

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
ARKANSAS 911 BOARD  
October 15, 2020**

A regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas 911 Board was held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management with a Zoom link and conference bridge provided to the public for participation while social distancing.

The following members were in attendance:

**Board**

AJ Gary (Chairman)	Director, Arkansas Division of Emergency Management
Shelby Johnson	Director, AR GIS Office
Skot Covert	Chief Deputy Auditor of State
Rusty McMillon	Judge, Greene County
Brian Presley	911/Dispatch Coordinator, Independence County
Robert McGowen	Administrator of Public Safety, Benton County
Keith Edmonds	Madison County OEM
Doug Sprouse	Mayor, City of Springdale
Rodney Wright	Sheriff, Saline County
Chad Henson	Police Chief, City of Trumann PD
Tommy Sizemore	Fire Chief, Barling Voluntary Fire Department
Jamie Pafford-Gresham	Pafford EMS

**Executive Director**

C.J. Engel

**Asst. Attorney General, Office of Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge**

Brad Nye

A quorum was declared, and Chairman Gary called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm and presided over the meeting.

Upon a motion presented by Rusty McMillon and a second by Chad Henson, the minutes of the September 17, 2020 regular monthly meeting were unanimously approved.

**Financial Reports** – Following a motion presented by Keith Edmonds and a second by Skot Covert, the financial report was approved unanimously as provided which reflected the total assets and liabilities as of September 30, 2020 to be \$10,087,343.15 in which \$2,042,862.69 is in the State Treasury Money Management Fund account and \$8,044,480.46 is in the US Bank working capital account.

**Expense Report** - Monthly expenses of \$348,830.51 were approved for payment as submitted. Included in the approved expenses were:

- LEC Charges = \$320,391.28
- Yelcot Telephone = \$176.55 (Void 09.17.20 Approved Check of \$170.10)
- Verizon Wireless = \$125.07
- Arkansas GIS Office = \$4,287.45
- ADEM = \$1,244.59
- Ashley County = \$10,084.80 (CAD Upgrade Reimbursement)
- Pulaski – Cammack Village/LR PSAP = \$1,270.77 (Void 3Q19 Check 12940 of \$1,270.77)
- Contract Labor = \$11,250 (C. Engel = \$8,750 and R. Hoover = \$2,500.00)

**15% Allocation Balance by County Report** – An updated report of the 15% Allocation Fund was presented reflecting a balance of \$676,658.17 with \$10,084.80 for Ashley County 911 submitted for pre and final approval. With approval of the reimbursement for Ashley County 911, the total balance remaining and allocated for reimbursement is \$666,573.37.

### **Old Business**

**2020 PSAP Certification** – An update was provided from C.J. Engel that he had attempted to reach both Judges multiple times with no response. He did reach the Mississippi County 911 Coordinator and had discussed setting up a virtual meeting to assist with working through certification but the Coordinator is not able to work on the certification. Rusty McMillon resent Judge Nelson in St. Francis County the certification forms and Judge Nelson stated that he would have them completed. Judge McMillon also spoke with Judge Hughes in Mississippi County and he expects that Mississippi County's certification would be mailed next week.

**2020 Fiscal Year Audit** – Mr. Engel shared the Hudson Cisne, & Co. LLP FY 2020 audit in the Board's packet. He pointed out that there were no major findings in the audit but that there was one deficiency listed for Segregation of Duties. Shelby Johnson asked if ADEM had any staff that could assist with attempt to limit deficiency. A.J. Gary stated that under federal grants, ADEM is limited to how staff are utilized. Tina Owens brought up that ADEM is the owner of the Public Safety Trust Fund and transfers that money to the board. Shelby shared his concerns that the board is understaffed with large accounts and burden of record keeping and that this should be looked at by the Board in the future. Skot Covert echoes Mr. Johnson's concerns and stated that errors are inevitable. Mr. Covert will reach out within the Auditor of State's office to look at potential options. Jamie Pafford-Gresham asked if potential options could be brought to the next board meeting.

**RFP – ESInet and NG911 Core Services** – Mr. Engel reported that he has reached out to gather other state's RFPs to compare. Mr. Engel stated that he will need to provide responses with the RFP back to OSP before coming back to the Board.

