

OLD KENTUCKY HOME  
DOORWAY

# City of Bardstown

JOHN ROYALTY, MAYOR  
220 N. FIFTH STREET  
BARDSTOWN, KY 40004  
502-348-5947



ART TREASURES IN  
ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

December 16, 2015

Mr. Fred DeWitt, Chair  
Nelson County E911 Dispatch Board  
214 Nelson County Plaza  
Bardstown, KY 40004

Dear Mr. DeWitt:

Thank you for sending us your revised 2015/2016 budget. There are several questions that our CFO Tracy Hudson has about that budget revision. Those questions have been passed onto the Dispatch Director Debbie Carter. Before the City Council can act on the budget, we need to have those questions answered. Additionally, the Fiscal Court must act on the budget before we can determine on what amount our 40% will be based.

The City's Auditor and City Attorney have both recommended that the City stop its practice of having the dispatch finances co-mingled with ours where there is no management control over the spending. It was these recommendations that prompted CFO Hudson to write you a letter in November stating that, as of January 1, 2016, the City would no longer handle the finances and payroll for the Dispatch Center.

An example of why this financial arrangement is unsupportable, is the expenditure of over \$300,000 for the building of a new tower. Rather than go through the budget process as required by the Inter-local Agreement, some members of the Dispatch Board went to the Fiscal Court and asked them to build the tower with County funds, and then bill the Dispatch Board for the reimbursement of those funds. The City Council never had the opportunity to approve the initial expenditure. The request should have been sent to the Fiscal Court and the City Council as an amendment to the budget. It will be up to the City and County Attorneys to sort out the ramifications of this action by the Board and the Fiscal Court.

At the Dispatch Board meeting on December 9, 2015, a resolution was passed that requested that E911 become a department of the Nelson County government. That would have prevented the Board from having to do their own finances and payroll. However, at the City Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, Judge Watts stated that he did not favor and would not make E911 a County department.

At that same meeting, the City administration presented a proposal (attached), that E911 become a City department, that all dispatch employees become city employees, at least until a new Inter-local Agreement can be negotiated between the Nelson Fiscal Court and all of the cities in Nelson County.

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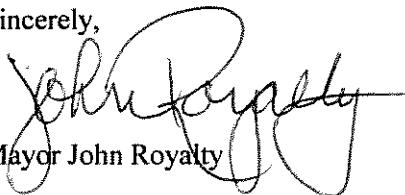
Judge Watts objected to the City having administrative authority over the E911 staff and gave me a counter proposal today, which is also attached, and asked me to initial it. As you can see, by reading the counter-proposal, it effectively maintains the status-quo. It leaves the E911 without any direct governmental oversight, but with its finances and deficits as part of the City's finances. It talks of purchase orders and "monitoring" by the CFO, but doesn't address the fact that the budget, as presented, is not realistic.

My offer to the Nelson County Dispatch Board is that the City will provide administrative, financial and payroll services to the E911 Board by contract, for at least the remainder of the FY 2015/2016, or until a new Inter-Local Agreement can be reached that addresses the present concerns related to dispatch. The E911 employees would become city employees and the County Judge will be consulted regarding any major personnel actions or operational changes. However, there must be direct governmental oversight over the operations of the Dispatch Center and its spending of taxpayer's dollars. The financial conditions of the last year which have been allowed to exist by the Board and the Director cannot continue.

There are three viable options to consider. The County can run E911; the City can run E911, or the Dispatch Board can run E911, and live within the monies approved by the City and County through the budget.

Unfortunately, the status quo is no longer an option. I cannot jeopardize the legal and financial status of the City of Bardstown by continuing to include an agency that we have no legal authority over.

Sincerely,



Mayor John Royalty

Attachments