COMMISSIONERS’ COURT DOCKET, DECEMBER 21, 2007
SPECIAL SESSION

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this the 21st day of December, 2007, the Honorable Commissioners’ Court of Montgomery County, Texas, was duly convened in a Special Session in the Commissioners’ Courtroom of the Montgomery County Courthouse Annex, Conroe, Texas, with the following Members of the Court present:

County Judge, Alan “Barb” Sadler
Commissioner, Precinct #1 - Mike Meador
Commissioner, Precinct #2 - Craig Doyal
Commissioner, Precinct #3 - Ed Chance
Commissioner, Precinct #4 - Ed Rinehart
Also - Aimie Kemp, County Clerk’s Office

AGENDA ITEM 3 - COUNTY JUDGE - PROPOSED (NEW) RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, I.E. 800 MHZ, ETC

Bob Gunter with Montgomery County 911 addressed the Court. On November 19th, the FCC adopted an agency to run the “next generation” system. The new radio system granted the new frequencies to the Public Safety Spectrum Trust Corporation. Mr. Gunter advised the Court to have the contractual language include upgradable features so that new radio communication system is able to work with National Public Safety in the future.

Peggy Frankhouser, Captain, Staff Services - Sheriff’s Office, addressed the Court. Radio frequencies have been allocated but are being reshuffled at present based on new rules and regulations by the FCC. Every region, including Montgomery County in Region 51, is looking at these frequency allocations. Twenty-five frequencies were allocated for Montgomery County. Changes and upgrades will always be a factor.

Alan Johnson, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Hospital District outlined the Montgomery County Board of Directors’ Meeting minutes and position from December 18, 2007. The Montgomery County Hospital District Board of Directors asked that the Court reconsider its decision and continue with RFP process through a competitive bid process. The Board approved an Interlocal Agreement requested by Phyllis Rainey and Greg Hudson (General Counsel). Also, the Board endorsed staff request that any future P25 system in Montgomery County include an ISSI link to allow connections between systems, shared radio identification, and coverage that meets or exceeds current coverage standards, acceptance testing & system acceptance processes recommended by RCC or other consultants, and present and future P25’s on the system be allowed on any P25 system in Montgomery County regardless of vendor. The Board also authorized General Counsel to seek transfer of the six frequencies that were promised in the original Interlocal Agreement. The current system will be on board for the next two years to facilitate an effective transfer for any users that want to move. To blunt the financial impact, Mr. Johnson recommends including in the motion the ability to use P25 radios of other vendors on Montgomery County System.
City of Conroe Fire Department Chief, Ken Kreger, addressed the Court. The City hired a professional consultant which recommended a competitive RFP process that would attempt to meet everyone’s needs. The proposal would limit or completely remove ability for competitive bids or to consider current investment in current system. To go forward with this proposal would mean enabling a system with no performance standards that ensures needs will be met and leaves the true cost unclear, with possible upgrade costs in the future. Citizens of Conroe would be paying for two systems. The public safety radio system is and should be a cooperative endeavor for all Montgomery County entities. Chief Kreger asked for reconsideration and also to allow cooperative effort to continue with the RFP process.

Greg Munchraph, RCC Consultant, addressed the Court. Mr. Munchraph has not seen the Proposal but has seen the Power Point presentation which does not provide enough detail to evaluate the offering or make a buying decision. There is no statement of work or performance standards. If there are not coverage guarantees and acceptance testing procedures in place, this probably would not pass the RFP evaluation process. Mr. Munchraph sees no issue in waiting to evaluate proposal, which would take approximately three weeks, with a report before February 1.

Mark Bosma addressed the Court. Based on the information put together by Mr. Munchraph to HGAC, line for line the deals are very comparable. There are 30,000 users on the regional system at present. Our radios can patch using Moto Bridge or console.

Linda Breazeale added that Motorola will most likely not automatically allow future purchases to be included with original financing package.

Judge Sadler would like to amend the contract to have Motorola agree to the same financing for all the cities and fire departments as per the terms of the contract. Fire Department, 13 small cities, and the City of Conroe to be allowed the same financing. Also, to be able to connect Motorola and Maycom radios. Motorola to decide whether to accept. Mark Bosma to negotiate the contract.

Commissioner Meador spoke that this is the best deal for Montgomery County and of the need to move forward.

Phyllis Rainey clarified that amendments to the contract including changes for P25 radios be able to talk and requesting Motorola to offer financing to other entities means that we don’t have the assurance that Motorola accepts.

Contract approved. No motion made.

Randy Doyle, Assistant Chief - Needham Fire Department, addressed the Court as public servant and as a Shenandoah citizen. He stressed that he would be paying County, Hospital District, Emergency Service District, and City taxes, with this decision, and advised the Court to spend some more time evaluating the proposal.

1. COURT ADJOURNED

Motion by Commissioner Meador, seconded by Commissioner Chance, that this Session of Court be adjourned. Motion carried.

The above and foregoing Minutes were read and approved by the Court.
ATTEST:

Mark Turnbull, County Clerk  
Ex-Officio Clerk - Commissioners’ Court  
Montgomery County, Texas

BY:  _____________________________________  ______________________________
     COUNTY CLERK  
     COUNTY JUDGE

12-21-07