert County. He suggested waiting until after the Muscle Shoals bid process was complete before being proactive and making any further moves. Mrs. Narmore stated the proposed resolution would only reiterate the previous actions already taken by the Board.
- l. Chief King called for a motion to accept the proposed Resolution as presented. Chief King called a second time, for a motion to accept the proposed Resolution as presented. Mrs. Evans made a motion to accept the Resolution as presented by Mrs. Narmore. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried by a 3-0 vote, with Chief McMullins and Ms. Hood abstaining.
- m. Chief King recommended that the Board send a letter to Mayor Bradford that states the intentions of the 9-1-1 Board.
- n. At this time, Mr. Bruce Carson entered the meeting. Mrs. Narmore questioned how Keller EMS would react if they were issued the Muscle Shoals contract. Mr. Carson stated that Keller EMS would probably have to add resources, but that he didn’t currently know what the minimum standards would be yet. He stated that any changes to satisfy the Muscle Shoals contract would not take away from any current operations in Colbert County. Mrs. Narmore asked how Keller EMS would be able to cover it all. Mr. Carson stated he would need to make sure there were enough trucks on duty to cover all the calls. He gave a brief description of the recent changes that were made to help cover the county better. He stated that since April, he can only recall 3 incidents that required outside resources, but did request a report of exactly how many times outside resources were used. Mrs. Narmore requested Mr. Carson to start reporting to the 9-1-1 Board on all status changes with the ambulance service. Mr. Carson stated that there would be no problems with doing that and that Keller EMS would be willing to do anything the Board requested so long as they had the backing of the 9-1-1 Board. Chief King asked Mr. Carson if he would be receptive to the Board setting up guidelines and enforcing them, and Mr. Carson replied “yes.” Mr. Carson advised that Keller EMS always intends to address any concerns of the Board of Mr. Melton’s

office and has no problem with stepping up and being responsive to the needs of the Board. He stated that Keller EMS would gladly implement any 9-1-1 guidelines system-wide. Mr. Melton asked Mr. Carson if he had the authority to make the needed changes, and Mr. Carson replied “yes.” Mr. Carson stated again that if the 9-1-1 Board is reaffirming its position to support the county ambulance service, then Keller EMS will do everything it can to meet the requirements set forth. Mr. Melton reiterated to Mr. Carson that if the Board steps out on a limb and sticks with Keller EMS, then there will definitely need to be checks and balances on the performance of Keller EMS.

- o. Chief King stated the bottom line was that the Board did not want the Director coming to them with complaints regarding the EMS service in Colbert County.

**IV. Comments from the public:**

- a. None.

**V. Minutes:**

- a. A motion was made by Ms. Hood and seconded by Mrs. Evans to accept the minutes for September 2013. All board members voted in favor.

**VI. Financial Report:**

- a. A motion was made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mrs. Evans to approve the financial reports for September 2013 as presented. All Board members voted in favor.

**VII. Director’s Comments:**

- a. IP Switch/Recorder Update:
  - i. Mr. Melton informed the Board that the contract had been signed on installing a new IP-based 9-1-1 Calltaking Switch and Recorder from Ryan Public Safety Solutions. The final contract price was \$197,506.00.
  - ii. The deadline to cutover is January 6, 2014.
- b. Integrity Monitoring System Update:
  - i. Mr. Melton informed the Board that a purchase order had been issued to The Radio Shop to install the Integrity Monitoring System.
  - ii. The deadline to cutover is December 26, 2013.
  - iii. Mr. Jones informed the Board that the equipment should ship on October 30, 2013, and installation would start immediately.
- c. AT&T Audit Update:
  - i. Mr. Melton informed the Board that we had paid our first installment to Mr. Gary Lavender, CPA, for work performed on the AT&T Audit.

- ii. Mr. Lavender sent a letter, which is in each Board Members' packet, that explains the current status of the audit.
- d. Yearly FY13 Audit:
  - i. Chief King asked if we had submitted data for the local FY13 audit. Mr. Smith advised that he had spoken with Dennis Norton at Leigh, King & Associates and that he was awaiting a response on when to send the data over. Mr. Smith has all data ready to send.

VIII. **Next Meeting:** Next meeting will be Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

IX. **Adjournment:** At 5:00 p.m., and with no further business to discuss, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Evans seconded the motion. All Board Members voted in favor.

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Chief Dewey King, Chairperson

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Mr. Kirk Jones, Vice-Chairman

absent  
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Mr. Garey Austin, Secretary/Treasurer

absent  
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Chief Ken Blackstock, Board Member

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Ms. Ronda Hood, Board Member

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Mrs. Dessie Evans, Board Member

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Chief Tim McMullins, Board Member