EXHIBIT B

MINUTES

JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Monday, September 21, 2015
10:00 a.m.
National Weather Service, 8400 Remount Road
North Little Rock, Arkansas

The Joint Interim Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology met on Monday, September 21, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., at the National Weather Service, 8400 Remount Road, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

Members in attendance: Senators Bill Sample, Chair; and Jimmy Hickey. Representatives Stephen Meeks, Chair; Jim Dotson, Sheilla Lampkin and Mathew Pitsch.

Other legislators present: Representatives Charles Armstrong, Kenneth Ferguson and Douglas House.

Senator Sample called the meeting to order. He recognized Representative Meeks for remarks. Representative Meeks briefly emphasized that the primary purposes of the committee is to: ensure effective communications throughout the state as well as at the federal level, particularly during emergency situations and to explore ways to improve the communication process for the health and welfare of Arkansas' citizens.

Committee consideration to approve the Minutes of July 13, 2015. Senator Sample made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Representative Pitsch. Without objection, the motion was approved. [Exhibit B]

Consideration of a Motion to Authorize Chairs to Approve Special Expenses Incurred by the Committee
Representative Pitsch made a motion to adopt Legislative Council Rule 24.a which concerns the expenditure of legislative council funds for special expenses. Without objection, the motion was approved.

Update on Arkansas' Wireless Information Network and Emergency Management [Handout 2]
Mr. David Maxwell, Director, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, and Ms. Penny Rubow, Statewide Interoperable Communications Coordinator, Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN), were recognized and presented a PowerPoint entitled, "Emergency Communication Update". Mr. Maxwell said the government communicates across boundary lines and stressed the importance of communications with the public via the 911 systems and public safety answering system points. According to Mr. Maxwell, AWIN is a key emergency communication asset, noting that other assets include local radio systems, radio interfaces, and dispatch systems, cellular and amateur radio. He said these communication assets serve as backup if AWIN experiences problems or outages.

Ms. Rubow gave a brief overview of AWIN. She said AWIN is a system that is shared statewide with over 108 remote tower sites; 3 zone controllers; 37 dispatch locations; and 3 sites on wheels. AWIN system reliability currently runs at approximately 99.94%. There are a total of 28,000 AWIN users. Fifty-seven percent of AWIN users are either local police departments or local fire departments. Of all the AWIN users, 27% are fire and 29% are law enforcement. Hospitals have a large number of radios on the AWIN system. Ms. Rubow reported that the City of Little Rock has the largest number of users. According to Ms. Rubow, the Department of Information Systems (DIS) and AWIN roles and responsibilities include: coordination of maintenance activities with vendors and the Arkansas State Police, providing Tier 2 Help Desk for AWIN users, day to day operations of AWIN, frequency coordination, disaster response and user management. AWIN has been utilized in memorable events such as: the ice storm of 2008, the tornado of 2014 in Vilonia and Mayflower, and the Albert Pike flooding. Ms. Rubow reported the following concerns related to AWIN: physical infrastructure is inadequate, electronics are at end of life cycles, site loading, and budget and funding shortfalls. She said an upgrade to AWIN is expected to replace out-dated equipment. She also noted that there has been a fairly significant increase with land leases for

the tower sites and fiber costs. According to Ms. Rubow, the budget shortfall for operational cost is approximately $500,000 for the remainder of fiscal year 2015. However, it will cost $25 million to fix the budget shortfall that covers the costs of upgrading the current system.

Mr. Maxwell gave a brief overview of FirstNet. FirstNet is a federal program funded by bandwidth frequency sells. It is a public safety broadband system/plan that is being developed strictly for public safety agencies. Mr. Maxwell noted that the whole system is eschewed towards opt-in and is expected to be operational by 2022. In 2017, FirstNet will be presented to the governor to decide whether to opt-in. Mr. Maxwell noted there will be user fees that should help keep the costs at a sustainable rate.

Emergency Management and Communication, National Weather Service (NWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Mr. Steve Drillette, Meteorologist-in-Charge, NOAA, was recognized and presented Handout #1 and a PowerPoint entitled, "Emergency Management and Communication". He said NWS is one of the oldest federal agencies and its mission is to protect and save life and property by issuing weather information in a timely manner in events such as: tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods. NWS is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Some of the weather impacts include tornadoes, flooding and hurricanes. Five national weather service forecast offices serve the state of Arkansas they include: Tulsa, Memphis, Little Rock, Shreveport and Jackson. If the Little Rock NWS experiences an outage during bad weather, Memphis, Tulsa, and Birmingham serve as backup stations. According to Mr. Drillette 20 different transmitter towers serve Arkansas. He noted that NOAA weather radio system broadcasts directly to the public.

Review of the DIS Advice and Recommendations Report (Quarter ending June 30, 2015) [Exhibit F]

Mr. Donnie Matthews, Technical Account Specialist, DIS, was recognized. He gave a brief overview of the report and said DIS operates as a cost recovery agency. DIS does not receive direct state general revenue funding, but charges its customers for products and services. DIS currently provides services to a base of approximately 400 customers, including state agencies, board and commissions, colleges and universities, public schools, cities and counties and other customers. Some highlights of the report include: Arkansas Department of Education converting its existing Centrex telephone system to DIS voice over IP solution system, assisting the Pulaski County School District to ensure there is no loss of service for the new Jacksonville School District, and providing assistance for agency consolidation transitions. Regarding the state broadband request for proposals contracts, Mr. Matthews said all contracts have been awarded, noting that DIS is in the rollout phase, it will take two years to complete the project.

Without objection, the report was favorably reviewed by the Committee.

Other Business

The committee toured the facility after adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.