

Greenville Community Meeting
Nov. 17, 2009

The highlight of Tuesday night's public meeting in Greenville was the unexpected appearance of Sheriff Michael Bryant and E911 Planning Committee member Mike Faulkner of Jefferson County.

Sheriff Bryant shared the experience that caused them to initiate a drive for their own E911 election in 2010: A young child called 911 on a cellphone and told the dispatcher, "Daddy is beating Mommy." The child then apparently put the phone down. For 53 minutes, Bryant said, the line remained open while deputies listened to the sounds of struggle and pain, meanwhile contacting the phone companies for help on a trace. The call abruptly ended. They never learned the source of the call or were able to send help. Bryant said all he could do was check death records for the next few days to see if a woman and/or child had perished.

About 20 persons were in attendance.

Turner Community Meeting
Nov. 19, 2009

The highlights of Thursday night's community meeting at Turner School were two great speeches:

1. Billy Bob Ball, 9-year dispatcher, described cellphone calls coming from the Interstate in which callers have little idea of their mile marker. He said responders once spent 30 minutes looking for a caller at the south end of the county who could recall passing a casino. The search continued and in the end it turned out she was at the north end of the county. When calls come in and callers are unable to give their location or driving directions, he said, "the dispatcher feels helpless." He said he ends many shifts feeling wrung out from the stress of response delays he knows could be eliminated with E911. "Ladies and gentlemen, E911 is important to me and you and to the safety of this county," Ball said.

2. Ronnie Freeman, E911 coordinator for AT&T, in response to a question, gave valuable insight into the scope and meaning of Senate Bill 1166, Regional Emergency Nine-One-One Services Act, signed into law by Gov. Brad Henry on May 22, 2009. Freeman, who also serves on the Statewide 911 Advisory Board, said the gist of the Act is that any county that has not passed E911 fees and begun the process of implementation by the end of 2012 will be assigned to a county that has done so. Freeman advised that our county, to retain the most control over E911 services, should pass fees now and get started.

While the meeting was going on, the Chief of the Jimtown Volunteer Fire Department stood and reported that a call had just come in to 911 from a man who had been shot but couldn't tell his exact location. Responders were out looking. "We need E911 more than anything," the chief said.

About 45 persons were in attendance. Toni Peery, E911 planning committee chair, presided. Tracey Smithwick, Emergency Management Director played an excellent powerpoint slide program he had put together on the features of E911.

Thackerville Community Meeting
Nov. 24, 2009

Guest speaker Jacque Peace of Spatial Data Research mapping company, Sherman, TX, explained the mapping and addressing process associated with E911.

For the first time, county residents will have house numbers and street names, enabling them to be easily located in an emergency. The E911 address will also be used to deliver mail and packages, such as Fedex and UPS deliveries.

Tracey Smithwick, city/county emergency management director displayed an excellent powerpoint slide program on the features of E911.

A small but appreciative audience of 10 was in attendance.

Enville Community Meeting
Nov. 30, 2009

Toni Peery, E911 Planning Committee Chair, presided. Tracey Smithwick, city/county emergency management director, displayed his excellent powerpoint slide program on the features of E911.

A discussion of implementation options being employed by communities and counties around the state transpired. Some counties are offering E911 through stand-alone centers or layering it on top of existing 911 dispatch operations. Others are entering specific and limited agreements with neighboring counties to share operations. In western Oklahoma, for example, six counties have gone together to purchase one set of equipment to answer E911 calls. The equipment then routes the call to the county that should talk to the caller and respond to the call. The Intrada Report on the website of the Oklahoma Statewide 911 Advisory Board, <http://www.ok.gov/911/index.html>, goes into detail on this and other 911 experiences in Oklahoma.

A neighborly audience of 10 braved the cool weather to attend.