

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
ARKANSAS 911 BOARD
August 12, 2021**

A special monthly meeting of the Arkansas 911 Board was held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 12, 2021 virtually with a Zoom link and conference bridge provided for participation.

The following members were in attendance:

Board

Tina Owens (Chairman Proxy)	Chief of Staff, Arkansas Division of Emergency Management
Shelby Johnson	Director, Arkansas GIS Office
Skot Covert	Designee, Auditor of State
Rusty McMillon	County Judge, Greene County
Brian Presley	911 Coordinator, Independence County
Bo Robertson	Garland 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

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

Daniel Faulkner

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.

C.J. Engel introduced Bo Robertson as the newest member to the Arkansas 911 Board, appointed by Senate Pro Tempore, Jimmy Hickey, Jr. for a 2 year term.

Expense Report – With a motion to accept by Jamie Pafford-Gresham and a second by Rusty McMillon, the monthly expenses of \$234,998.68 were approved by all for payment as submitted. Included in the approved expenses were:

- LEC Charges - \$212,273.77
- AT&T Mobility – FirstNet - \$41.23
- Arkansas GIS Office - \$10,579.55
- U.S. Bank VISA - \$1,144.13
- Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police - \$200.00
- County Judges Association of Arkansas - \$150.00
- International Association of Emergency Managers - \$195.00
- Contract Labor - \$10,415.00

From the Floor

Tina Owens opened up the floor for discussions or comments from the Board. Jamie Pafford-Gresham updated the Board on the PSAP Consolidation Subcommittee's meeting held the previous week. She has requested that Shelby Johnson be added to the PSAP Consolidation Subcommittee roster to replace Robert McGowen's position.

Following additional discussion, the PSAP Consolidation Subcommittee would like to make the formal recommendation that the Board create its required plan based on funding 79 PSAPs as recommended by the report provided by Federal Engineering and to give the opportunity for localities to provide justification for additional PSAPs to the Board. It was clarified that there will need to be a 2/3 approval of the Board to increase from 77 to 79 PSAPs funded. Any additional PSAPs added would also require a new 2/3 approval vote by the Board. By the Board moving forward in creating its plan guidelines gives localities time to prepare what is required ahead of the plan being submitted. Danny Baker does not want to keep the door open for those that may think they do not need to participate in consolidation but after further discussion, believes the mechanisms are in place to ensure that jurisdictions that need to consolidate, do consolidate. Doug Sprouse agrees with the summary of discussions and felt there was just as much about concerns of those that may present justifications for additional PSAPs as there was concerns about smaller populated counties and that may not be best that every county has a PSAP.

Jamie stated as a rural citizen, it is about receiving the same service at home as in a large area such as Bentonville. She does not believe it's in the best interest for the Board to force additional consolidations but that it is the Board's job to create the guidelines for operations and that if those remaining PSAPs can't meet those guidelines, then consider consolidation. It was mentioned that there was a Subcommittee to discuss standards. Shelby Johnson believes that the group existed but due to Consolidation and NG911, it possibly pushed aside. Jamie stated that in addition to the PSAP number, the Board should set the deadlines required for the plan. One of those would be a deadline for presenting justifications for additional PSAPs by April 1, 2022 and January 1, 2023 for their consolidation plans to be presented to the Board.

The PSAP Consolidation Subcommittee also discussed timelines for consolidation such as 3-5 years following submissions of plans. Shelby Johnson discussed traveling Arkansas and visiting PSAPs with the blue ribbon committee and how job functions differ such as jailers and dispatchers needing to be addressed in these plans.

Shelby Johnson has asked that all board members make best attempt to attend the Regular Board meeting in person as there will be some big decisions that will need to be made and questions to answer.

Shelby Johnson gave an update to the board that the Carroll County Clerk was a big help in getting there GIS data reviewed and up to date in order to wrap up the county.

Tommy Sizemore asked C.J. Engel about the ESInet & NGCS project since the contract was reviewed and accepted. Mr. Engel informed the Board that AT&T plans to attend the conference and an introduction to the Program Manager would be made. Developing the project plan and timelines has already began.

The regular meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas 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 Rodney Wright to adjourn and second by Danny Baker. The motion carried.



Chairman