

I've just returned (Thursday evening) from another quarterly meeting of the Fulton County Mayors. Our meeting was held at the Fulton County Sheriff's Department. Chief Deputy, Roy Miller, and 911 director, Richie Kilgour, gave a presentation of the history and progress of the county wide 911 system since its inception in the 1980s. Following the power point presentation, we were taken to the 911 dispatch center to see in person the actual computerized technology of the system.

There are two dispatchers on duty at all times. In emergency situations, such as the tornado two years ago, three or four dispatchers may be necessary. Each dispatch position has four monitors. The first monitor is a satellite aerial photo showing the origin of the call, with the ability to show different topography according to the emergency. Views can be adjusted to show just roads, or views can be enhanced to show water sources, and views can be zoomed in or out. The second monitor tells the address, purpose of the call, and other pertinent information about the location and occupants. The third screen shows all of the radio systems in the county, and the fourth screen is usually focused on weather. The tour was very helpful for understanding this vital system.

In other business, Fulton County Commissioner, Perry Rupp, updated us on a number of county wide issues. The county is in the process of receiving and reviewing applicants for EMA Director. The interviewing of candidates will start soon. Also, the county commissioners have decided that the Emergency Operation Center will be relocated to the basement of the Sheriff's Dept. in downtown Wauseon. Currently, the EMA office is in a trailer in Ottokee in very cramped quarters. The new center will provide the space and equipment needed to run a centralized, more efficient operation, and to utilize features already in place at the Sheriff's department.

Lastly, mayors, county, and municipality representatives will be attending a meeting on October 2 to receive the report of the Fulton County Water Study. The study is not only to report the current conditions of our water supplies and operations, but to evaluate and discuss our water needs well into the future.

I will keep updating Swanton citizens each time Fulton County Mayors meet. Our meetings are always informative and help keep us in sync with state and county issues, as well as create a cooperative and cohesive group to advance all of our towns and Fulton County together.