

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ARKANSAS 911 BOARD
May 20, 2021**

A regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas 911 Board was held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 20, 2021 virtually with a Zoom link and conference bridge provided for participation.

The following members were in attendance:

Board

A.J. Gary (Chairman)	Director, Arkansas Division of Emergency Management
Shelby Johnson	Director, Arkansas GIS Office
Skot Covert	Designee, Arkansas State Auditor
Rusty McMillon	County Judge, Greene County
Brian Presley	911 Coordinator, Independence County
Robert McGowen	Administrator of Public Safety, Benton County
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

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 1:01 pm and presided over the meeting.

Upon a motion presented by Doug Sprouse and a second by Robert McGowen, the minutes of the April 15, 2021 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 April 30, 2021 to be \$13,727,953.33 in which \$2,044,718.06 is in the State Treasury Money Management Fund account and \$11,683,235.27 is in the US Bank working capital account.

Expense Report - Monthly expenses of \$212,535.55 were approved for payment as submitted. Included in the approved expenses were:

- LEC Charges - \$175,200.06
- AT&T Mobility – FirstNet - \$41.23
- Arkansas GIS Office - \$24,879.03
- Office Depot - \$197.26

- U.S. Bank VISA - \$206.51
- AEMA - \$240.00
- NENA - \$199.00
- Information Network of Arkansas - \$2,565.00
- Executive Director Travel Reimbursement - \$257.46
- 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.

Old Business

Annual PSAP Certification – C.J. Engel gave an update to the Board that 6 certifications are missing (Ashley, Carroll, West Memphis, Madison, Ouachita, and St. Francis). Mr. Engel has spoken with all 6 entities regarding the missing reports and all have said to be in progress and will be turned in as soon as possible. He stated that he plans to cover the reported Certification information in June's meeting.

HB1156: 911 Rural Enhancement – Chairman Gary updated the Board on the status of HB1156. The bill was pulled from the Senate Committee and was not voted on. He stated that the sponsor of the bill spoke of having an interim study done on 911 Rural Enhancement.

RFP – ESInet and NG911 Core Services – Mr. Engel stated that the evaluation team has continued to work with the Office of State Procurement on the RFP process and that it is still ongoing.

Federal Engineering PSAP Consolidation – C.J. Engel stated that the project timeline has the Draft Report being submitted to the Board on June 7th for review. Federal Engineering will be on the call for June's meeting. The PSAP Consolidation Plan subcommittee will have the opportunity to review and will then be sent to the full board. The Board will be able to discuss feedback with Federal Engineering prior to the Final Report being due on June 28th.

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

- GIS team has been having outreach conversations with other states that are ahead of us with NG911 such as Kansas and North Carolina.
- Outreach and coordination will need to continue with local entities completing addressing and MSAG. GIS data and MSAG data will need to be synchronized.
- Key takeaway for the 911 Board to understand when planning for NG911 is that while statewide layers were highly accurate, the same results should not be expected of the data maintained at the county level.
- Results were also shared via PowerPoint of the GeoComm assessment with the following focus areas for critical errors:
 - Correction of boundary gaps and overlaps
 - Correction of range overlaps (Road Centerlines)
 - Correction of multipart geometry
 - Correction of MSAG/ALI to Road Centerline errors
 - Addition and population of fully spelled out street name fields

New Business

FY2021 Independent Audit – C.J. Engel informed the Board that FY2021 will be ending June 30th and that we will need to get the process started for annual independent audit. Skot Covert asked for confirmation that Hudson Cisne is the company that has performed this in the past and Mr. Engel confirmed. Robert McGowen made a motion to start the process for independent audit with the same company as previous years, Skot Covert with a second. Approved unanimously by vote.

Telecommunicator of the Year – A.J. Gary asked to add an item of discussion to the agenda about the potential of a Telecommunicator of the Year award being awarded by the Board at AEMA conference. It was asked and confirmed that Arkansas APCO/NENA already do this on an annual basis at their conference. Robert McGowen mentioned that the Joe Halsey award is also open for nominations and is based on excellence in communications.

FROM THE FLOOR

C.J. Engel informed the Board that the Arkansas 911 Board Annual Report is on the ALC agenda for tomorrow, May 21 at 9:00 am.

Robert McGowen made a motion to go into Executive Session for personnel contract review for the Executive Director position, second by Rodney Wright. None opposed.

Doug Sprouse made a motion to end Executive Session, with a second by Robert McGowen. Approved unanimously.

Chairman Gary stated that during Executive Session, the Executive Director's contract was discussed.

Mr. McGowen made a motion to renew C.J. Engel's contract as Executive Director for two years beginning on July 1, 2021 (FY2022) at a rate of \$125,000 per year and beginning on July 1, 2022 (FY2023) a rate of \$145,000 per year, with a second by Rusty McMillon. Chairman Gary made clarification that this salary includes the cost of benefits, as personnel benefits are not provided by the Board. Robert McGowen said that he had compared the salaries and benefits of other 911 State Directors and that the cost of benefits would make up 40% of this salary. Jamie Pafford-Gresham stated that the Board was pleased with the work being performed. Approved unanimously with vote, motion carries.

Doug Sprouse stated that he has been monitoring the American Rescue Plan, and that we should focus in on items that would have a lasting impact. He mentioned that it is important to stay engaged through partnerships on how to best improve services provided. He encourages the Board to be mindful of potential ways to utilize those rescue funds to make a difference. A.J. Gary agrees and stated that he believes communications would fall into priorities and that there is a longer period of time to award funds. Shelby Johnson believes that public safety is a part of infrastructure and worth looking into potential opportunities.

Tommy Sizemore informed the Board that he has been asked by the State Fire Chief's Association to give an update on behalf of the 911 Board at their next meeting. He will attend and give an update on the current 911 projects.

Chairman Gary opened up the floor for questions or comments from guests. Hearing none.

The next regular meeting has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 17, 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 Shelby Johnson to adjourn and second by Robert McGowen. The motion carried.



Chairman