

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

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

The following members were in attendance:

Board

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
Tommy Sizemore	Fire Chief, City of Barling
Tina Owens (Proxy for A.J. Gary)	Chief of Staff, Arkansas Division of Emergency Management

Executive Director

C.J. Engel

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

Brad Nye

A quorum was declared, and in the absence of Chairman Gary, Tina Owens called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm and presided over the meeting.

Upon a motion presented by Keith Edmonds 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 Robert McGowen and a second by Skot Covert the financial report was approved unanimously as provided which reflected the total assets and liabilities as of November 30, 2020 to be \$17,270,010.63 in which \$2,043,464.33 is in the State Treasury Money Management Fund account and \$15,226,546.30 is in the US Bank working capital account.

Expense Report - Monthly expenses of \$11,271,704.36 were approved for payment as submitted. Included in the approved expenses were:

- LEC Charges = \$381,250.30
- AT&T Mobility – FirstNet = \$45.00
- Arkansas GIS Office = \$16,694.34

- Office Depot = \$55.00
- C.J. Engel Travel Reimbursement = \$760.58
- Contract Labor = \$8,750
- PSAP 3Q20 PSAP Distributions = \$10,864,149.14

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.

Old Business

2020 PSAP Certification – An update was provided from C.J. Engel that he had received Mississippi County’s PSAP Certification and would be reviewing. All PSAP Certifications outstanding have been submitted and no quarterly distributions will be withheld.

RFP – ESInet and NG911 Core Services – Mr. Engel reported that the Office of State Procurement is reviewing the RFP document that was resubmitted with responses to their questions and comments. OSP was invited and introduced to the board by Mr. Engel, with Brandi Schroeder and Tanya Freeman in attendance. C.J. informed the board that Ms. Freeman has recommended that the board utilize a new RFP model considered the Most Advantageous Approach or MAP. The MAP RFP will allow the board to interview all vendors that submit proposals on a much smaller scale with a condensed proposal being requested initially. Shelby Johnson stated he has utilized this approach for procurement recently with the review process being much quicker and more efficient than past processes. Tommy Sizemore asked if they will see the entire RFP or could we miss items in the RFP? Ms. Freeman stated that vendors will still be given same requirements of what they need to provide but less information on how they should complete the work. A question was asked in chat of how long vendors will have to submit proposals with this model. Ms. Freeman stated that standard is 30 days but could shorten that time with MAP.

Federal Engineering PSAP Consolidation – C.J. Engel informed the board that PSAP survey data is still being collected. It is planned to schedule meetings with Federal Engineering and approximately 8-10 PSAPs.

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

- GIS team is continuing to review exception areas
- First regional meeting took place in Mountain View with Stone, Izard, and Independence County represented with fire, police, EMS, 911, and OEM. Maps and boundaries were reviewed on site with corrections marked that need to be made
- Clark, Hot Spring, and Pike County for January and possibly 2 more regional meetings in February.

New Business

10-Digit Local Dialing – Mr. Engel provided an FYI for the board and attendees that the FCC has sent out a letter to state and local 911 coordinators regarding changes needed to be made in preparation for the nationwide implementation of 988 as the 3-digit abbreviated dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. All PSAP equipment, such as speed dialers, and call forwarding equipment programmed to dial only 7-digits, must be updated or reprogrammed to dial 10-digits for all local calls in the 501 area code.

Annual Legislative Report – C.J. Engel reminded the board that Act 660, the Public Safety Act of 2019, requires submission of an annual legislative report. He will be providing the report prior to the board meeting on January 21st for review and discussion.

ALETA 911 Training Program Update – Mr. Engel introduced the new 911 training coordinator for ALETA, Ms. Shannon McCuin. Ms. McCuin first introduced Mr. Clint Scrivner, 911 training program supervisor. Mr. Scrivner stated that Shannon is motivated and impressed with her work so far. He plans for the training program to serve the state equally. Ms. McCuin described her background with 911 and that she has been in this position a little over one month. There was a small basic telecommunicator course one week ago, trying out new technology and different approaches including some in person and some online attendees and instructors with materials converted to digital. She is currently performing inventory on materials and equipment as well as creating needs assessment for the program. Major goal is to increase online training. Robert McGowen asked if the course has been revamped. Ms. McCuin answered that some updates have been made but not revamped since course changed from 24 to 40 hour. Mr. McGowen asked if the \$250,000 annually provided for training could be used for reimbursing lodging, transportation, or meals. Ms. McCuin stated that they are looking at checks and balances on expenses such equipment, salaries, vehicles, etc. and could look at using funding for travel expenses. Mr. McGowen asked if APCO training could potentially be reimbursed as they have maintained training with APCO through COVID. Stated he would like to see revamped training as well.

FROM THE FLOOR

Tina Owens 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 Thursday, January 21, 2021 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 Robert McGowen to adjourn and second by Keith Edmonds. The motion carried.



Chairman