

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND
ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ROCK FALLS

February 7th, 2017

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of Rock Falls, Illinois was called to order by Mayor William B. Wescott at 6:30 p.m. February 7th, 2017 in the Council Chambers of Rock Falls.

City Clerk Eric Arduini called the roll following the pledge of allegiance. A quorum was present including Aldermen Reitzel, Logan, Snow, Kuhlemier, Schuneman, Kleckler, and Folsom. In addition Attorney Tom Sanders was present.

Audience Requests:

Michael Rizzo a Whiteside County landowner approached the Council and presented a written statement that he wished to be entered into the record. Mr. Rizzo expressed his concerns about the proposed 911 consolidation, and Rock Falls dispatch employees being transferred to being Whiteside County employees. He had expressed his concerns at an October 20th, 2016 Whiteside County ETSB 911 board meeting, and the minutes have never been posted to their website. Mr. Rizzo presented a list of minutes taken from the Whiteside County website. Mr. Rizzo alleges that the Sherriff Department Dispatch has corruption, and is trying to impede in solving crimes.

Mayor Wescott explained the State requirement of consolidating the PSAP units from three to two. He inquired if Mr. Rizzo had attended a County Board meeting to address these concerns. Mr. Rizzo said that he attended a Public Safety Subcommittee on May 5th, 2016, and has since been harassed.

Alderman Logan urged Mr. Rizzo to address this to the County Board as the City of Rock Falls has its own Police Department, and does not rely on the Sherriff's Department for Police Protection.

Mr. Rizzo stated that the U.S. Department of Justice has just reviewed the Chicago Police Department, and he feels the same should happen in Whiteside County because no Police corruption is acceptable. The cities of Rock Falls and Sterling should not make their employees become employees of the County, and should not trust dispatch duties be handled by the Sherriff's Department.

Community Affairs:

Bethany Bland, President /CEO of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce gave a packet of information to the Council about upcoming events. Mrs. Bland informed the Council that 1/2 of the bake sale proceeds will be donated to the Rock Falls Sesquicentennial Celebration. She is asking for old photos of businesses in Rock Falls for the Annual Chamber Dinner. Shoulder to the Wheel nominations are still being accepted at the Chamber office. Mrs. Bland also presented the Council with a shop local discount card.

Mayor Wescott thanked Mrs. Bland and reminded the Council the Sesquicentennial Celebration will be held July 29th - August 5th, 2017.

Consent Agenda:

The Consent agenda was read aloud by Clerk Arduini. A motion to approve the consent agenda by omnibus designation was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Folsom.

1. Approve the Minutes of the January 17th, 2017 Regular Council Meeting.
2. Approval of bills as presented.

Alderman Rod Kleckler pointed out that the votes of two of the motions were not recorded in the minutes. The motion was amended to approve the minutes with the corrections.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Ordinance First Reading:

Mayor Wescott asked that **Ordinance 2017-2298 be removed** from consideration for first reading pending legal review.

A motion to approve the first reading of **Ordinance 2017-2299** an ordinance authorizing the issuance of general obligation alternate bonds of the City of Rock Falls, Whiteside County, Illinois, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$13,000,000 for the paying the costs of designing, constructing and operating a broadband internet system for the City and related expenses was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Reitzel. Alderman Kleckler asked the Council to think about what would happen if municipal broadband becomes a huge success. The business plan does not address what will happen to the other businesses such as Comcast, Direct TV, and ATT. He expects that these businesses would not stay in the City of Rock Falls, and the General Fund could lose around \$400,000 in taxes and pole attachment fees.

Viva Voce Vote, 6 Aye, 1 Nay (Kleckler)

City Administrator Robbin D. Blackert:

A motion was made by Alderman Snow, and second by Alderman Folsom for the approval of MFT Supplemental **Resolution 2017-756**. Administrator Blackert informed the committee that this was necessary due to going over budget by \$2000.00 on aggregate and items purchased with MFT money.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

A motion was made by Alderman Kuhlemier, and second by Alderman Logan for the approval of the underwriting engagement letter with Robert W. Baird & Co. for General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2017.

