

Christian County Commission

Notice is hereby given that the Christian County Commission met for a work-study session at:
The Historic Christian County Courtroom | 100 W. Church Street 2nd floor | Ozark, Missouri, 65721
On the 26th day of June 2023, at 10:30 am
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Presiding Commissioner, Lynn Morris	Billings Mayor, Mickey Brown
Eastern Commissioner, Bradley Jackson	County Auditor, Amy Dent
Western Commissioner, Hosea Bilyeu	Executive Administrative Assistant, Alicia Chavez
Commission Executive Assistant Tammy Nuckolls	Captain, Rocky Seiner
Highlandville City Clerk, Melissa Wise	Ozark Mayor, Don Currence
Joe Campbell	CCE9 911, Becky Bacon
Sparta, SGT. Blackburn	TUSA, Dean Hart
Road Superintendent, Brent Young	Ozark, Chief Justin Arnold
Motorola, Jason Beiler	Clever City Clerk, Kristy Keithley
Nixa, Jimmy Liles	Steve Childers
County Counselor, Austin Fax	Becky Vessar
Highway Administrator, Miranda Beadles	

A quorum was established at 10:31 am.

The Commissioners met to discuss the MOSWIN Project (CC Emergency System).

Presiding Commissioner Morris – We are going to make a decision that will affect every citizen in the County. This project will touch everyone. We have representatives from Nixa, Ozark, Clever, Sparta, Highlandville, and Billings here. The county has come up with our share of 603,000 plus.

Becky Bacon – We have worked very hard to try and make a fair and equitable presentation to you with a \$10.85 for everybody except for 911 and the Commission. We are taking a bigger hit as far as the financing of the project. We have an MOU with the road district because they gave us property to put two of our towers on. This will not affect the road district now.

Western Commissioner Bilyeu - What funds are going to be drawn from?

Amy – There are three funds, one is general revenue, and two are law enforcement. Neither law enforcement funds will be impacted.

Becky – Becky read funds per citizen and CCES Cost – We tried to be fair and equitable. Our 250 contingency puts Christian County Emergency Services 911 almost at 900,000.00 for this project. We took the bulk of the cost of the projects. We have received 8.5 million dollars from the Federal government, and if we don't come up with this money, we will lose it. We need to have a system. This will put us where we need to be and give our service providers the equipment they need to service our citizens and visitors in our community.

Lynn – Will we be sending out an agreement letter?

Becky – Yes, we will do an MOU or some agreement with everyone. Todd W. can have this ready for us. We ask for quickness with meetings or whatever we need to do to push this as quickly as possible if everyone is comfortable with what we're presenting today.

Lynn – If, for some reason, one of the municipalities didn't have the money, we would be able to work something out.

Becky – If they struggle with their portion of the money, we could work something out. We feel everyone should have skin in the game. If you take these numbers and look at the radio numbers that Becky sent, the infrastructure you're going to get far outweighs what it would cost you if you were going to buy your equipment. The county alone is 2 million dollars. 911 doesn't have it all, so we ask for your help moving

forward. This includes equipment for command vehicles and for their command people to have. We need to recognize that we are building an infrastructure that will move us out 20+ years. It will be on a system supported by the state, putting Christian County in a good place.

Lynn – This is not only for the people here today but for those new and moving to our county.

Chief Arnold - We don't have a p25-compliant radio system right now. Most grants for communication require that p25 radio system. This should inspire people to do everything they can to make this a collaborative effort.

Lynn - We want to thank Congressmen Billy Long for the most important thing he has done for our county, he had one favor, and he chose to help Christian County to get this money.

Becky – We need to move as quickly as possible to get this project off the ground.

Jimi - We have been fighting this project for 20 years. Regarding the time frame, we have to get it to our councils and send it to our attorneys. Thank you, Becky and the Commissioners.

Becky – The capacity that we are putting on our sites is great capacity. It allows us to add and grow; once we get this up and going, we will have a system that will take us out 20 - 25 years.

Lynn – Once we start and give you the green light. How long does it take to build?

Consultant/Motorola - 18 months; we will push to get it done quicker.

Becky – We have buildings that they are holding for us, but they won't keep them forever.

Rocky – MOSWIN makes a lot of difference in the clarity. You won't have another opportunity to get this 8.5 million again. We need to ensure that when that officer or deputy needs assistance, they only have to say it once. MOSWIN needs to be in every law enforcement vehicle in the county.

Bradley – Are the radios available for our fire departments coming out of this?

Becky – yes

Bradley – But they're bringing no money into this? They should be on the system but have some skin in the game and contribute.

Becky – It's minimal communication, it puts it in their command vehicles, and it's a cost from the 8.5 million dollars. The more players we get involved, the more time it takes. This is a law enforcement project. We would never have this grant if it weren't for Brad Cole, and Becky did a lot on the administrative side.

Chief Arnold – On the fireside, talking to some fire chiefs, they have many more grant opportunities than we do as law enforcement for this type of thing.

Becky – We have seven districts that will have to buy radios. They are going to have some buy-in. No, we didn't ask the fire department; this is a law enforcement project. We need to move to MOSWIN. I believe that this is all fair and equitable. We chose to move to the law enforcement side first.

Officer - To speak to your point Eastern Commissioner Jackson. We had to decide. Do we want to completely make ourselves an island from fire, or do we want to include them in this so we could have continued interoperability? It didn't make much sense to connect to all of the law enforcement agencies in the county and then get the opportunity to connect to other law enforcement agencies outside of our county if we were going to give up communications with our fireside. So, we had to make a tough decision. We decided that it was appropriate to at least get them some radios with this project so we don't lose that critical communication whenever there are police and fire on a scene, and we need to talk to each other. The fire department will remain on this older system; they are okay with that for now.

Lynn – I think that public safety is the number one thing that every one of us government officials can do. We are asking you to go back and work through your process with your city council, attorneys and what you need to do. This will be a day we can celebrate.

Becky - Let us know if we can be at any of your meetings, and we will be there.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.


Western Commissioner
Hosea Bilyeu


Presiding Commissioner
Lynn Morris


Eastern Commissioner
Bradley A. Jackson