



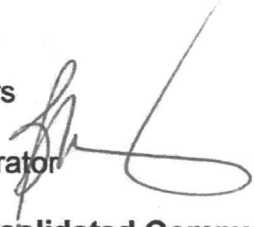
BERTHA W. HENRY, County Administrator

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 409 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7362 • FAX 954-357-7360

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 28, 2013

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Bertha Henry, County Administrator 

SUBJECT: Update on Implementing Consolidated Communications System

On March 19, 2013, the Board approved recommendations #2 through #7 from the final I-Board report. For recommendation #1, the Board approved a funding model where 60% of the operational costs will be funded by the County, and the remaining 40% would be funded by participating municipalities through a Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU).

Based on this direction, County staff met with the municipalities on Wednesday, March 27th to discuss next steps in the process for implementing a Consolidated Regional E911 and Communications System including time frames, development of an MSTU Ordinance and Interlocal Agreement (ILA).

As part of the presentation, County staff discussed a draft MSTU Ordinance for municipalities' consideration. A copy of what was provided is attached. Timelines to be met in order to establish the MSTU funding portion of the regional system for FY14 was also addressed. The contemplated dates are as follows:

- April 2, 2013 – County sets Public Hearing for MSTU Ordinance
- April 23, 2013 – County Public Hearing to Approve MSTU Ordinance
- April 23, 2013 – County requests approval of standard ILA
- May 10, 2013 – MSTU Ordinances and ILAs are due from municipal participants
- May 15, 2013 – MSTU Information submitted to Property Appraiser for TRIM Notice

During the meeting, municipalities shared concerns regarding the time frames for review and approval of the MSTU Ordinance and ILA. Particularly, many of them have a "two reading" requirement for ordinances. While it is required under the statutes, it is the ILA that will commit the Municipality to be a participant. For planning purposes, we have proposed that the MSTU millage be capped at .17 mills. The final amount for TRIM purposes cannot be determined until the Property Appraiser provides the preliminary tax roll in June and participants in the system are known.

A draft Interlocal Agreement, also prepared by the County Attorney's Office, will be provided to municipalities next week, followed by a meeting to discuss the contents. The principles of the ILA will be based on previous discussions by the I-Board regarding the desired system.

Finally, the issue of Chapter 164 Dispute Resolution Proceedings was raised as some municipalities indicated their intent to initiate action. As you know, a tentative settlement has been reached with Pembroke Pines, similar to that which was offered to and rejected by the City of Fort Lauderdale. We will present this item on April 9, 2013.

Notwithstanding these issues, we will continue to move forward with technical activities to create the regional system, including preparing the centers with the necessary call taking and dispatch equipment for those that wish to remain a host for the regional system. You may recall, each of these was previously contemplated as a "flee to site" in case of emergencies. This may require additional funding for one-time equipment needs and other transitional costs, which would not be part of the 60% operational costs to the County. We have identified a source for these funds.

We are also proceeding with the creation of a local government channel to take non law enforcement/emergency traffic off the current public safety radio system.

As we continue, status updates will be provided.

BH/

Attachments

**cc: Joni Armstrong Coffey, County Attorney
Alphonso Jefferson, Jr., Assistant to the County Administrator
Kayla Olsen, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Rick Carpani, Director, Office of Communications Technology**