Vote 6 aye, 1 nay (Kleckler) motion carried

**Department Heads:
Electric- Dick Simon**

A motion was made by Alderman Schuneman and second by Alderman Logan for the approval upon city attorney review and drafting of documents of a contract for the sale of Renewable Energy Credits with Marex Spectron - 360 Madison Avenue, New York NY. 10017 in the amount of \$7.50 - \$8.00 per credit.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Utility Office - Diane Hatfield

A motion was made by Alderman Snow and second by Alderman Schuneman for the approval of write-offs for the Utility Office and Electric Department in the amount of \$22,989.93.

Vote 7 aye, motion carried

Ward Reports:

Ward 2:

Alderman Kuhlemier gives best wishes to former Mayor David Blanton as he is recovering from serious back surgery.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Wescott informed the Council that the City of Rock Falls will be hosting the Northern Illinois Mayor's Meeting at the Candlelight Inn on February 16th, 2017 at 6:00pm. Brad Cole from the Illinois Municipal League will be in attendance along with 6 or 7 other members of the IML Executive Board. He invited any Aldermen who are interested to let him know. Alderman Kuhlemier said that it is a very worthwhile group, and a good speaker.

Mayor Wescott will be giving the "State of the City" address at the February 21st. City Council meeting.

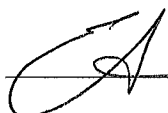
Any Aldermen interested in attending the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner, please let Clerk Arduini know to put you on the list.

Mayor Wescott mentioned that planning for the Sesquicentennial Celebration is coming together. The event will be held from July 29th, 2017 to August 5th, 2017. The Chamber has taken on the parade planning, and there will be many historical events. The next planning meeting is scheduled for February 20th at 6:00pm.

With nothing else for the good of the Council a motion was made by Alderman Folsom and second by Alderman Reitzel to adjourn the meeting at 7:03pm.

Viva Voce Vote, motion carried

Meeting is adjourned at 7:03pm



Eric Arduini, City Clerk

February 7, 2017

TO: Rock Falls Mayor William B. Wescott & City Council
603 W. 10th St.
Rock Falls, Illinois

RE: ETSB (Emergency Telephone Systems Board)/ 911 Dispatch

SUBJECT: Whiteside County Sheriff/ dispatch consolidation

On November 28, 2015, I requested a Sheriff's deputy to investigate damage from tire tracks.

My hired man made the initial phone call to Sheriff's dispatch. The operator asked if the vehicle was still there. He told her that the vehicle which committed the damage was not present, but that he wished to have a deputy dispatched to make a report. The operator delayed and impeded his request for several minutes.

He then handed me the phone. I identified myself as the property manager and family of the owner, and told the operator that I wished to have a deputy dispatched to view the evidence and make a report. She continued to delay, then asked if I would give my phone number in order to have a deputy call me back. I told the operator that I wished to have a deputy meet me at the property.

The operator then told me that there was a deputy present with her at the station, and she would let me talk to him. Deputy Michael Lewis took the phone and asked me to describe the location, which I did. He told me that he knew the location, and I asked him when he could arrive to make a report. He told me that he was making a report over the phone!

Through FOIA request, it is my understanding that the dispatcher I spoke to on Nov. 28, 2015 was Ellen Anderson. It is my opinion that she deliberately impeded and delayed my request to summon a deputy to investigate criminal damage to property on my family farm.

On July 2, 2016, I phoned Sheriff's dispatch to request a deputy to investigate a bumper dumped in the ditch and an auto chair dumped in the field at the same property. I asked the time frame for a deputy to arrive, and I received an evasive reply. The operator asked for my phone number, and told me that they could have a deputy call me back.

Deputies Jeffrey Wunderlich and Jed Renkes pulled up together. This was unusual as the call was not an emergency, and as before, the dispatcher deliberately attempted to impede and delay my request to send a deputy to take a report.

After looking at the dumped items and before leaving, Renkes conveyed a threat to me that leads me to believe that he and others within the Sheriff's Office are conspiring to violate my Constitutional rights under color of law.

Sending two deputies to take a routine call when dispatchers Ellen Anderson and others had previously engaged in a pattern of delaying and impeding my requests for service indicates that either the dispatcher notified Renkes of my call, and he then jumped on the call with Wunderlich in order to make contact with me for the purpose of threatening and confronting me, or Renkes was acting on the orders of Sheriff Wilhelmi in order to do so.

