

MINUTES

**KING WILLIAM COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

RECONVENED MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

At a reconvened meeting of the Board of Supervisors of King William County, Virginia, held on the 12th day of September, 2011, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, order was called with the following present:

C. L. Schools, Chairman
T. G. Smiley
C. T. Redd, III
O. O. Williams

T. L. Funkhouser, County Administrator
D. M. Stuck, County Attorney

D. L. Wright, Absent

Chairman, Cecil L. Schools, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Chairman announced Mr. Wright was not in attendance, he is in the hospital.

The Chairman turned the meeting over to the County Administrator.

RE: WORK SESSION – RADIO SYSTEM

Mr. Funkhouser stated the Board called this meeting tonight for regrouping. He gave a brief overview of the history of radio system discussions. After issuing an RFP and then rejecting it due to the cost and some related issues, the County still faces a narrow banding mandate by January 2013. There are issues to work out with the Town of West Point. The Town needs to update its radio system, the Town operates a separate dispatch and they need to upgrade their system or have their own. Mutual goals between the Town and the County was to continue to provide service to the West Point Volunteer Fire Department and also to extend the current paging system King William has for the other service providers in King William, the West Point Volunteer Fire Department. These are separate issues that remain to be resolved in terms of a MOA or MOU with the Town. These are issues that John Edwards, West Point Town Manager, and the County Administrator need to work on and present to Council and Board at the appropriate time; this is a critical component in terms of economies of scale and will yield a significant savings to the Town.

The County Administrator stated he believes the County needs a consultant to assist with going forward with selecting a system. The County had a narrow RFP specifying a 700 or 800 MHz system, the reason for doing this is VHF licenses were not going to be available and the County didn't see UHF as a viable option at that point and time. The County has learned a lot to this point and in terms of regrouping a consultant would help the County refine selection options.

King & Queen was going to be a part of a regional radio system; they decided to develop their own UHF stand alone system. King William County was attempting to work with Hanover County so King William could use some of their infrastructure and then just be faced with procuring radios and some other equipment locally. Hanover isn't prepared to take any additional subscribers to their system but staff will revisit options with Hanover staff.

Caroline County has an RFP that is more broad in terms of system types offered; they recently extended their RFP deadline until the end of September. The King William County Administrator is looking for some discussion with the Board about proceeding with a consultant to provide some technical assistance to assess the King & Queen option, the 700/800 MHz system serving James City, York, Williamsburg some sort of stand alone system of a smaller scale and phasing options.

Mr. Schools asked for clarification on the present options for King William.

The County Administrator stated Caroline County can narrow band but they are going to lose some coverage without making some substantial investment. The King & Queen system is not currently trunked there would be some additional expenses if King William were to consider any sort of proposal from King & Queen; there has been some general conversation with them but no formal proposal. All of these systems will cost \$4 to \$6 million depending on what capability the County wants; a significant expense both in terms of installation and ongoing maintenance; 3 or 4 cents equivalent real estate tax for the installation as well as half a penny to a penny for maintenance. These systems are digital networks that require a significant amount of monitoring and maintenance to set up, operate and maintain.

Mr. Schools stated one the committees main concerns was the initial cost to the system and then 3 or 4 years later having to spend the same kind of money to comply with or maintain new mandates a costly system.

The County Administrator stated a stand alone system may not be eligible for grant funding from State or Federal sources because many grant agencies are looking towards regional approaches.

Mr. Schools asked for clarification that the County Administrator is going to look into the Town of West Point being an incorporated town and King William, if the two went in together if that would be considered regional.

The County Administrator stated that is something that needs to be explored further; what portion of wireless grants and other grants that go to emergency communication departments will be available to the County following any consideration of dispatch with West Point. New Kent doesn't have a system we could subscribe to. The York system needs to be explored. The King & Queen option is attractive because we share several service providers. The County will find a way to support those groups regardless of what platform is chosen.

Mr. Smiley asked if basically what we need is a consultant right out of the gate. The County Administrated stated that is the recommendation.

Mr. Smiley asked if some of the attendees could give the Board a briefing.

Mr. Redd stated he feels a consultant is needed, three options were explained but there are others; a consultant can look at all of the options, there are probably some that we aren't aware of. Continuing he said his understanding is King William will be paying for this out of the general fund, West Point tax payers pay the same amount into the general fund as those that don't live in the town limits, this needs to be considered during discussions of whether Town residents would be charged more or not. He would like to remind the Board this is not like the school fund, this is general funds. The County Administrator said this will be worked out between the respective administrators. Further he said the dispatcher situation can be worked out.

Mr. Funkhouser clarified that the County will continue to use a radio team which consists of representatives from the County and the Town.

Mr. Schools stated his interest is with West Point, being an incorporated Town, and King William County going together and if that qualifies for a regional system. The County Administrator stated we need to get a formal answer to this.

Mr. Schools spoke of the monthly maintenance and annual costs are going to be a fairly sizeable sum. How do we fund that, do we use meal tax revenue totally for that or communications tax.

Mr. Smiley asked if we are locked into these companies's maintenance or can we go on our own. The County Administrator said there are options for maintenance; a consultant can help us look at those options.

