

## County board OKs 911 system

By Alexa Zoellner Union staff writer | Posted: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 10:00 am

JEFFERSON — The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Communications Center will be getting a new 911 telephone system following approval of its purchase and installation on Tuesday.

The Jefferson County Board of Supervisors gave the go-ahead for the telephone system during its monthly meeting Tuesday night. The tally was 25-1 with Supervisor Carlton Zentner casting the lone "no" vote. Four supervisors were absent and one seat is vacant.

"Our 911 system is outdated. It was hard to get parts for it," board Chairman Jim Schroeder, said. "(The communications center) was reduced at some points to going to eBay to purchase parts, so (a new system) is badly needed."

In April, Jefferson County prepared and published a request for proposals for the project. It received responses from five vendors: Frontier bid a Solacom system for \$189,728.58; Baycom, a Vesta system for \$214,452.50; AT&T, a Vesta system for \$214,586.55 and a Viper system for \$243,198.20; General Communications, a Zetron system for \$249,885.72; and RADCOM, a ModUcom system for \$257,950.85.

The three lowest bidders were invited to the sheriff's office to give a demonstration about their product based on completeness of their response, price and functionality. After that, the sheriff's office staff and county Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee determined that AT&T was the "lowest responsible bidder" and the Vista system was the best solution for Jefferson County.

For AT&T Vista, the first year of maintenance will cost \$13,271.51 and the second- through fifth years will cost \$23,959.80 annually.

"On our current system, which just went end-of-life, which means it's no longer supported, we were paying about \$20,000 a year (for potential repairs) on that system alone," Todd Lindert, 911 Communications Center supervisor, said, responding to a question by Supervisor Jim Mode. "You're paying for a service. When our system goes down, it's 911 that goes down — so we need service now."

The total cost for purchase and installation is not expected to exceed \$236,045.20. The purchase and installation, along with the first year's maintenance cost, are included in the 2015 budget. Additional maintenance will be included in subsequent years' budgets.

Also approved Tuesday, on a vote of 24-1 with Zentner dissenting, was entering into a professional service



### RETIREES HONORED

RETIREES HONORED — Six Jefferson County retirees were honored on Tuesday at the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors meeting. They included Shirley Gehrke, Sally Albertz, Kathleen Cheek, Jacquelyn Behm and Mary Stearns, all of the Health Department, along with "Mike" Mary Seisser from the Register of Deeds Department. For more photos, click [here](#). — Photos by Alexa Zoellner.

contract with FacilityDude, a division of Dude Solutions Inc. of Cary, N.C.

“This is a cooperative government entity that goes out, solicits bids on behalf of municipal and other local governments to find the best cost advantage,” Jefferson County Administrator Ben Wehmeier said.

FacilityDude will provide two services. The first will be a comprehensive condition assessment of all primary county facilities, which will look at the condition of the facilities and help in developing estimates for costs for needed repairs and prioritization of repairs.

“Our hope is to help us in analyzing what are the initial needs and requirements for our facilities across the county,” Wehmeier said. “We have aging facilities here in the county; the (Jefferson County Courthouse) is 50 years old with many of the original parts.”

The second service will be implementation of a Facility Management System to assist in the management of facilities, as well as provide methods to assist in processing work orders and projects.

Also on Tuesday, the board voted unanimously to allow the sale of fermented malt beverages in Korth Park in the Town of Lake Mills.

“This resolution authorizes a one-time sale for one event,” Schroeder said. We’ll see how it goes, take it back to committee and then go from there.”

The sale is part of a trial fundraising event from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, that also will involve the sale of food and live music.

Beverages will be provided to Jefferson County at cost by the Tyranena Brewing Company of Lake Mills.

The funds raised will be used for the maintenance and improvement of Jefferson County Parks.

It was presented by the Jefferson County Parks Department, which is “continually looking at new methods to raise funds ... using non-tax levy funds.”

In other business, the board of supervisors:

- Heard a presentation of the 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit Report done by Sikich LLP.

“We gave (Jefferson County) what’s commonly referred to as a clean, or unmodified, opinion and it’s the best opinion we’re allowed to give,” Daniel Berg, a partner at Sikich LLP., said.

- Heard annual reports from the Jefferson County Child Support Agency, Office of Emergency Management and the Sheriff’s Office.

- Amended an ordinance regarding sick leave with pay, clarifying the definition of a dependent child with an unanimous vote.

- Amended zoning ordinances with a vote of 24-0-1.

- Passed four other resolutions, three from the Finance Committee, one from the Human Resources Committee and one from the Infrastructure Committee.

The Finance Committee disallowed a claim made by Daniel Baumann regarding damages to his vehicle due to a

pothole on State Highway 26. The Wisconsin Municipal Mutual Insurance Company evaluated the claim and recommended it be disallowed.

In 2014, Jefferson County began utilizing purchasing cards for county purchases. One of the advantages is that the county is entitled to a cash rebate based on a percentage of the dollar amount purchased. The amount received from 2014 purchases was \$15,500. That money, along with a \$5,000 contingency transfer, was approved with a vote of 24-1, with Zentner voting “no,” to be used to purchase a new county vehicle for staff to use in place of their personal vehicles with mileage reimbursement.

Upon recommendation from the Finance Committee, the board unanimously approved amendments to the Jefferson County Fund Balance Policy. There will be no fiscal impact.

The board unanimously approved elimination of a vacant, full-time deputy register in probate/lead juvenile clerk position and creation of a full-time register in probate/attorney position.