On October 20, 2016, I attended the Whiteside County ETSB meeting in order to learn more about Sheriff's dispatch, as well as give public comment on incidents of malfeasance including those described above. Neither James Duffy nor Tim Cain were present to represent the taxpayers.

Rather than welcoming a taxpayer who paid over \$11,600.00 to Whiteside County in the year 2016 alone, E911 Coordinator Karl Kovarik asked, "Who are you?" when I entered the hearing room. I answered that I was a citizen and taxpayer.

During the public comment, I asked Karl if the Sheriff's dispatch non-emergency calls were recorded. He said they were not. I asked him how long they retained the emergency calls, he said usually about ninety days.

I asked him if there was a statute that required them to retain the recordings, he said he was not aware of any. In other words, it is my understanding from Karl's answers that he could delete recordings without criminal penalties if they reflected poorly on Sheriff's employees or others.

I asked Karl if they had operator numbers or any way to identify which dispatchers took a call. He said there are only seven dispatchers, and "we know their voices."

I asked him if the dispatchers are Sheriff's employees, and he said yes. I asked him if there was a supervisor for the dispatchers, and he said yes, but did not state the name of this person.

Karl said that public comment was limited to five minutes, and they needed to get on with their meeting. I told him that I took some trouble to be there, and we could probably finish up in a few minutes so that I didn't have to come back again to get my questions answered. Karl is fairly skilled at applying the bum's rush to pesky citizens.

In reviewing the ETSB board minutes posted online at the Whiteside.org website, it appears that not one member of the public has attended an ETSB meeting since 2009, so apparently discussing the performance of Sheriff's dispatch was a historic event, but did not merit more than five minutes discussion.

I asked Karl if the Sheriff's cars had GPS positioning so that we could know if they were being dispatched efficiently. John Booker had been texting furiously for several minutes, no doubt to let Sheriff Wilhelmi know I was in the building.

Booker seemed unable to contain his discomfort at having to deal with a lowly taxpayer actually daring to question how their money was spent, and interjected a ridiculous comment to the effect of, "That's a police matter." (GPS in cars) The comment was so disjointed and irrelevant that I am not quite sure how I responded. Then he continued to the effect of, "If you wanted to harm a deputy, then you would know his location."

Since I do not own a personal space satellite, I found this statement to be one of the most absurd and disconnected from reality that I have ever heard in politics, and I've heard a lot of lies over the years.

Apparently John Booker thinks that a landowner whose ancestors date to the year 1870 in Whiteside County is secretly some sort of James Bond villain like Dr. No, with my own private spacepad facility to launch satellites craftily disguised on my family farm.

I viewed the Whiteside County website on Sunday, February 5, to see if an accurate record of my unanswered questions of Karl Kovarics and the sage pronouncements of John Booker had been preserved for future generations.

To my not so utter amazement, the minutes of the October 20, 2016 ETSB meeting are not posted on the website! Apparently the Wizard of Oz has caused the minutes to disappear. The July 2016 911/ETSB Minutes are shown, then the listing skips up to the January 2017 911/ETSB Minutes. I'm sure it's for the public good, so as not to distress children of all ages within Whiteside County.

In criminal investigations it is very rare to find evidence of conspiracy. The purpose of conspiring to commit a crime is for the several conspirators to keep their nefarious plans secret. If Karl didn't post the minutes of the October meeting, that is evidence that the unelected bureaucracy centered around the county seat in Morrison is hiding damaging information.

The minutes of the ETSB minutes from April 16, 2015, show that Tim Cain retired from the Sheriff's Office, and was then appointed to the "public-at-large" position on the ETSB. This deliberately defeats the purpose of citizen oversight of government, and perfectly illustrates the corrupt good old boy shadow system which infests government in Whiteside County.

Since 2012, myself, my mother and our employees have filed or attempted to file numerous criminal complaints with the Whiteside Sheriff's office for some of the following crimes:

Damage to fencing, damage to crop fields, dumping of deer and other animals, dumping of garbage, trespassing, and forced entry, just to name a few. Our machine shed that was forcibly broken into and items stolen in 2012 currently shows a cluster of bullet holes from high power rifle rounds, which I believe were made by a .223 Remington, commonly used by coyote hunters.

To my knowledge, not one of our complaints to the Whiteside Sheriff has been solved, not one suspect has been identified, and not one offender has been charged or arrested.

