

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

The Board of Supervisors of Clinton County, Iowa, met at the County Satellite Office, at 226 11th St, DeWitt Ia. Present were Supervisors Determann, Irwin and Srp.

6:30 P.M. Review Correspondence and Claims Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Communications Radio Project Update: Chairman Determann reviewed the radio options in general along with Eric Dau, County Communications Director.

Dau said the original order of radios have arrived and are being kept in storage for now depending on what may ultimately be decided.

Joel Atkinson, Clinton Fire Chief, said it is difficult for him to decide on what radios to choose without the new tower in operation.

Supervisor Irwin reviewed the number of radios each department reported it utilizes. Irwin said Scott County has done something similar and Muscatine County has also done the same thing, but both added more towers to their systems. He said Motorola is saying that Clinton County is the only County that relies on repeaters instead of using more towers.

Miles Fire Department said they have a large area in Clinton County. They were told they don't get help purchasing any radios. He said purchasing a radio at \$12,000 is not affordable for anyone. Dau clarified that at an earlier meeting it was said it was not determined if radios could be provided to agencies based in Jackson County.

Irwin said the County has made the decision to join the ISICs system and that's the reason for the radios to work with that system.

Paul Stankee, Wheatland Fire Chief, said it would be difficult to take 15 calls on the cell phone while responding to a call. He said the radio allows everyone to hear what everyone is doing.

Camanche Fire Chief Dave Schutte suggested staying with the radios already ordered so there are enough for everyone.

Stankee said he first thought the new tech radio was the way to go, but doesn't see how it can be financially viable. It was generally discussed that possibly each fire chief should have the next generation radio and the rest of the fire department use the radios that are in storage.

Atkinson said the Clinton Police Department would like to switch to the next generation radio. He asked if some in-vehicle radios already installed in Clinton Police squads could be moved to fire department vehicles and if that would be acceptable. It was generally acceptable to do that.

Dau will reformulate a plan to distribute radios that have already been purchased to the fire departments with one next generation radio for each department.

County Auditor Eric Van Lancker said the next step should be to run the proposed scenario through finances. He said there is \$1 million left from the bond and \$500,000 from a tower that wasn't built that can be used. He said after that scenario is reviewed, more informed decisions could be made.

County Fire District Review: Goose Lake Fire Chief Kevin Cain said this was discussed at the last fire chief meeting and it was suggested it be discussed with the Board of Supervisors. Srp said they had an education session on this at ISAC last week. He said the discussion is because it is getting difficult for small fire departments to make ends meet. Cain said he is guessing many fire/township arrangements were made in 1975 when it became taxable at the township level and haven't been changed since. He added those arrangement may not be the best plans today. Srp said the County Attorney should be asked how those districts can be changed. He also suggested that a larger decision about County EMS services needed to be discussed. It was suggested that moving fire districts could equal a loss in tax revenue for that fire department. That was countered with the resident should receive the shortest response time. Srp said the districts should be reviewed because that is the best for all the residents. Cain said he spoke with the EMA department who suggested a consultant could look at the departments and the County and make a recommendation.

The Board of Supervisors adjourned to meet at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 13, 2021 at the Clinton County Administration Building, 1900N 3rd St., Clinton, IA 52732.

Eric Van Lancker, County Auditor

Tom Determann, Chairperson

-APPROVED-

County Auditor

Chairperson