



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

911 COMMUNICATIONS

Room 412 East
State Capitol

July 19, 2012
10:00 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

[The following is a summary of the July 19, 2012 meeting of the Special Committee on 911 Communications. The file copy of this summary has appended to it a copy of each document prepared for or submitted to the committee during the meeting. A digital recording of the meeting is available on our Web site at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc>.]

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Ballweg called the committee to order. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Joan Ballweg, Chair; Sen. Robert Jauch, Vice Chair; Rep. Amy Sue Vruwink; and Public Members Jim Backus, Tracey Froiland, Paul Geiszler, James Jermain, Keith Kesler, Brian Landers, Pam McInnis, Todd Nehls, Vicki Sanfelipo, Richard Tuma, and Bradley Welp.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sen. Terry Moulton; and Public Members Thomas Bychinski and Jeff Ranous.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT: Larry Konopacki, Senior Staff Attorney; and Chad Brown, Staff Attorney.

APPEARANCES: Rep. Joan Ballweg, Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Council; Terry C. Anderson, Director, Legislative Council Staff; Trey Forgety, Director of Governmental Affairs, National Emergency Number Association, Alexandria, VA; Dennis Klaila, Rate Analyst, Wisconsin Public Service Commission, Madison; and Deborah Wilichowski, Fire Technical Services Manager, Milwaukee Fire Department, Milwaukee.

Opening Remarks

Chair Ballweg welcomed the committee members. Terry Anderson, Director of the Legislative Council staff, thanked the committee members for their participation, gave opening remarks, and described the Joint Legislative Council and the committee process.

Introduction of Committee Members

Chair Ballweg described the organization of and the procedures for the committee and invited remarks from Senator Jauch, Vice Chair, Senator Moulton, who appeared via telephone, and Representative Vruwink. Chair Ballweg then asked the committee members to introduce themselves.

Presentations by Invited Speakers

Trey Forgety, Director of Governmental Affairs, National Emergency Number Association, Alexandria, VA

Mr. Forgety provided information relating to the history of 911 communication and described the progression of the technology to date. He shared insight into and discussed potential costs of technological changes for the future, including Voice Over Internet Protocol, Next Generation 911, 911 by text message, and Internet Protocol systems. Mr. Forgety concluded his prepared remarks by recommending that the committee consider issues relating to training standards, potential analytical uses of 911 call data that will become available with advancing technologies, requirements for nonproprietary standards for new systems, and existing regulations that may need to be updated moving forward.

Dennis Klaila, Rate Analyst, Wisconsin Public Service Commission, Madison

Mr. Klaila noted the separate state funding mechanisms for land line and wireless 911 in Wisconsin, and described their histories. He spoke to the current state of the land line surcharge, the implementation and administration of the wireless funding mechanism established through the wireless 911 surcharge, and the conversion of this mechanism in 2003 Wisconsin Act 48 from a wireless 911 fee to the current police and fire fee. Mr. Klaila pointed out potential issues with existing contracts in the event of legislative changes, and indicated that the Public Service Commission could provide legislative language to assist with any transition.

Deborah Wilichowski, Fire Technical Services Manager, Milwaukee Fire Department, Milwaukee

Ms. Wilichowski described the Milwaukee Fire Department's next generation capable, internet protocol-based 911 system. She outlined the nature of the calls the department received, and discussed the problems arising from nuisance and abandoned calls. Specifically, she discussed the significance of problems associated with nonprovisioned cell phones, which she defined as phones no longer associated with a phone number or service plan.

Discussion of Committee Assignment

Chair Ballweg engaged the committee in discussion of issues raised during the presentations that the committee could address with speakers or discussion at the next meeting. These issues included nonprovisioned phones, training, and next generation capability. Larry Konopacki briefly described the memorandum that had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Chair Ballweg solicited ideas for the next meeting, including recommendations for speakers or other presentations of information. Suggestions by the committee included input from statewide emergency services organizations and technical colleges, information relating to educating the public on 911, standardization of 911

telecommunicator training and certification, and examination of the trend from landlines to cellular calls.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

CB:ksm