

City County Workshop
February 17, 2016
City of Thomasville's Operation Building
944 Smith Avenue
Noon

Present were: Chairman Kenneth E. Hickey, Vice-Chairman Phillip Brown, Commissioners Moses L. Gross, Elaine Mays, Wiley Grady, Merrill Baker, Mark Nesmith and Hershel Ansley. Also present was Sheriff Carlton Powell, Mike Stephenson, County Manager, Derrick Ogletree, IS Manager, Twink Monahan, County Clerk, Tim Coram, EMS Co-Director, Ann Powell, 911 Director, Chris Jones, Fire Chief, Whitney Hopkins, 911 Training Officer and Steve Jones, Capt. Sheriff's Office.

Representing the City of Thomasville was Mayor Greg Hobbs, Mayor Pro-Tem Don Sims, Councilmembers Max Beverly, Jay Flowers, and Terry Scott. Also present was Steve Sykes, City Manager, Troy Rich, Police Chief, Chris Bowman, Fire Chief, Chris White, Technical Resource Director, and Kathleen Vinson, City Clerk. Representing the media was Patti Dozer and Chris Hurst.

OCCUPATION EXCISE TAX (Hotel Motel)

Steve Sykes gave an update of the progress of the local legislation to increase the excise tax from 5% to 8%.

P25 Upgrade/Motorola

Steve Sykes gave a review of the current platform and the findings from an independent engineering firm for feasible options for the upgrading the system. To leave Motorola is not feasible because all of the current radios can still be used on the upgraded system. The city received a proposal 18 months ago for an estimate of 3.9 million to upgrade the system for Albany, Thomasville and Thomas County. Since that time more regional partners have committed to the system upgrade and resulting in more discounts and the shared cost decreasing; Thomasville, Thomas County, Albany, Lee County, and Grady County. Mr. Sykes stated if they have a contract by March 31 the cost is reduced to 2.5 million with Thomas County's share being under 1 million and Thomasville at 1,040,000. He also said that Thomas County could pay it all up front or finance for 10 years at 0%.

Commissioner NeSmith questioned how the county is expected to pay \$1,000,000 and not even be a part of the negotiations. Mr. Sykes says that he would welcome participation.

The Motorola maintenance fees would be divided by the number of radios. Mr. Stephenson asked what the Thomasville maintenance fee covered because all of our repairs are being done by Motorola and not the city. County department heads have a stock of normal maintenance parts such as antennas and screens. Mr. Stephenson said to avoid some of this in the future the services should be spelled out in a formal relationship, possibly a 50/50 partnership.

Mr. Sykes stated that an Intergovernmental Agreement defining the maintenance agreements would be developed and presented to the county and city.

Commissioner Grady suggested that the county and city managers come to an agreement for the board and council before March 31.

Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)

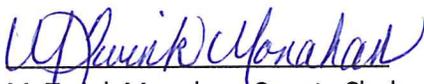
Steve Sykes asked about the SSI upgrade to the 911 Dispatch software and interfacing with the city's record management system.

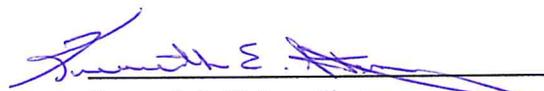
Mike Stephenson stated that communication officers need to be comfortable with a CAD system and there are a number of vendors who offer systems. Previously the department had a 25% turnover rate and Thomas County has worked hard to correct that rate by improving the software and reducing the steps that the communication officers perform during a call. Thomas County is developing an RFP that should be ready by the end of February. The estimated time for award is 4-5 months, possibly by the end of July. The RFP will advertise and no vendor will be excluded. Motorola will probably not be a viable option due to the price. For all of our best interest we are researching to make sure the function of the system does not decrease. This system will last a long time.

Chief Troy Rich said they already have 2 parts of their SSI platform and only one more part is needed, to interface with CAD. The city purchased the SSI System in 2013.

Chief Ann Powell stated that in 2009 she told Chief Rich that she was working on an RFP for new CAD software. The grant was awarded in 2010 to purchase the system. The Aries System was purchased, installed and live in 2012. A system that will be chosen will not lose any of the functionality that the current system now has, making sure that no extra steps are added. Chief Powell stated that we don't want a CAD system that adds ore steps to the process. Additional steps equals more time before the call can dispatched.

Mr. Stephenson said that until we get the proposals and evaluate them we will not know what each vendors systems offers.


M. Twink Monahan, County Clerk


Kenneth E. Hickey, Chairman