

**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

SUPERVISOR HANK BRILL  
INITIATED BY



RANDY TERRONEZ  
DRAFTED BY

SUPERVISOR HANK BRILL  
& PUBLIC SAFETY &  
JUSTICE COMMITTEE  
SUBMITTED BY

MAY 1, 2014  
DATE DRAFTED

**SUPPORTING 911 COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION**

1       **WHEREAS**, county 911 programs are currently funded through two sources: a surcharge of up  
2 to 40 cents on all landline telephones, and the county tax levy. The surcharge is collected by  
3 telecommunications providers as part of a service agreement with each county and is used to pay the  
4 cost of providing landline service to the 911 center, officially known as a public safety answering point  
5 or PSAP; and,  
6

7       **WHEREAS**, as the number of landline phones has declined, so too have revenues from the  
8 landline fee. The fee currently generates about \$8 million annually. In several counties, the landline fee  
9 no longer covers the cost of providing landline service to the county PSAP, so the counties must pay  
10 the difference from general revenues. Other costs related to 911 service, such as wireless phone lines  
11 into the PSAP, as well as equipment, training, and staffing, are also paid with county taxes; and,  
12

13       **WHEREAS**, counties through the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) have long sought  
14 alternative revenue sources for the cost of equipping county PSAPs, as well as training dispatch  
15 personnel. In 2009, WCA and telecommunications stakeholders proposed a permanent grant program  
16 to fund equipment and training costs for county 911 centers. The grants would have been funded by a  
17 monthly 911 fee of up to 75 cents on every landline phone, cellular telephone, and other device capable  
18 of dialing 911; and,  
19

20       **WHEREAS**, as part of its action on the 2009-11 state biennial budget, the Joint Committee on  
21 Finance approved the new fee and the grant program. However, before final adoption of the budget,  
22 lawmakers and the Governor redirected the 911 fee to fill an unexpected revenue gap. The 911 fee was  
23 renamed the Police and Fire Protection Fee, and proceeds were used to fund the county and municipal  
24 aid program, also known as shared revenue. The Police and Fire Protection Fee is projected to generate  
25 \$54 million in FY 13 and \$53 million FY 14; and,  
26

27       **WHEREAS**, since 2009, WCA has sought to return the Police and Fire Protection Fee to its  
28 original purpose of funding grants for county 911 centers and to fund the shared revenue program with  
29 general purpose state revenue; and,  
30

31       **WHEREAS**, Sen. Joseph Leibham introduced SB 566 that would in part:

- 32       A. Eliminate the current 75-cent monthly Police and Fire Protection Fee on all
- 33             devices capable of dialing 911.
- 34       B. Replace the roughly \$53 million annually raised by the Police and Fire
- 35             Protection Fee for the shared revenue program with state general purpose
- 36             revenue.
- 37       C. Eliminate the current 40-cent maximum monthly fee on landline phones.
- 38       D. Create a new, 40-cent monthly fee on all devices capable of dialing 911 and
- 39             index the fee for inflation, subject to approval by the Governor and Joint
- 40             Committee on Finance.
- 41       E. Establish a grant program for county PSAPs for equipment, software, and
- 42             training.
- 43

44       **WHEREAS**, SB 566 guarantees state funding for nearly \$54 million annually in shared revenue  
45 currently provided by the Police and Fire Protection Fee, reduces taxes on wireless and landline phone  
46 users, from a maximum of \$1.15 monthly per landline phone and 75 cents per cell phone, to a flat 40

14-5B-031

Supporting 911 Communications Legislation

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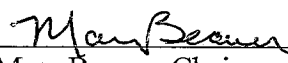
47 cents a month on all devices, and provides grants can be used to fund much-needed equipment  
48 modernization and staff training, enhancing public safety throughout the state;


49  
50 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors, duly  
51 assembled on this 22 the day of May, 2014, hereby supports SB 566.


52  
53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this  
54 resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and all  
55 members of the state legislature.

Respectfully submitted:

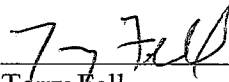
**Public Safety and Justice Committee**

  
Mary Beaver, Chair

  
Hank Brill

  
Brian Knudson

  
Larry Wiedenfeld

  
Terry Fell

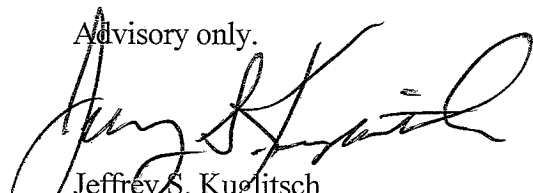
FISCAL NOTE:

No fiscal impact.

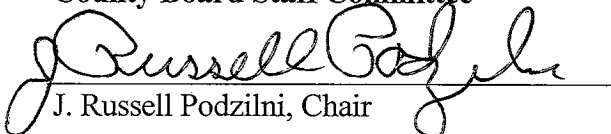
  
Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

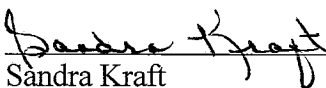
LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.

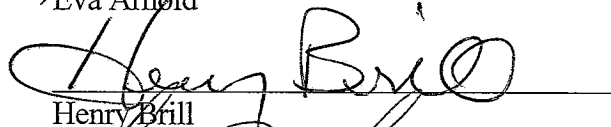
  
Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch  
Corporation Counsel

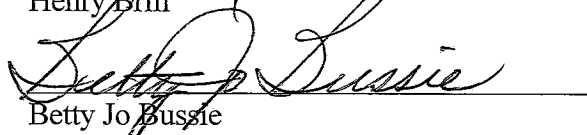
**County Board Staff Committee**

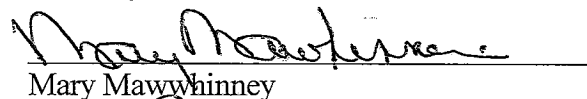
  
J. Russell Podzilni, Chair

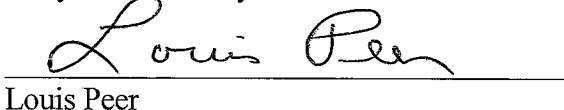
  
Sandra Kraft

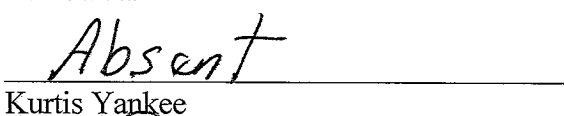
  
Eva Arnold

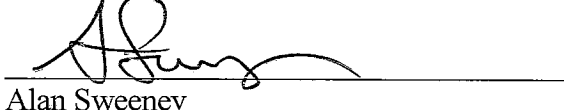
  
Henry Brill

  
Betty Jo Bussie

  
Mary Mawwhinney

  
Louis Peer

  
Kurtis Yankee

  
Alan Sweeney

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

  
Craig Knutson  
County Administrator