

**Notice of Public Meeting of the  
Technology Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, February 26, 2018**

**5:30 P.M.**

**City Hall, 9101 Bonita Beach Rd.  
Bonita Springs, Florida 34135**

		<u>TIME</u>	<u>INFO</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
I.	MEETING CALL TO ORDER	5:37			X
II.	ROLL CALL	5:35			X
	Present: Jane Hess Jim Kauffman Vince Marchesani Tim Deaton John Poldoian				
	Staff: Patrick Lippy Mike Gibson				
	Absent: Carlene Harrison Ike Lichtenstein				
III.	PUBLIC COMMENT	5:40			
	No public comment				
IV.	MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2017	5:45			
	Mr. Kauffman had the following corrections:				
	Committee discussed problems, 3 <sup>rd</sup> bullet – delete Fire station was functioning, amend to Southwest Lee County				
	Mr. Marchesani had the following corrections: 3 <sup>rd</sup> paragraph, second sentence: BSU went over to auxiliary generation power with diesel fuel to operate the water supply for the City <del>30 minutes</del> 6 hours				
	<b><i>Mr. Kauffman made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; Ms. Jane Hess seconded; motion passed unanimously.</i></b>				
V.	COUNCIL LIAISON ITEMS	6:50			X
	No Council members present				
VI.	STAFF INFO & UPDATES	7:00	X	X	
	Mr. Lippy stated he was in the process of catching up with Mr. Duran who advised that the Committee had been discussing hurricane communication and power. Ms. Taylor advised to				

continue discussing hurricane communication. If you had any questions, Mr. Lippy will get the answers.

Mr. Kauffman advised that at the last meeting, the Committee had made a motion to investigate as a Board the technology and practicality of establishing an emergency broadcast network.

Mr. Deaton said we were to the point where it was discussed:

- What do we look for
- Who do we speak with
- Radio station specific to this area
- What capabilities does the EMC have

Mr. Kauffman noted it was also discussed:

- Asking other municipalities how they manage their systems and what they do
- Cooperate and use the services of existing stations

The Committee discussed the idea of establishing the City's own radio station, but after discussion the idea did not appear to be as compelling and decided to review the relationships the city already has.

- Ms. Hess said WGPU FM is one of the best news because of their reach.
- Mr. Lippy stated that Ms. Taylor told him that they used a lot of radio stations and the only time they couldn't use a radio station is if the hurricane knocked the tower down or the electric.
- Mr. Kauffman said we saw what stayed up and what was consistently available.
- The internet stayed up beautifully.

Mr. Kauffman does not think broadcasting our own station is practical. The City's has done a remarkable job in identifying all the communications paths.

- Mr. Lippy stated they City used the live based talk and the Mayor talked on live social media every day.
- Mr. Kauffman said an increasing number of cellular sites have better back up then they used to.

Mr. Kauffman noted it was a good discussion. They did have failures, but those failures were anticipated.

VII.	NEW BUSINESS	7:15	X
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No new business.

VIII.	OLD BUSINESS	7:30	X
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### **FirstNet**

Mr. Deaton said he was informed that AT&T/Century Link had gained the information contract for the Fire District. Mr. Kauffman explained that ***FirstNet***, First Responder Network Authority, was the congressional initiative driven by the Fire Service/public safety in general to establish cellular broadband network throughout the United States solely dedicated to public safety. There was a strong push a few years ago to provide a much more hardened fault tolerant system across the United States.

Mr. Kauffman explained that this resulted in Congress not only dedicating a huge amount of money, but also establishing public partnership that was supposed to go out to bid for a national hardened broadband network. There was only one bidder, AT&T. AT&T was awarded the bid for a national broadband network. Broadband meaning wireless 5G or better speeds.

The first task for FirstNet, was to get buy in from each state, are they going to buy into this or build their own. The states could opt in or opt out, but if the state opted out, they had to submit plans outlining how they were going to build a similar network in their state. So everyone opted in. Now they're going to start building the network. Fire stations, EMS and law enforcement will be the benefactors. To clarify, it's not just the fire station, it's all public safety and AT&T got the bid.

### **Trouble Dialing 911 in East Bonita**

Mr. Kauffman said Mr. Marchesani hit on a larger issue which was addressed a few meetings ago, which is they still can't dial 911 in east Bonita and, if you can, a certain percentage of times it goes to Collier County which introduces 5 to 7 minutes to the response time. Collier and Lee Counties have been working on work-arounds, nevertheless, it doesn't prevent the call going to Collier when you're calling from Village Walk. The tower that picks up the call is on Immokalee Road. The solution is cellular carriers have to put in more sites, which costs money.

