

SEMI-ANNUAL LEC COMMITTEE MEETING

**MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2012 - 7 P.M.
CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Committee Members present: City Councilmen Geiszler, Wentz, and Hoffert; County Commissioners Bohl, Johnston, and Migler. Also present were States Attorney Mack, County Auditor Fursather, Sheriff Lunde, Police Chief Rose, City Auditor Hauck, and Councilman Jacobson was present representing Mayor Cichos who was absent.

Chairman Geiszler called the meeting to order at 7pm.

A motion was made by Migler to approve the minutes as presented from the July 25, 2011, meeting. Second by Wentz, all voting yes, motion carried.

Old Business: Committee Member Hoffert requested an update regarding the money paid to Association of Counties from the revenue from the wireless fund. Auditor Fursather stated the payment was 40% and has gone down to 20%.

Chairman Geiszler stated he would like the committee to review the year end 2011 financial statements provided with the agenda.

In 2011, 9 mills generated \$171,110.02 in revenue for the LEC. Other revenues include State Aid, Homestead Credit, Veterans Credit, Communication Tax, and Financial Institution Tax which came to total revenue of \$226,850.94. Auditor Fursather explained each line item in the revenue.

For the expenditures, each line item was explained. Total expenditures for 2011 were \$180,503.47. An additional line item of prisoner boarding was added to increase expenditures to \$224,561.22. Chairman Geiszler questioned what the prisoner boarding line item was. Auditor Fursather stated that it was the County's portion of prisoner boarding costs. Geiszler questioned why their portion would be in the LEC budget. Fursather explained that the revenue generated from the levy for LEC operations included the amount needed to pay for the County's portion of prisoner boarding costs. A discussion was held on the whether it was appropriate to be taking prisoner boarding costs out of the LEC operations budget. Fursather stated that the State Auditors did not have any problems with this issue.

Auditor Fursather noted that General Property Tax consists of property tax paid by the taxpayers in the County plus taxes paid by utility companies in the County.

A motion was made by Hoffert for Auditor Fursather to make footnotes on both the General Property Tax and the prisoner boarding expense for clarification in the future. Second by Committee Member Johnston, all voting yes, motion carried.

Chairman Geiszler went through the 9-1-1 financials. Auditor Fursather explained the reserves were being built up in those funds in hopes to eventually purchase new 9-1-1 software.

Committee Member Wentz asked if the problems with the 9-1-1 phone system from the past have been fixed. Sheriff Lunde said they haven't had any problems since that problem occurred about a year ago.

Chairman Geiszler stated that dispatch costs are the majority of the expenses for the LEC operations. Everyone understands these costs are high and have escalated in the last few years.

Both Chief Rose and Sheriff Lunde reported that operationally things seem to be going well at the LEC.

Councilman Jacobson stated that he has heard the dispatchers are doing work for the Heart of America Correctional and Treatment Center (HACTC) and wondered if the dispatchers were doing enough work such that they should be billing HACTC for their services. Committee Member Hoffert made a motion to have the dispatchers keep a log of their hours that they do work for HACTC. No second was made to the motion, the motion dies.

Chairman Geiszler stated that there are changes coming with the regulations and guidelines for emergency communication services. If other dispatch agencies cannot comply with the new guidelines, maybe LEC would be able to take more clients and receive revenue from those services. Geiszler had spoken with State Radio personnel who stated that they may be unable to handle the additional call volume.

States Attorney Mack noted that to make more money, more money will need to be spent for equipment and possibly more dispatchers. Also, possible Counties that may need our services would be McHenry and Rolette, with the possibility of getting prisoners from Rolette County as well. Mack stressed that even if these things happen, everything will still need to run smoothly at the jail.

A motion was made by Committee Member Bohl to have Sheriff Lunde and the 9-1-1 Coordinator look into the new North Dakota Century Code stating the new guidelines and standards for emergency communication services and check back with the committee at the July 2012, meeting. Second by Hoffert, all voting yes, motion carried.

Chairman Geiszler reported that the LEC Sub-Committee has covered a lot of ground with the LEC Agreement. The process will continue, but until a new agreement is in place, operations will continue under the old agreement.

The next LEC Committee meeting will be held on the last Monday in July.

A motion was made by Hoffert to adjourn. Second by Wentz, all voting yes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Dawn Hauck, City Auditor

Date Submitted

Arland Geiszler, Chairman

Date Submitted