

Executive Board

City of Bellevue
City of Kirkland
City of Redmond
City of Mercer Island
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**EXECUTIVE BOARD
SUMMARY OF MINUTES**

June 6, 2014
2:30 p.m.

Kirkland City Hall
Council Chambers
Kirkland, Washington

PRESENT: Kurt Triplett, John Marchione, Brad Miyake, Noel Treat, Bob Harrison

ALTERNATES:

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Scott Hatfield, Jessie Morgan, Mike Eisner, Mark Risen, Marlin Blizinsky, Sean Douglas, Oskar Rey, Mark Hagreen

1. Call to Order
The special meeting was called to order at 2:39 p.m. by Kurt Triplett, who presided.
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
John Marchione motioned to approve the agenda, it was seconded by Bob Harrison and carried 4-0.
4. Consent Agenda
5. Action Items
6. Reports
 - a) **2015/2016 Budget/Access Fee Discussion**
Kurt Triplett advises having the budget discussion today will allow the Executive Board to cancel the scheduled June meeting. Scott Hatfield reports that he presented the budget to the Operations Committee last month for a first look and is doing the same with the Executive Board today, thereby giving both bodies a month with the new budget before ratification. Scott Hatfield presents a PowerPoint presentation outlining the budget goals of EPSCA: highest level of service, cost effective support, transparent management and 99.999% availability. Scott Hatfield reviewed the 2013 budget which was largely below

budget in expenditures and a little above budget in revenue. The subscriber fee for 2013 was \$33.01 and EPSCA was able to keep the rate flat for 2014 as well. Our subscriber base is slowly growing and we are spending less on staff. Jessie Morgan and Scott Hatfield have scrutinized the 2015/2016 budget for errors and are confidently recommending a 2015 user fee of \$30.07 and 2016 user fee of \$30.54. Scott Hatfield will return with a recommendation from the Operations Committee at the next Executive Board meeting for 2015/2016 Budget ratification.

Noel Treat arrives at 2:40 p.m.

b) PSERN Update

Kurt Triplett requested introductions from the audience.

Brad Miyake arrives at 2:55 p.m.

Kurt Triplett reports that King County needs to know if EPSCA is willing to go to a single entity or not. To do that, EPSCA would have to vote to dissolve. In order to dissolve, EPSCA would need 4 out of 5 principles to vote for dissolution. In order to make the decision, Kurt Triplett would like to know what the principles require in order to make their individual decisions. Kurt Triplett reports that PSERN has 2 goals: prepare for a potential ballot measure in 2015 to fund the replacement of the King County public safety radio systems and to provide advice and direction for the governance structure of this replacement radio system. The heart of the matter is the County's assumption that there will be one nonprofit entity that will take over all of the radio management and that the existing entities will dissolve into this new entity. The Steering Committee has been working on an interlocal that would accomplish this. In the past, EPSCA has requested a cost/benefit analysis and now we have preliminary numbers. Seattle and King County currently have a customer owned and maintained model (COAM) where all work is done in house and ValleyCom and EPSCA have a contracted services model where the work is contracted out. Scott Hatfield presented the 2 types of maintenance models and compared the costs in the first year and the 3rd year (post warranty period). The level of service and cost is much higher in the COAM model than in the contracted services model lending to a higher cost per radio. Scott Hatfield stressed that the numbers presented were best estimates and were not to be considered as a budget.

Bob Harrison left at 3:04 p.m.

Bob Harrison returned at 3:05 p.m.

The number of sites is increasing from 26 to a proposed 47 to increase coverage. If the new system is to be governed by one entity then it will be the COAM model. The County needs to know when it starts negotiations with the vendor whether it is negotiating as a single entity or for 4 separate entities as it is now. Scott Hatfield does not recommend that the entire new system be contracted out. The options are to either go one entity with a COAM model of service or to remain as we are with the new system where the new system would be divided up amongst the 4 entities and EPSCA would continue to contract out their portion of the services and the other 3 entities would either COAM or contract out their services as they do now. Currently, Seattle's subscriber rate is \$26.62, King County's is \$34.19, EPSCA's is \$33.01 and ValleyCom charges based on the number of push to talks in a certain month which ranges from \$4.36 to \$34.31 per radio. By July or August, EPSCA needs to make a decision so that the County may proceed with the process. King County believes a single entity with a COAM model is the best model,

EPSCA believes that the current model with contracted services is more sustainable for the long term for EPSCA's customers. Kurt Triplett urges the Executive Board to gather information needed for the decision to be made because it is going to need to be made soon. Marlin Blizinsky advises that 49% of the time, EPSCA users are not using their own towers. How the future towers are divided amongst the 4 sub-regions will contribute to costs. The new system is more like a computer system than a radio system and will work as one system even more so than it does now. Having different models of maintenance within the same system will affect everyone else on the system. The purpose of governance is to ensure reasonable rates and reasonable service. Rates and service level rise and fall hand in hand. EPSCA needs to decide how much it can afford.

Bob Harrison left at 3:55 p.m.

Kurt Triplett once again urges the Executive Board to educate themselves on this issue and be prepared to make a decision soon.

7. Other/Information
Next week's meeting is canceled and we will be meeting again on July 10, 2014.
8. Executive Session
9. Adjourn
Being no further business, meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

**Next Meeting
Scheduled for:**

**July 10, 2014
10:00 a.m.**