The Board discussed if the City of Bonita Springs made it easy or difficult to add sites. Mr. Kauffman said he did not know but the City, in fact, did change the requirements for siting to make it easier for cellular companies to establish a site. There are still obstacles:

- Some people don't want something ugly in their back yard.
- They have to approach land owners and a lot of it is cost.
  - Land Owners may not want a tower
  - or may extract a very high price
- There is an obstacle to installation of towers.

Mr. Kauffman asked the Committee what posture they wanted to take:

- They could provide City Council with the tools and facts needed.
- Will it happen in a reasonable short time on its own with the improvements in the siting requirements, or
- Do they need some sort of activism from people who don't have adequate service?

Mr. Marchesani suggested, simply from a data gathering standpoint, to look geographically where we are in terms of the number of towers per square mile and location from tower to tower and see as you go down Bonita Beach Road going east whether or not there is significant difference compared to Naples or Estero. Mr. Marchesani asked is there a tower near us, can something be hung on that? Mr. Kauffman replied they already attempted to, it's too loaded.

Antennas on existing high buildings was suggested. Many of the higher condominium buildings rent out their roofs. Mr. Kauffman stated economically it's much cheaper to erect a 170 foot tower macro site to cover the whole area than to put in a dozen very expensive micro cell. A micro cell has the same requirements as the tower.

Mr. Marchesani said you can argue that this represents a public health issue.

Mr. Marchesani we might see a hole that is not seen on the City's end that is seen on the carrier site.

Mr. Marchesani voiced his concern if someone in our community was to die because of the 8 minute delay issue. How many calls did go to Collier County instead of Bonita so we can bring this information forward? Mr. Kauffman replied misdirected 911 calls are documented in both Lee and Collier County centers.

Mr. Kauffman asked what the Board's role should be.

- What is the City's posture on this issue?
- Does the City want to turn up the heat on the carriers?
- Does the City want to turn up the heat on the County
- Does Council know of this issue and that it can be fixed?

Mr. Kauffman suggested a simple letter is enough to get their attention. Ms. Hess recommended making a statement that the Board supports Lee County and make Council aware of the problem.

Mr. Kauffman suggested working with the head Director of the County public safety radio station. The County is in the middle of doing all the right things to replace the existing system which also includes augmenting and getting more sites. The County is well aware of the need to beef up coverage in this area. If the county puts up their own tower they will want to rent space to others. The report will be finished in two to three months, bids will go out for a new radio system. Things are happening, it just takes time.

Mr. Marchesani said the first thing he would do is put all the players around the table, discuss the issue and hear a time table and path forward.

Mr. Kauffman stated it is being professionally done and there is a schedule. They were late starting up because of typical things that happen in any enterprise, but it's on procurement schedule, it's very well documented, the county Commissioners are very aware of it and it's being well managed. There will be a tall tower in East Bonita. The question is who will erect it, who will be renters and who will be the owners.

Mr. Marchesani stated the big question is when. Mr. Kauffman stated it is his understanding that the County expects an RFP to go out to replace the radio system around June. They are within three months of knowing where the tower site will be. Mr. Marchesani stated it looks like there is nothing that anybody can do to speed it along or aid anybody. Mr. Kauffman stated the County has an obligation to beef up public safety communications. They are proceeding.

### **Roundabouts**

Mr. Deaton asked if there were any difficulties with the roundabouts and the pedestrian lights. He finds it very difficult to see the flashing lights. Is there any plan to do anything with the illumination of those? When the sun is behind you it is difficult to see the illumination. Mr. Gibson said he believes it's because the pedestrian is not hitting the button when they cross. He has hit the button and it goes on. The one on West Terry seems to go off on its own. Mr.

Gibson thinks it's brighter at night because it's dark. He does not know if there is a whole lot more they can do during the day.

IX. NEXT MEETING, March 19, 2018

X

*Next meeting confirmed for March 19, 2018*

X: ADJOURNMENT

X

*Mr. Kauffman made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Hess seconded; meeting adjourned 6:25 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Nadine Chiamonte  
Nadine Chiamonte, Office Assistant

APPROVED

TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY BOARD:

Date: 4/15/19

AUTHENTICATED:

Jim Kauffman  
Jim Kauffman, Chairman

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Any person requiring special accommodations at any of the meetings because of a disability or physical impairment should contact Meg Weiss, Director of Administrative Services at 239-949-6262, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

If a person decides to appeal a decision made by the Council in any matter considered at this meeting/hearing, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, to include the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.