

Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
April 7, 2015

There was a meeting of the Service Committee in Council Chambers on Monday March 30, 2015 after Finance Committee with these members present:

Jeff Rath	Ryan Bubb
Marc Guthrie for Bill Cost Jr.	Alex Rolletta
Jeremy Blake	

We wish to Report:

1. A presentation regarding the City and County Dispatch Service Models was given by Director Spurgeon, Interim Chief Barry Connell, Shawn Grady Director of Emergency Management Regional 911 Center, Coronal Chad Dennis and Captain Kevin Biller.

Opening comments by Director Spurgeon- we are not bringing forth any legislation and we are not asking permission to do anything, what we would like to do is provide some information. The common theme that you will hear tonight is technology. In the Property Maintenance Division you have given me money for software and mobile tablets which has made us more effective and we can manage what we do; same on the Fire and EMS side. We have the Firehouse software, tablets and jet packs in the squad which allows us to get in and out and do what we have to do and track our activities more effectively. On the Police side we have great people and many are here tonight and I thank them but I am not comfortable that we are supporting them as well as we can. There is technology out there that is available and tonight we have Shawn Grady, Director of Emergency Management, Coronal Chad Dennis and Captain Kevin Biller from the Licking County Sherriff's office that are going to share with us some of the technology that they have done over the last couple of years.

Shawn Grady, Director of Emergency Management Regional 911 for Licking County- discussed the layout of the new Regional 911 Center and it is broken into two operations with the Sherriff's office taking care of the law operation with their dispatch group and the fire dispatch side and that they are talking with the Sherriff's office to integrate so that the two operations that sit in the same room work together which would ultimately lower the response times for any call that comes into the center. He discussed planned upgrades for the center that are dedicated towards accreditation.

Mr. Guthrie- asked what happened to a police call in our current model.

Director Spurgeon- presented a scenario of a call if you were assaulted or you heard a noise in your home.

Interim Police Chief Barry Connell- briefly explained that if you call in on the 911 system you are going to call in on the county side and then the calls are transferred over to the city. He stated that

this model allowed room for human error or even equipment error.

Mr. Guthrie- asked what specifically happened when a Newark resident picks the phone up and calls 911.

Director Spurgeon and Captain Dennis both briefly answered that on the fire side you are in the same room, phone call received then to dispatch. On the police side it goes to the county 911 center then a dispatched either to the Sherriff's Department or to Newark Police Department.

Mr. Rath- asked if when the center was built if it was anticipated for them to take over the dispatching services for the entire county including the City of Newark.

Captain Dennis- stated it wasn't anticipated by it was built with the capability to expand.

Mr. Blake- asked what the weaknesses are of the City's current model compared to the capabilities of the 911 Center.

Director Spurgeon- identified the lack of a record management system and mobile data.

Interim Chief Connell- also added a point of weakness is that they don't have a CAD (Computer Automated Dispatch) system. Currently they are relying on individuals' memory to recall instances that occurred at certain locations and passing along information between shifts as well as the use of call cards.

Mr. Blake- asked which municipalities were affiliated with the 911 center right now

Mr. Grady- all of the fire departments in the County and the Sherriff's office on the law enforcement side.

Mr. Rolletta- asked Director Spurgeon if he would be in the near future proposing that the City turns their Police dispatch work over to the County.

Director Spurgeon- we are not asking for permission to negotiate and I believe that it would be inappropriate of me to comment on that at this point. We are merely here to provide information. He also invited all members of Council to tour the 911 Center.

Comments received from the public by: Terry Lyle, Rhonda Loomis, Charles Moore, Dave Arndt, Mark, Vice President of the FOP Local Lodge 127, Staff Representative for the AFSCME Local Union

Mr. Guthrie- stated that he wanted to hear more from our Police Officers and Dispatchers about how our system works. He welcomed the individuals to contact members of Council to discuss their thoughts. He also stated that in his opinion this issue should not have been in the Service Committee. He stated that it is a safety issue and a personnel issue and he hoped that if it came back to committee again in the form of legislation it would be considered by the Personnel Committee or the Safety Committee.

Jeff Rath, Vice Chair