

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ARKANSAS 911 BOARD
January 21, 2021**

A regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas 911 Board was held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management with a Zoom link and conference bridge provided for participation while social distancing.

Prior to roll call, new Board Member, Chief Danny Baker of the Fort Smith Police Department, was introduced as the Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police appointment to the Arkansas 911 Board filling the vacancy of Chad Henson.

The following members were in attendance:

Board

Shelby Johnson	Director, AR GIS Office
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
Danny Baker	Police Chief, City of Fort Smith
Tommy Sizemore	Fire Chief, City of Barling
Jamie Pafford-Gresham	Pafford EMS

Executive Director

C.J. Engel

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

Upon a motion presented by Robert McGowen and a second by Keith Edmonds, the minutes of the December 15, 2020 regular monthly meeting were unanimously approved.

Financial Reports – Following a motion presented by Keith Edmonds and a second by Robert McGowen the financial report was approved unanimously as provided which reflected the total assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2020 to be \$11,863,591.68 in which \$2,043,726.55 is in the State Treasury Money Management Fund account and \$9,819,865.13 is in the US Bank working capital account.

Expense Report - Monthly expenses of \$250,711.47 were approved for payment as submitted. Included in the approved expenses were:

- LEC Charges = \$225,500.10
- AT&T Mobility – FirstNet = \$20.84
- Arkansas GIS Office = \$15,534.42

- Office Depot = \$42.72
- Arkansas Division of Emergency Management = \$587.39
- County Judge's Association of Arkansas = \$150.00
- C.J. Engel Travel Reimbursement = \$126.00
- Contract Labor = \$8,750

Mr. Engel gave an update to the Board on the LEC statement review process. With the assistance of Justin Vaughn, the AT&T monthly statement will be reduced by approximately \$40,000 per month or \$480,000 for the year by closing out the use of wireless circuits for ALI data. The review process will continue as there may be the potential for additional savings through long distance plans to certain wireless circuits.

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

Annual Legislative Report – An update was provided from C.J. Engel that he had submitted the required Annual Legislative Report to the Governor's Office and to BLR to assist in sending the report to the appropriate Legislative Council. No questions from the Board.

RFP – ESInet and NG911 Core Services – Mr. Engel reported to the Board that OSP has returned the draft for additional review and updates needed. C.J. Engel requested feedback from the Board of whether the original intent of the RFP was to include Call Processing Equipment (CPE) along with the ESINet and Next Gen Core Services as the current state of the RFP did not have CPE included. Mr. Engel stated the Board could proceed with the RFP as is and could pursue CPE in the future. Robert McGowen made a motion to move forward with the RFP without CPE included, Jamie Pafford-Gresham seconded the motion. All approve by vote. The RFP will be presented to the NG911 subcommittee once complete. The March regular monthly meeting is set as the goal date for completion.

Federal Engineering PSAP Consolidation – C.J. Engel informed the board that 9 random PSAP interviews have been completed. Federal Engineering is working to complete the draft plan outline in order to present to the PSAP Consolidation subcommittee for review.

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

- Second GIS regional meeting took place with Clark, Hot Spring, and Pike Counties on January 20th. Mr. Johnson asked Board Members to attempt to attend the meeting in their area.
- Pursuing a method to assist in fixing challenges with fire boundary maps as the process as is, is not efficient or effective. Legislation has be proposed for the GIS Office to oversee the fire boundary layers.

New Business

Annual PSAP Certification – Mr. Engel provided an update that he has a final review meeting for the online PSAP Annual Certification application on January 22nd. The PSAP Certification is expected to go out the week of February 1st.

PSAP Cost Sharing – C.J. Engel informed the Board that there had been some issues brought to his and Chairman Gary's attention regarding cost sharing for PSAPs. The Board does not control local agreements but does have the authority to approve those agreements to ensure fair cost share.

HB1156: High Cost Fund – Mr. Engel notified the Board of the filing of HB1156 which would move the 911 Rural Enhancement funding within the High Cost Fund from ADEM to the 911 Board. This bill would provide \$2,000,000 for distribution to PSAPs, \$175,000 for administrative costs, and \$825,000 for Smart911 and SmartPrepare applications. The \$175,000 currently pays for one position through ADEM and could be utilized to provide a second position for the Board if wanted. Sheriff Wright asked if the funding would fluctuate and where does that funding come from. Mr. Engel confirmed that the amount of the funding is specified in legislation and would not fluctuate, and that it is distributed from the Arkansas High Cost Fund but does not know where it originates. Chief Baker shared ACA 23-17-404 that discusses the Arkansas High Cost Fund.

FROM THE FLOOR

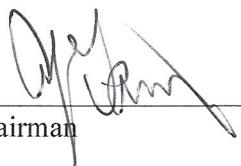
Shelby Johnson asked for questions from guests on the call. Hearing none.

Robert McGowen stated his concern that there are entities that have said they plan to keep their own PSAP even if they aren't selected to be funded by the Board. Mr. McGowen asked if there is a way for the Board to prevent this, as he feels it would defeat the overall goal of consolidation efforts with the services provided. Sheriff Wright stated that PSAPs should have to meet or exceed certain standards and if they are able to do so on their own funding, would not see an issue with them doing so. Doug Sprouse asked if this could be addressed in rules or legislation.

Jamie Pafford-Gresham thanked all of those guests on the call and appreciates input and feedback for the Board.

The next regular meeting has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 18, 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 Jamie Pafford-Gresham. The motion carried.


Chairman