

1997-56

Resolution to Hold a Public Hearing on a Proposed Increase in the E-911/Central Dispatch Telephone Surcharge of an Additional Four Percent

Whereas in August, 1996, the Clinton County Electorate authorized a five year telephone surcharge as a method of funding the operational and capital needs of the Enhanced 911/Central Dispatch Center, and

Whereas the surcharge is authorized to be levied on single line telephones within the County at 20% of the highest single line rate found within the County, and

Whereas the Clinton County Board of Commissioners has levied 16% of the 20% surcharge for 911 operational expenses and equipment improvements, which costs \$2.32 per line per month, and

Whereas the Board did not wish to levy the additional 4%, which would raise the surcharge \$.58 per month to \$2.90, until it was found that the cost of the necessary radio improvements warranted such an increase, and

Whereas the County commissioned a study of the problems with and possible solutions to the current radio system, and found that the 1970's radio system and equipment needed to be replaced to correct many deficiencies, including a lack of interoperability between police, fire, and EMS radios; continual breakdown of old police and central dispatch radio equipment; a lack of backup capabilities in the event the 911/Central Dispatch Center cannot function; non-existent radio communication in several areas of the county; towers which are in violation of FCC regulations; and a lack of available frequencies which crowd multiple users on the same frequency, and

Whereas, the study concluded that the only way to reduce or eliminate these difficulties would be to move to an 800mhz system, and

Whereas, in the process of researching the County's options and preparing the bid specifications with regard to radio improvements, it has been determined that the cost of the radio equipment and towers will easily exceed \$1 million if the County chose to lease through the State's 800mhz system, and will exceed \$2 million if the County develops its own 800mhz system, and

Whereas, the amount which is anticipated to be generated from the additional 4% surcharge is estimated at \$200,000 per year, which, when combined with the current 16% surcharge, may not

be sufficient to pay for the necessary improvements before the surcharge authorization expires; however, if it is found that the costs can be paid without levying the additional surcharge for the full four years, the Board can reduce the surcharge at that time.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Clinton County Board of Commissioners proposes to levy an additional 4% surcharge on single line telephones within Clinton County. The additional surcharge will be approximately \$.58 per month for each single line telephone and is estimated to raise approximately \$200,000 per year to be used for radio improvements for the enhanced 911/Central Dispatch system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the proposed surcharge on November 20, 1997 to answer questions and hear concerns of County residents regarding the proposed additional surcharge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners will consider the levy of an additional surcharge to pay for radio improvements for the 911 system, however, if it is found that the costs can be paid without levying the additional surcharge for the full four years, the Board will reduce the surcharge at that time.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF CLINTON)

I, DIANE ZUKER, Clerk of the County of Clinton do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Clinton County Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting held October 28, 1997 and is on file in the records of this office.

Diane Zuker, County Clerk