

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ARKANSAS 911 BOARD
November 17, 2020**

A regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas 911 Board was held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at Hempstead Hall – UA Hope with a Zoom link and conference bridge provided to the public for participation while social distancing.

The following members were in attendance:

Board

Jamie Pafford-Gresham	Pafford EMS
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
Doug Sprouse	Mayor, City of Springdale
Rodney Wright	Sheriff, Saline County

Executive Director

C.J. Engel

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

Brad Nye

A quorum was declared. Jamie Pafford-Gresham called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm and presided over the meeting.

Upon a motion presented by Rodney Wright and a second by Robert McGowen, the minutes of the November 17, 2020 regular monthly meeting were unanimously approved.

Financial Reports – Following a motion presented by Rodney Wright and a second by Skot Covert, the financial report was approved unanimously as provided which reflected the total assets and liabilities as of October 31, 2020 to be \$12,577,582.84 in which \$2,043,177.58 is in the State Treasury Money Management Fund account and \$10,534,405.26 is in the US Bank working capital account.

Expense Report - Monthly expenses of \$334,344.44 were approved for payment as submitted. Included in the approved expenses were:

- LEC Charges = \$303,908.29
- FirstNet = \$45.00
- Verizon Wireless = \$125.07
- Arkansas GIS Office = \$12,441.30

- Office Depot = \$406.88
- Hudson Cisne & Co. = \$8,220.00
- NENA = \$142.00
- C.J. Engel Expense Reimbursement = \$305.90
- Contract Labor = \$8,750.00

15% Allocation Balance by County Report – An updated report of the 15% Allocation Fund was presented reflecting a balance of \$666,573.37 with no new requests for approval. Rodney Wright questioned whether an end date could be placed on the Allocation Fund. C.J. Engel answered that an end date could not be added since this balance is carried over from an old funding source. Sheriff Wright asked Mr. Engel if a reminder could be sent to PSAPs with remaining balances.

Old Business

2020 PSAP Certification – An update was provided from C.J. Engel that he had received St. Francis County’s PSAP Certification and would be reviewing. Following a response from Mississippi County, their Certification should be received by November 24th. If Mr. Engel does not receive Mississippi County’s report, their 3Q20 distributions will be withheld until received.

RFP – ESInet and NG911 Core Services – Mr. Engel reported that he has returned the RFP document to the Office of State Procurement with responses to their questions and comments. Shelby Johnson stated his concerns for the potential price on these services to return higher than what the board can provide up front. Mr. Johnson requested Mr. Engel to explore financing options on the board’s behalf including potential bond opportunities.

Federal Engineering PSAP Consolidation – Sherri Bush with Federal Engineering gave an update on the PSAP Consolidation project. Prior to the board meeting was the final of the five workshops. Federal Engineering will review gathered surveys to assemble data. Ms. Bush stated that it is necessary to be on the same page as the board and make sure the expectations are leveled. The Federal Engineering team has stated that while they can pursue a specific number of PSAPs recommended, it would make more sense as a phased approach and what consolidation would look like. The board should leverage the funding and the relationships that are currently out there. Robert McGowen stated that with 2/3 vote of the board, the 77 PSAPs could change and that we shouldn’t necessarily focus on that number. Jamie Pafford-Gresham agreed that she wants to see what fits best for our state overall. Sherri has asked PSAPs to focus on their own current relationships. Ms. Bush stated that Federal Engineering will look to determine thresholds such as population, call volume, cost per call and focus on trying to get smaller PSAPs together based on current aspects that connect them including highways or other services provided. Federal Engineering wants to offer variations of consolidation models that are possible and viable within the state. Shelby Johnson asked if the survey and certification report gives enough data to determine cost per call as many people hinge on numbers and data visualization. Service quality will be most important but can be validated with these guidelines. Doug Sprouse commented on Springdale’s and Bentonville’s new facilities and there will need to be solid justifications provided for the potential non-use of these areas. Mr. Sprouse asked what Federal Engineering would be handing over. Sherri Bush stated that they will build a phased approach with outline for the board to review and provide models of consolidation, funding,

criteria or formulas of who should consolidate. Rodney Wright stated that the board needs more than an agreement that consolidation is needed but an actionable approach with key details. He would like to see a regional approach of recommended options and why. The board will need expert recommendations with specifics. Ms. Pafford-Gresham reaffirmed that is why the board hired Federal Engineering and many things are on hold waiting on the plan provided.

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

- A progress report is included in the agenda packet.
- First GIS Service Territory meeting in Stone, Izard and Independence counties in December.
- Ambulance service area has been given back to the Department of Health. Ambulance Association will reach out to local services to encourage providers to update data on how calls are handled.

Robert McGowen asked how they would handle those counties that do not update GIS data. Mr. Johnson responded that the GIS Office will build it.

New Business

Appointing a Rules Coordinator – The Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) has requested that the Arkansas 911 Board appoint a Rules Coordinator to act as the single point of contact for BLR concerning the creation of rules. The Rules Coordinator should be someone familiar with the rulemaking process and is capable of obtaining responses to BLR inquiries. Mr. Engel spoke with Brad Nye, and Mr. Nye has offered to serve as that contact as he does for another board. Skot Covert motioned that the Attorney General designee to the board, serve as the Rules Coordinator for BLR.

LEC Statement Review – Mr. Engel informed the board that he would be reviewing the Local Exchange Carrier statements received each month with the telecommunications companies. Rodney Wright stated that it would be good to confirm that the board is not paying for services that the local PSAPs are paying. Mr. McGowen agreed that not at the fault of the LECs, the services being paid could no longer be active. He has worked with AT&T to reduce costs in Benton County that were no longer being used and agrees we could catch some similar costs for the board.

Expense Threshold Executive Director – C.J. Engel asked the board if they would like to approve an expense threshold for the Executive Director position to spend on items that may need to be purchased prior to board approval at monthly meetings. Robert McGowen made a motion for the Executive Director to obtain a credit card with a \$1,500 limit and for the Executive Director to have a pre-board approval expense threshold of \$1,000. Rodney Wright second, all approve. Skot Covert recommended Mr. Engel look into the DFA P card program.

Online PSAP Certification Update – C.J. Engel stated he had begun working with INA to continue getting the PSAP Certification process online. He is expecting a preview in a couple of weeks with testing being first of January.

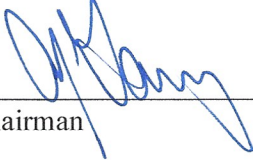
FROM THE FLOOR

Shelby Johnson asked if the Board would like to move its December meeting up to December 15, 2020. Robert McGowen made a motion to move the next regular meeting to December 15th, 2020. Rodney Wright seconded the motion, all approve. The next meeting will be at ADEM with virtual option.

Jamie Pafford-Gresham 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, December 15, 2020 at ADEM 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 Skot Covert to adjourn and second by Rodney Wright. The motion carried.



Chairman