

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pat Apple at 1:30 p.m. on January 29, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mike Corrigan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Melissa Doebelin, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ann McMorris, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Barbara Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor
Melissa Wangeman, Kansas Assn. Of Counties
Walter Way, Johnson County Government
Diane Gage, Chair, E911Board, Sedgwick County
Bob Boaldin, Morton County Commissioner
Sheriff Frank Denning, Johnson County
Michele Abbott-Becker, Marion County
Kent Koehler, Chair, Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)
Lyle Wobker, Miami County Commissioner

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Introduction of Bills

Chair offered explanation for a conceptual bill to be drafted permitting a Regents institution to purchase from a separate legal entity which is not electrically filling their cooperative electricity generated by wind from a convergent system on property owned by the Regents institution.

Moved by Senator Masterson, seconded by Senator Brownlee, the conceptual bill as described be drafted.
Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Senator Reitz, seconded by Senator Emler, approve the minutes of the meetings of the Senate Utilities Committee held on January 15, 2009, January 20, 2009, January 21, 2009 and January 22, 2009.
Motion carried.

Chair opened the hearing on

SB 48 - Enhanced wireless and VoIP 911 service amendments, collection and disbursement of certain funds.

Barb Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor, provided the committee with copies of the Performance Audit Report containing the findings, conclusions and recommendations on Wireless Enhanced 911, Reviewing Implementation of the 2004 Act. She offered some suggestions for the committee's consideration in working **SB 48**. (Attachment 1)

Proponents

Melissa Wangeman, Kansas Assn. Of Counties, noted **SB 48** was requested by the Kansas Association of Counties. Purpose of **SB 48** is three-fold: (1) it continues the funding mechanism in current statute for E911 system expenses for another ten years; (2) it clarifies the purpose for which the fee should be used; and (3) it makes some technical amendments. (Attachment 2)

Walter Way, Johnson County Government, noted the concern of public safety communications officials

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Utilities Committee at 1:30 p.m. on January 29, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

and local government officials in the pending July 2010 reduction in 911 revenue authority. (Attachment 3)

Diane Gage, Chair, E911Board, Sedgwick County, expressed concern with the difficult position Sedgwick County would be in with a drop in revenue for 911 fees of \$1.2 Million. (Attachment 4)

Bob Boaldin, Morton County Commissioner, described the many improvements made from using this fund but noted there are still a tremendous amount that needs to be done. A large geographical area in Kansas does not have a state-of-the-art PSAP and the lack of this technology affects everyone. (Attachment 5)

Sheriff Frank Denning, Johnson County, represented the Kansas Sheriffs Association, and supports maintaining the existing E911 funding authorization. (Attachment 6)

Michele Abbott-Becker, Marion County, explained that change and advancement of technology now requires an update of workstations on a routine basis (36-48 months). This need to replace the radios that “push” their received information to the first responders will overwhelm smaller agencies and jurisdictions. (Attachment 7)

Kent Koehler, Chair, Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC), discussed efforts of several Kansas agencies to build standards-based P-25 communications systems with the intent of linking these systems with others to create a common, wide-area, share system. Decisions to use the statewide system are based on cost and coverage. (Attachment 8)

Lyle Wobker, Miami County Commissioner, urged the Legislature to continue the current funding mechanism which has allowed local governments to address critical public safety communications needs (Attachment 9)

Written testimony only from:

Ed Klumpp, Ks. Assn of Chiefs of Police & Kansas Peace Officers Assn. (Attachment 10)

Chief Wes Jordan, JCCSA (Attachment 11)

Christopher E. Way, KEMSA (Attachment 12)

Chair opened for questions. Senator Brownlee asked what it will cost to go forward. When this 911 was started there were no guidelines as to cost. Now that there has been some experience in this area, can some statistics be provided. Walter Way indicated there is a report on the fiscal impact which he will provide to the committee. Barb Hinton, Post Auditor, indicated that Lisa Hoopes could provide a report on their current findings on the replacement of equipment.

Jason Moses of the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department, Office of Emergency Communications, provided information on the activity throughout the state involving Homeland Security and their progress schedule.

Due to the lack of time, all testimony could not be presented. Chair Apple continued the hearing on **SB 48** to Monday, February 2, 2009.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ann McMorris
Committee Assistant
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