

Sheriff John Monnet  
Effingham County Sheriff's Office

December 6, 2013

Sheriff Monnet

I have filed 5 FOIA's with your agency and 5 with various federal agencies in reference to the radio debacle that you created. You had insisted in your interview with Greg Sapp (available on YouTube) that the 911 Board be involved in fixing the extraordinarily large mess that you created and I followed your recommendation.

The attached 12 page report is the result of my investigation, as you can see, I also analyze your interview with Greg Sapp in which you make many knowingly false and misleading statements clearly in an effort to cover up the massive deception and incompetence associated with radio interoperability problem you created. In short, the evidence suggests that you signed numerous documents assuring multiple federal agencies you would use grant money to go to the Star Com radio system. You and your Chief Deputy assured the City and Effingham and the 911 Board you were going to the Star Com radio system and actually got the 911 Board to agree to pay the Star Com fees. However within 100 days of persuading both the 911 Board and the City of Effingham to go to Star Com you were behind the scenes spending your federal grant money on building a high band radio system that failed. You continued in this deception for 15 months during which time you made no effort to go to Star Com but rather build your high band system and on numerous occasions assured the Effingham Police Chief and Mayor that you were going Star Com. By this time it was too late for the City of Effingham and the 911 Board to change course.

The evidence suggests the following:

- That you knowingly and intentionally mislead federal agencies simply to get the grant money and most likely never had any intention of going to the Star Com System.
- That you knowingly, intentionally and deceptively mislead the City of Effingham and the 911 Board into believing you were going Star Com.
- But that instead you were deceptively behind the scenes attempting to build a VHF High Band system at which you failed miserably.
- That you took Federal Grant money that was earmarked to improve interoperability but as a result of your deception created a massive interoperability problem with your primary law enforcement back up (the City of Effingham Police Department) that did not previously exist.
- That once the problem developed you failed for approximately 18 to 24 months to take any aggressive or meaningful action to correct the interoperability problem. That during this time the interoperability communication problem that you were solely responsible for creating resulted in numerous "close call" risks to your

- officer's safety resulting in your officers coming to both the 911 Board and the County Board meetings pleading for a solution to the problem you created.
- That your deception and incompetence resulted in the expenditure of close to \$600,000 of grant and tax payers money building a high band system which miserably failed and has never been completed.
  - That your deception and incompetence resulted in the County Board finally having to solve your problem by spending \$250,000 to go the Star Com system and as a result of their aggressive and proactive approach the problem was corrected in a few short months.
  - That your deception and incompetence resulted in a "clear and present danger" to your officers as well as the public that you are sworn to protect.
  - That in the approximate time frame of May of 2012 you did an interview with Greg Sapp (available on YouTube) in which you knowing made numerous false, inaccurate and misleading statements in what appears to be a "cover up" including your assertion that talking to rural fire departments which have no law enforcement powers or responsibilities is somehow a priority to talking to the Effingham Police Department who is your primary back up for officer safety.
  - That as part of your ongoing deception and cover up you have repeatedly blamed the City of Effingham for the interoperability problem that you were solely responsible for creating.
  - That as a result of your deception and incompetence you violated your oath of office to protect and serve, your fiduciary responsibilities to protect tax payer wealth, and potentially official misconduct statues.

It is for these reasons that it is my personal opinion that the only honorable course of action is for you to tenure your resignation to the County Board immediately. This will allow for an interim Sheriff to come in and begin to clean up the many "messes" that have occurred on your watch.

Ted Heath