Resolution from Joint Services:
To Approve PSAP Grant Funding for One Public Safety Answering Point Per County

Motion by: Belsky  Seconded by: Wamboldt  Approved: unanimously

4:16: Joe Cardamone, of Corporation Council, presented an opening statement. Josh Nielsen, Director of Joint Services, presented the resolution. Joe provided an explanation on why they are asking for fast movement on the resolution. Joint Services and Administration had recently concluded that they are eligible for some State grant reimbursement. In order to apply for the reimbursement, the County board has to designate, by resolution, the County’s sole Public Safety Access Point (PSAP). This resolution satisfies the requirement and allows for Joint Services to apply for the grant. The grant application is due October 25th and there is only County Board meeting scheduled before that deadline occurs.

Josh said the State of Wisconsin put out a grant for Next Generation 9-1-1, which has multiple parts to it. The part they are seeking for this year are training funds for emergency dispatch. The grant is a 80/20 match but it is a reimbursement grant, so they have to prove they have funding upfront before they can apply. In the 2023 Budget there is some training for Emergency Medical Dispatchers, that is a certification level almost all of their dispatchers achieve. By State statute 9-1-1 Centers are now required to provide Emergency Medical Dispatch instructions, so they are required to have those certifications. They have been doing it for a few years now but the current process that they have been using is a certification process through an agency called Priority Dispatch. They are one of the companies that are allowed through the State grant process. They are looking at a total of $3,300 budgeted. They expect to qualify for the grant without any problems as long as the resolution is in place. There is currently a resolution in place that names Joint Services as the only PSAP in the State of Wisconsin for some other grants that have been received in the past, but the State statute for this grant requires another specific resolution. The current grant goes through next year. Josh said that Mike Blodgett, Communication Manager, has spoken with the State, and the State’s goal is to extend the grant going forward, so it is anticipated in subsequent years there will be additional funds coming for some of the projects listed on the grant.

Supervisor Belsky said that she read on the grant that you can go up $500k and asked if they are not doing this because they didn’t have the 20% match budgeted. Josh said that was correct, it came out in July and if there was a project ready to go there would be funds available for those projects. The project start dates are no later than January 2023 and have to be accomplished within 18 months.

Supervisor Belsky asked if they are looking to upgrade the 9-1-1 system next year because a lot of things can be updated in Joint Services for the $500k. Josh agreed and said there are things with the 9-1-1 system that will cost substantial amounts of money in the near future. They are positioned to do a project with the 9-1-1 system in 2024 to potentially get some of the grant money. It will be up to the State to take the grant system beyond that. This is what the State is trying to do but it will be up to the State Legislator. The money comes from fees collected on cellphone bills called the ‘Police and Fire Protection Fee’. Up until this year that money has gone into the State General Fund. They are now starting to use that money for this purpose along with some other things. It is not set in stone, but the goal is to continue doing the grant down the road. When
Joint Services starts doing larger project there should be some funding to do that and have the project start in January.

Supervisor Belsky asked if they had applied for the grant before. Josh replied they did not, it just came out in July. Supervisor Belsky asked if they are looking to do a project in 2024, if they would have to budget money in 2023 for the project. Josh replied they will have to budget the money. They are working with their current vendor, AT&T, to look at their facilities and get ideas on cost. Supervisor Belsky stated that there is lot that can be leveraged up to $500k. Josh replied that they would probably need more than that to get the project done in a year or two. Supervisor Belsky asked if they would get the application done by the October 25th deadline. Josh replied they would and already had a draft ready to go. There is a bunch of requirements and the grant has a standard they have to meet, which they do.

Supervisor Decker motioned to approve the resolution as amended, seconded by Supervisor Belsky. Motion passes unanimously with no further discussion.

Any Other Business Allowed by Law: 7:20 None

Meeting Adjourned: 7:21: on motion by Supervisor Wamboldt; seconded by Supervisor Franco.

A recording of the meeting is available online at kenoshacounty.org

Respectfully Submitted,

Alyssa Werfelmann