On motion by T. G. Smiley, seconded by C. T. Redd III, with the following vote the Board authorized the County Administrator to issue an RFP to hire a consultant for assistance in the selection of a Radio System.

Mr. Williams asked if the County had a consultant already. Mr. Funkhouser answered in the affirmative and stated that consultant's work was broken down in three phases, the RFP stage, procurement of the actual system, and installation monitoring. Mr. Williams stated we are actually starting all over again. Mr. Funkhouser said no, if you are selecting a consultant and you are looking at selecting a system platform again then yes. Mr. Williams said we have already paid a consultant. Mr. Funkhouser said we have accomplished a lot up to this point.

Mr. Redd said he agrees with the Chairman there needs to be speed to this process but not so fast that we run over ourselves in doing so; the consultant is the first thing and if it takes a couple of months to get the RFP out he feels we need the consultant to help with this process. Mr. Funkhouser said he thinks a consultant can help fast track the process and narrow it down, cost effectiveness and long term reliability. Mr. Schools said he agrees with Mr. Redd we don't want to make another misstep in this process but we want to get it done as soon as we can.

Mr. Williams said he feels we threw out twelve years of planning.

Mr. Redd said we don't want to spend eleven million dollars on a system that may be a great system but do we want to spend that much money now, he said he personally does not want to. He feels it is worth the investment to look at what our options are. Mr. Williams said he understands that part.

Mr. Smiley asked Mr. Williams what he suggests we do, if we don't have anything better we need to go with what we have. Mr. Williams said we have struggled so long and the price has continued to rise. Mr. Smiley said he understands that but are there any other suggestions. Mr. Williams said he doesn't have any other suggestions to get us moving any faster, he is not sure we didn't waste tax payer's money with the last consultant; he feels we went on dreams instead of reality. We need to let the new consultant know our budget line and tell them what we want and not what we are dreaming about. Mr. Smiley agreed.

Mr. Redd said at this point because of the 2013 deadline we are in a position where we need to decide what we are going to do and do it.; he called for the question from the Chairman.

The Chairman asked for a roll call.

Those members voting:

O. O. Williams	<u>AYE</u>
C. T. Redd III	<u>AYE</u>
D. L. Wright	<u>Absent</u>
T. G. Smiley	<u>AYE</u>
C. L. Schools	<u>AYE</u>

RE: COMMENTS PERIOD

Chairman, C. L. Schools, asked if any in the audience would like to make any comments.

Sheriff Jeff Walton spoke about the past consultant; he was not disappointed with the company but was he not satisfied with the consultant. He stated the radio team was not going on a wish list but what is actually needed. The consultant was obtained to guide us in the right direction, looking back now it appears we were lead astray. Continuing he said we have been battling this radio system for 12 years, when he came in office in 2000 we reviewed and backed off because the cost was too much then, they are even higher now. We are back to square one and 2013 is coming fast. He stated that by default the Town of West Point is going to be covered because King William Sheriff's office has to cover the Town of West Point as well, so whatever system we decide to put in place, the Town would also benefit from it.

John Edwards, West Point new Town Manager, introduced himself to the Board and stated he will be working with Mr. Funkhouser on this project and is looking forward to being part of the process.

Mr. Schools said he would like to thank Mr. Edwards and he feels personally that the working relationship on this project with West Point and the County Administrator will go smoothly.

Mr. Edwards said he feels it will go smoothly as well and hopes to serve the citizens well.

Scott Skibness with Tait Radio, reiterated what the Sheriff spoke about before that it won't take much to improve what the County already has, King William County has one of the worst radio systems he has seen country wide. He reminded the Board to remember there are two components to radio systems, there is the radios and the radio infrastructure, since there is not a strong system in place that means you need towers, shelters, linking and that is what adds to the cost as you are looking at these options, to provide coverage across the County. As you look at some of the options, obviously one of the things attractive about King & Queen is their system provides very good coverage off their existing towers, which means King William doesn't have to install that infrastructure immediately to get some of the benefits of that coverage. Going the direction of P25 does open up the ability to have multiple vendors; vendors have to be able to interoperate with different radio equipment keeps the price down.

Ross Wolfe, with Motorola Solutions, spoke of the narrow banding deadline and stated people are being granted waivers for this deadline, he encourages the County to file a waiver. He also encourages the County to take time and do the right research, and to look at all options available.

RE: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Mr. Smiley thanked everyone for coming out and participating in this important process.

Mr. Redd thanked the representatives from West Point for coming out, he feels the closer we get in this process the more involvement we will have from both governments, we are all in the same County.

Mr. Williams commented he didn't see representatives from fire and rescue in attendance, he wants to make sure they are onboard.

Mr. Schools stated fire and rescue has been included in everything that has been done; as far as cost the only cost to them is going to be the radios; no matter what system is chosen.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming out, it has been a learning experience for him, and he feels we are making headway

RE: ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned on motion by C. T. Redd III, seconded by T. G. Smiley, and carried unanimously.

COPY TESTE:

C. L. Schools Chairman
Board of Supervisors

T. L. Funkhouser,
County Administrator
Clerk to the Board