Deputies on scene have consistently failed to gather evidence or take photographic evidence, and later viewing of their reports has shown that relevant photographs which we personally supplied to deputies have not been attached to their reports.

Further, some reports fail to identify the names of criminal suspects which are known to the deputies.

Regarding Sheriff's dispatch personnel, Ellen Anderson and other dispatchers whose names are currently unknown to me have repeatedly attempted to delay or impede sending deputies to investigate crimes at our property, have refused to inform me of a time estimate for the arrival of deputies at our property, and have impeded and delayed our ability to file criminal complaints by asking for our number, supposedly to have deputies call us back when and if they feel like it!

Apparently Sheriff's deputies in Whiteside County are able to decide if they feel like doing their jobs, with the collusion and interference of the dispatchers.

On several occasions, I was speaking to a dispatcher taking my location and other information, and the voice of Ellen Anderson or another person intercepted the call in order to argue, and interfere with my ability to place a criminal complaint.

The facts, evidence, documentation, and personal experience I have accumulated since 2012 indicate to me the following:

That Ellen Anderson and other dispatchers are routinely taking actions which deliberately delay and interfere with the ability of citizens to make criminal complaints with the Whiteside Sheriff's Office in unincorporated areas of the county.

That Deputies including Jed Renkes, George Depuy, and others have deliberately failed to collect evidence at crime scenes, have failed to attach photographic evidence to their reports when given to them to them personally, have deliberately left crime scenes without collecting obvious evidence, have deliberately failed to identify criminal suspects by name in their reports when known to them, and have deliberately failed to contact and/or forward for investigation criminal suspects whom they have evidence to believe committed crimes.

I attended the Whiteside Public Safety committee meeting on May 5, 2017, in order to address some of the incidents mentioned above. I provided the committee with a two page statement that was attached to the minutes of the full Whiteside County board on May 17, 2016, as pages 24 & 25.

After the Public Safety meeting, I phoned committee member Bud Thompson on May 28, 2016, to discuss some of the (lack of) performance discussed. After coming to the phone, he told me that he was eating dinner and didn't have time to talk, then promptly hung up.

I phoned committee member Paul Cunniff at the contact phone number listed on the Whiteside website, and received a message that the number was disconnected. I understand that Cunniff is a county board member from Rock Falls.

No reasonable person could be expected to believe that the performance of Sheriff's deputies or dispatchers concerning their life and property in Whiteside County is receiving adequate scrutiny from elected officials, when two of the four Public Safety committee members don't care enough about "public safety" to take or answer a phone call from a taxpayer.

Based on the events and evidence presented above, it is my opinion that there is no effective rule of law in the unincorporated areas of Whiteside County under the jurisdiction of Sheriff Wilhelmi, and that employing dispatchers under the chain of command of the Sheriff's Office poses a clear and present danger to the life and property of every citizen of Rock Falls, whether they be taxpayers, business owners, or travelers.

No sort of government that is based on lies, deception, intimidation and corruption is acceptable within our American system of government under the Constitution. Good Old Boy government is not good government.

It is my opinion that any transfer of dispatchers from the cities of Rock Falls or Sterling, Illinois, to the jurisdiction of the Whiteside County Sheriff places your lives, families, and property at risk.

Therefore I recommend that the city of Rock Falls NOT under any circumstances enter into or further any sort of intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Whiteside County, until such time as your city councilmen and concerned citizens attend the next meeting of the ETSB/911 board on April 20, 2017, in order to further investigate the matters presented above.

I further recommend that the cities of Rock Falls and Sterling, Illinois, in conjunction with Whiteside County, create a non-partisan and representative elected body to control and employ any public safety dispatch functions within the county, wholly outside the control of the Sheriff.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Rizzo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.


Michael Rizzo

Search ...

911 / ETSB Meeting MINUTES

Documents

Order by

 **January 2017 911/ETSB Minutes**

Published on 27 January 2017

Download
(pdf, 49 KB)

 **July 2016 911/ETSB Minutes**


Published on 30 October 2016

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 **June 2, 2016 911/ETSB Special Meeting Minutes**


Published on 22 July 2016

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 **April 2016 911/ETSB Minutes**

Published on 21 July 2016

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 **January 2016 911/ETSB Minutes**

Published on 02 May 2016

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 **September 2015 911/ETSB Minutes - Special Meeting**

Published on 30 November 2015

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