

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
ARKANSAS 911 BOARD  
July 15, 2021**

A regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas 911 Board was held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management with a Zoom link and conference bridge provided.

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 (Zoom)	Designee, Arkansas State Auditor
Brian Presley	911 Coordinator, Independence County
Robert McGowen	Administrator of Public Safety, Benton County
Keith Edmonds (Zoom)	Madison County EMS & Fire Services
Doug Sprouse (Zoom)	Mayor, City of Springdale
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 Chairman Gary 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 Rodney Wright, the minutes of the June 17, 2021 regular monthly meeting were approved.

**Financial Reports** – Following a motion presented by Rodney Wright and a second by Jamie Pafford-Gresham, the Jefferson County 911 CAD upgrade reimbursement request and the financial report were approved as provided. The financial report reflected the total assets and liabilities as of June 30, 2021 to be \$12,445,804.78 in which \$2,045,206.39 is in the State Treasury Money Management Fund and \$10,400,598.39 is in the U.S. Bank account.

**Expense Report** - Monthly expenses of \$386,283.94 were approved for payment as submitted. Included in the approved expenses were:

- LEC Charges - \$211,615.52
- AT&T Mobility – FirstNet - \$41.23
- Arkansas GIS Office - \$16,092.59
- Federal Engineering - \$12,570.59 & \$12,570.59 (Final Invoice)
- ADEM - \$644.99

- Office Depot - \$55.00
- U.S. Bank VISA - \$605.74
- Jefferson County 911 - \$121,190.95
- Executive Director Travel Reimbursement - \$481.74
- Contract Labor - \$10,415.00

**15% Allocation Balance by County Report** – An updated report of the 15% Allocation Fund was presented with one new request from Jefferson County for CAD upgrade reimbursement of \$121,190.95. A new balance of \$545,382.42 is reflected with approval.

### **Old Business**

**RFP – ESInet and NG911 Core Services** – Mr. Engel informed the Board that the signed services contract for ESInet and NGCS with AT&T had been uploaded for review by the Office of State Procurement. It has been scheduled for ALC review on July 19<sup>th</sup> and ALC on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Shelby Johnson asked that once reviewed and confirmed, the AT&T Program Manager take part in monthly board meetings.

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

- Progress update has been provided within the Board member documents and includes Clay County’s final changes.
- The GIS team is roughly halfway through round 1 with all jurisdictions.
- Sevier, Howard, Little River & Hempstead Counties are in line for next meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup> in Hope.
- Final Report has not yet been received from GeoComm.
- Followed up with Carroll County Clerk to reschedule their GIS review and is scheduled to take place on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Jamie Pafford-Gresham shared positive feedback that she has received from EMS providers and their appreciation for a seat at the table to discuss service areas.

**Federal Engineering PSAP Consolidation Report** – A.J. Gary reminded the Board of the January 1, 2022 consolidation plan due date. It would be best to develop own final plan and provide Federal Engineering Report to support. Jamie Pafford-Gresham discussed providing a letter to those counties identified within the report and requesting status of any consolidation discussions already taking place. As the Chair of the PSAP Consolidation Subcommittee, she would like to meet this month to discuss goals and timelines.

Chairman Gary stated that we will be on a tight timeline for the Board’s plan due date in January as we are already in July so will need to focus in on consolidation within the plan. He asked if the Board felt a year is enough for entities to develop and present a plan. Rodney Wright walked through the timeline of Saline County’s consolidation and believes the planning phase can be accomplished in a year.

Robert McGowen asked how Saline County handled employee differences in compensation. Sheriff Wright explained how the county increased pay to match what the city was providing as well as compared benefits. Employees had an opportunity to decide which entity to remain with for benefits and through attrition all positions will eventually move to county benefits.



Shelby Johnson stated in agreement that the decisions on how to consolidate need to remain local but mentioned one year possibly being too long to create a plan and present to the Board. Jamie Pafford-Gresham mentioned reaching out to determine what challenges are already out there that would impact timelines. A.J. Gary clarified that one year would mean one year from the Board's plan being submitted.

Shelby Johnson brought up a recent NENA Consolidation course that was hosted in Benton County. C.J. Engel asked if there would be interest in bringing that course back to different parts of Arkansas. The Board agreed to look into the cost of doing so.

Brian Presley discussed how daunting the process can be for county to county consolidation and how the Board will need to be able to provide as much guidance as possible. Rusty McMillon informed the Board that St. Francis County Judge and Forrest City Fire Chief were coming to visit Greene County's PSAP to see the consolidated center.

Mr. Johnson reiterated the need to collect an intent and preliminary data from the PSAPs by January and that the plans could come back to the Board by June, 2022. Shelby also made mention of consideration of the ESinet project, and how the Board can incentivize those that work towards consolidation initially. Jamie Pafford-Gresham made a motion to send out report to all as well as a letter requesting plan of action by June, 2022. Jamie motion for additional discussion, Robert McGowen with a second.

Mr. McGowen sees problems arising that one PSAP is going to at least self fund no matter what decision is made by the Board. He asked if a date is going to be set to stop funding PSAPs. A.J. Gary stated we could set a timeline for PSAP to have a plan and a timeline to consolidate then base continuing funding off those dates. Robert stated that the Board should consider stopping funding to PSAPs that do not move forward in working towards the plan.

Doug Sprouse asked if the Board would hold spots on meeting agendas for jurisdictions to present their challenges or justifications for additional PSAP proposals? Jamie agreed that they could notify C.J. Engel first if requesting time on agenda. Jamie stated that exemplary service across the state comes first and that the reasoning given should be highly valuable.

Jamie Pafford-Gresham amended motion for PSAPs to provide intent and any current discussions to the Board by end of November, 2021. Robert McGowen second, all approve.

### **New Business**

**August Special Board Meeting** – C.J. Engel requested a Special Board Meeting to take place in August to approve expenses due to the Regular Board Meeting being scheduled late in the month. Robert McGowen made a motion for a Special Board Meeting to take place August 12, 2021 at 1:00 pm via Zoom. Tommy Sizemore with a second, all approve.

**Arkansas 911 Board Panel Discussion** – Mr. Engel asked that the Board be prepared for a panel discussion following the Regular Board Meeting at the AEMA Conference in August. The panel discussion will be August 25, 2021 from 4:15 pm – 5:15 pm. Jamie Pafford-Gresham asked Mr. Engel to create and provide an approximate 30 minute presentation prior to opening to Q&A with the Board. Shelby Johnson asked for all of the Board members to make best efforts to attend next meeting in person including the panel discussion.

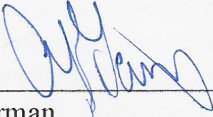
**From the Floor**

Chairman Gary opened to questions or comments from guests. Alice Wallis with Perry County asked for opinions or clarifications on Geography Based Recommendations on Page 84 of the Federal Engineering report. Mr. Engel clarified that the Geography Based Recommendations did not mean a joint PSAP between all of the entities named but that they could make good potential partners due to size and location with one or more of them listed.

No further items of discussion from the Board.

The next regular meeting has been scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at the 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 Robert McGowen to adjourn and second by Rodney Wright. The motion carried.

  
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Chairman