

**JOINT COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
WITH CITY OF TELL CITY
MAY 25, 2021**

The Perry County Council and the City of Tell City Council members met on the above date at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall in Tell City. Council members in attendance were: President Luke Thomas, David Etienne, Charles Baumeister, Earla Williams, Danny Bolin, Paul Malone and Lynn Fulkerson.

Mayor Chris Cail opened the meeting saying we all are looking for a solution for the 911 Dispatch.

Police Officer Roger Smith showed a PowerPoint for all to watch. Roger's major duty is dispatch operations. The 911 Dispatch operates on a 24-hour basis with a certified operator. They receive incoming requests for emergencies, assist and relay those calls to the appropriate responding agency. Currently the 911 Dispatch is located at the Tell City Police department. It has been located in the City of Tell City for several years. There are multiple ways to get dispatch out to respond. Statewide 911 fee is a fee on each standard user that is a customer having a place of primary use in Indiana at a rate that ensures full recovery of the amount needed to make distributions to Treasurers and provide for proper development, operation and maintenance of a Statewide 911 system. The amount of the fee is \$1.00. This amount could be adjusted to ensure adequate revenue to do operations.

Some of Statewide 911 eligible expenses are the lease, purchase, or maintenance of communications service equipment. This equipment is required to allow a PSAP to receive 911 calls from any technology. There is also the necessary system hardware and software and data base equipment, personnel expenses, training and continuing education courses offered as professional development, GIS mapping, radio equipment and other expenses.

Mayor Cail said there are 8 full time, 8 part time and 2 administrative employees for the 911 Dispatch center. He said the city's investment in 2015 (interact) was \$110,758.95 and in 2020 (remodel) for \$70,000.00 plus other expenses from the city's funds. The \$50,000.00 is for operations supervision positions.

In 2020, Tell City's cost to 911 Dispatch was \$906,341.79 and the County's amount was \$184,963.28 that was submitted to the State. Mayor Cail said the City paid out of their General fund \$664,603.55 which is what Tell City residents cover. He said going forward their suggested funding is all of the Statewide 911 fund from the State in the amount of \$283,000.00, City of Tell City (38%) \$299,849.21, City of Cannelton (7%) \$55,235.38, Town of Troy (2%) \$15,781.54 and the County (53%) \$418,210.74 plus amounts from other sources.

Luke asked the Council members present if they had any questions. Charlie and Earla said they would like to have the number of calls that come in for Tell City, County, Cannelton and the Town of Troy. It was said the Statewide 911 funds are used for other expenses, if the City takes over the funds, will you take over all the costs also. Mayor Cail said yes. Chris said the extra funding received for Statewide 911 is not included in these suggested figures. This extra money could be used for other equipment. Commissioner Gregg Jarboe said the funds are used to repair equipment. He said there is not a clear path in the contract on how to take care of this. This needs to be worked out. Luke commented that it is the County's responsibility that there is a functioning PSAP that is fair and realistic to everyone. Chris said we need to put personal feelings aside and look at the numbers moving forward. Gregg said we have had 30 years of good energy of this and need to look forward.

The Council is aware that they need to make a financial decision. They said the contract is very thin with wording. There needs to be signage changes to the contract.

The Council said they need to appoint members to work on this 911 Dispatch funding at their next Council meeting.

Kelli Harding asked how much was there in the extra funds. It was said there was \$150,000.00. She said this is concerning to her that Tell City is taking on the bulk amount and asked why is this money in there.

Danny said there have been discussions on this in years past and we need to do something.

Mayor Chris Cail said he would like to have this resolved in 30 days and have an agreement for January 1, 2022.

The city adjourned their meeting. Lynn made the motion to adjourn the Council meeting, seconded by David. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting ended 5:45 p.m.

President, County Council

Minutes prepared by Pamela Goffinet, Perry County Auditor