



Board of Supervisors Memorandum

April 1, 2014

**Pima County Representatives on the Board of Directors
for the Pima County Wireless Integrated Network**

Introduction

The transition from planning and implementing the Public Safety Interoperable Communications System to operation of the system has recently occurred. This has been a \$95 million General Obligation bond investment of Pima County to provide an interoperable public safety communication system involving 34 police and fire agencies throughout Pima County. This system is capable of including additional agencies with their appropriate capital contribution to the system.

The system will become fully operational with the transition of the Tucson Police Department to this new communication system on April 9, 2014. The attached February 21, 2014 memorandum from Emergency Management and Homeland Security Director discusses the background and ultimate transition of the governance of the Public Safety Interoperable Communications System from implementation to operation.

I would like to express my appreciation for the previous Board of Directors of the implementation team; Sheriff Clarence Dupnik for his leadership and the dedication of the staff to make this most important and necessary public safety communications system successful. Also, without the vote of the citizens of Pima County who supplied \$95 million in General Obligation bonds for this effort, each entity and agency would have been required to pay these capital costs from their operating budget. Pima County will be the largest single user at 41 percent followed by the City of Tucson for their police and fire services at 35.4 percent of all users.

Now that the Public Safety Interoperable Communications System has been implemented, it is appropriate to appoint County representatives to the Pima County Wireless Integrated Network Board of Directors.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Supervisors appoint Deputy County Administrator Jan Leshar as the Pima County representative on the Pima County Wireless Integrated Network Board of Directors and Chief Information Officer Jesse Rodriguez as the County's alternate member effective July 1, 2014.

The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Re: **Pima County Representatives on the Board of Directors for the Pima County Wireless Integrated Network**

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Respectfully submitted,



C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/anc – March 21, 2014
Attachment

c: Jan Leshar, Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services
Mike Hein, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
Jesse Rodriguez, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Department



MEMORANDUM

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Date: February 21, 2014

To: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

From: Mike Hein, Director 
Office of Emergency Management
& Homeland Security

Re: **Pima County Wireless Integrated Network (PCWIN) Board of Directors Representation**

Background

The Pima County Wireless Integrated Network (PCWIN) implementation is complete and the system is being preparing for transition to steady state operations. The transition between governance models is also approaching completion and there are only a few recommended items that need to be addressed. At the end of 2013, we had identified three transition areas in governance: the Executive Director's signatory authority, the transition of governance structures, and the representation on the PCWIN Board of Directors. To date the Pima County Board of Supervisors has granted the Executive Director signatory authority over PCWIN items. The Project Sponsor and the Executive Director are affecting a transition of governance structures. The remaining item to be addressed is the PCWIN Board of Directors representation.

Pima County is currently represented on the Board of Directors by the Project Sponsor, Chief Paul Wilson from the Pima County Sherriff's Office. Chief Wilson has been involved on the Board of Directors since its inception in early 2013. In the beginning his representation on the governing board was crucial and appropriate to lay a disciplined foundation for PCWIN governance. His knowledge and experience with the PCWIN project have proven invaluable to the establishment of policies and guidance for the first year of operation. His insight has had a direct positive impact on the successful selection of an Executive Director. Now that the foundation has been laid, there is a necessary shift in focus for the Board of Directors. Board members must be in a position to balance the equities of the organization they represent with the needs of the entire PCWIN cooperative.

Because Pima County has broad interests it would be beneficial to have a representative on the Board of Directors that had greater insight into the strategic posture of the entire county government. Deputy County Administrator Jan Leshar possesses the knowledge and insight required to be an effective advocate for the county as well as PCWIN. Her level of executive leadership also follows much of the 'industry standard' for regional public safety networks. The Phoenix Radio system (Regional Wireless Cooperative) has board representation from city

management in Peoria and Phoenix. The TOPAZ network (Mesa's network) includes town/city management from Gilbert, Mesa, and Queen Creek. This level of leadership acknowledges the political reality that there may be many touch points between the cooperative members represented on the PCWIN Board of Directors.

PCWIN requires that each board member have a named alternate as well. Mr. Lionel Bittner, former Pima County Chief Information Officer, was the alternate to Chief Wilson on the board. Since his resignation last year Pima County has had no alternate member. This places the County in a vulnerable position if Chief Wilson is ever unable to attend a Board meeting. Only a named alternate may participate in a voting motion during the board's proceedings. This alternate member should also be a senior leadership member from the county. In this case the new Chief Information Officer, Jesse Rodriguez, would be an appropriate selection. Not only does he possess the right level of leadership but much of the PCWIN network falls within his purview as the senior IT member of Pima County.

This is the right time to make these necessary changes. The system will go live in March and will be formally accepted from the contractor (Motorola) toward the end of June-providing the final testing goes as well as anticipated. As the fiscal year turns over the Board will begin managing the Executive Director's first budget and many important decisions will face the Cooperative. Decisions regarding the rebanding of the radio network, post-warranty service selection from Motorola, right sizing the personnel within the Network Managing Member (Pima County ITD), and the implementation of Phase II (Tohono O'odham Nation build out) all await the Board of Directors' guidance.

Recommendation

Therefore, I recommend that the Board of Supervisors appoint Jan Leshar, Deputy County Administrator, as the County representative on the PCWIN Board of Directors and Jesse Rodriguez, Chief Information Officer, as the alternate member of the PCWIN Board of Directors effective July 1, 2014. This change in leadership falls in line with many other regional public safety networks including Phoenix and Mesa's Regional Wireless Cooperatives.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me.

c: Jan Leshar, Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services
John Voorhees, Director, Pima County Wireless Integrated Network