**Federal Engineering PSAP Consolidation** – C.J. Engel confirmed that PSAP information surveys have been sent out and that the five regional PSAP consolidation workshops have been scheduled as follows:

1. Central: November 09<sup>th</sup> in Jacksonville

2. Northeast: November 10<sup>th</sup> in Jonesboro
3. Northwest: November 12<sup>th</sup> in Van Buren
4. Southeast: November 16<sup>th</sup> in Star City
5. Southwest: November 17<sup>th</sup> in Hope

All meetings will be from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

**GIS Data Aggregation for NG911 Service** – Shelby Johnson shared the following updates:

- A progress report is included in the agenda packet.
- First draft of EMS and law enforcement territories have been produced.
- Reviewing PSAP boundary file, EMS, law enforcement layer to grasp scope of service area exceptions and have identified over 3,000 + potential exception areas in the state.
- Jamie Pafford-Gresham met with Jonathan Duran at GIS to review EMS layer. Ms. Pafford-Gresham stated that the ambulance association will work to update the EMS service layers.

Rodney Wright asked what the ambulance association’s view is on consolidation with private ambulance dispatch centers. Jamie stated most communities do not want to dispatch EMS and this can be a major workload issue on PSAPs. Ms. Pafford-Gresham also stated that these providers do a county service on behalf of the county and does not think that municipalities or counties should charge for EMS dispatching when they do take on that role.

**Draft Rule for Requirement of Board Approval for Modifications or Changes to Existing Network Connectivity Currently Billed to Arkansas 911 Board.** – Time has not permitted any action to be completed on the draft rule at this time. Draft language for the rule will be sent to Brad Nye for review as soon as possible.

### **New Business**

**AWIN Update** – Ms. Penny Rubow provided an AWIN update to the Board that included the following:

- Working on financing piece to get bond in place. Anticipates going in front of the ADFB Board for sell of bond and those bond revenues anticipated before end of December.
- New RFP being developed for potential new tower sites.
- Existing repeater system is being reconfigured for better data throughput and use of frequency.
- Engineering study for new site at AGFC in Lonoke.
- Applying for funding under BRIC for 3 identified locations.

**ALETA Funding** – A.J. Gary provided documents for ALETA funding to the board members. Robert McGowen asked if the \$250,000 provided to ALETA does not get spent, does this money go into a fund for spending in the future. With \$250,000 annually since 2014, that would leave approximately \$100,000 left over each of last 5 years. Mr. Gary stated that ALETA is in the process of replacing the 911 training contract and asked if the Board would like to request Secretary Cook at the next board meeting for an additional update.

**GIS Service Exception Policy** – Shelby Johnson informed the board that currently the GIS Office has no authority to discuss service area exceptions with local entities. This



policy would be under the direction of the board to create more efficiency within the state by mapping service area exceptions. The GIS team will begin to work with local entities to discuss the identified exceptions and determine if local agreements are already in place. The GIS team will then come to the Board to report how exceptions are being handled and how the mapping could be updated. Disputed areas that are not agreed on at the local level would also be brought to the Board. GIS has not made it past the process of identifying the exceptions on the map layers. Jamie Pafford-Gresham made a motion to approve the GIS Service Exception Policy, Skot Covert provided a second. All approve, motion carries.

**FirstNet Account** – C.J. Engel stated the current Verizon Wi-Fi and cell phone account are under Ms. Renee Hoover’s name. He would like to create an Agency account under the Arkansas 911 Board through FirstNet for Wi-Fi device. Shelby Johnson made a motion to approve, with a second by Rodney Wright. All approve, motion carries.

### **FROM THE FLOOR**


Jamie Pafford-Gresham asked if the Board would like to move its November meeting to line up with the PSAP Consolidation Workshop in Hope. Rusty McMillon made a motion to move the next regular meeting to November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Hempstead Hall – U of A at Hope. Rodney Wright seconded the motion, all approve. Shelby Johnson encourages board members to attend at least one workshop.

Chad Henson asked whether the 15% Allocation Fund was limited on how it is spent with limitations on companies or requirements. C.J. Engel responded that there are currently no limitations outside of that the funding must be used for 911 only. C.J. also reminded the Board that this funding is no longer coming in and that the funding left over is limited to certain PSAPs that have not used their funding set aside. It was stated as a reminder that 911 revenues distributed quarterly to the PSAPs need to be set aside for future upgrades and that there are no plans for future funding from the Board for upgrades.

A.J. Gary asked for questions from guests on the call. Hearing none, no additional Board questions or comments.

The next regular meeting has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at Hempstead Hall – U of A at Hope with a virtual option. Information for all Arkansas 911 Board meetings will continue to be posted on the Arkansas Public Meetings calendar as well as the Arkansas 911 Board website.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion by Shelby Johnson to adjourn and second by Rodney Wright. The motion carried.

  
Chairman