

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ARKANSAS 911 BOARD
June 17, 2021**

A regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas 911 Board was held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 17, 2021 virtually with a Zoom link and conference bridge provided for participation.

The following members were in attendance:

Board

Tina Owens (Proxy)	Chief of Staff, 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
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 1:02 pm and presided over the meeting.

Upon a motion presented by Robert McGowen and a second by Jamie Pafford-Gresham, the minutes of the May 20, 2021 regular monthly meeting and May 27, 2021 special meeting were unanimously approved.

Financial Reports – Following a motion presented by Skot Covert and a second by Jamie Pafford-Gresham, the financial report was approved as provided which reflected the total assets as of May 31, 2021 to be \$18,961,766.19 in which \$2,044,963.40 is in the State Treasury Money Management Fund account and \$16,916,802.79 is in the US Bank working capital account.

Expense Report - Monthly expenses of \$11,811,891.15 were approved for payment as submitted. Included in the approved expenses were:

- LEC Charges - \$210,577.06
- AT&T Mobility – FirstNet - \$41.23
- Arkansas GIS Office - \$16,948.52

- Federal Engineering - \$28,668.00
- APCO - \$440.00
- NENA - \$599.00
- NASNA - \$500.00
- Executive Director Travel Reimbursement - \$560.10
- Contract Labor - \$8,750.00
- PSAP Maintenance Reimbursement - \$1,461,310.18
- 1Q21 PSAP Distributions - \$10,083,497.06

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

Federal Engineering PSAP Consolidation – C.J. Engel introduced Scott Strom and Sherri Bush from Federal Engineering to give an overview of the Draft PSAP Consolidation Report. Ms. Bush shared several of the key recommendations within the report including:

- Reducing to 78-80 PSAPs statewide utilizing certain thresholds and criteria
- Promote a state guided, local control approach with consolidation and standardizing processes
- Provide incentives and support consolidation through the 15% fund and early adoption placement with ESInet connectivity

Sherri also covered when adopting thresholds to get to 78-80 PSAPs, it is recommended to utilize a population criteria as PSAPs are currently funded based on population percentages. A second phase to consider would be geography based locations for multi-county reviews. Physical consolidations are recommended and in a phased timeline approach. A co-location could consolidate in as little as 2 years while some consolidations could take as long as 10 years. It is important to monitor and guide PSAP consolidations through the PSAP certification process for reporting status. PSAPs should also be required to have a business continuity plan.

Shelby Johnson asked if there would be anything within the executive summary or plan that may need to be updated due to AT&T being selected as ESInet and NGCS vendor. Sherri answered that it was kept at a level that would not be specific to vendors.

Ms. Bush shared next steps and that as things move forward, this becomes a snapshot in time. The next steps will include review of the final report and the Board deciding what to accept in their plan forward.

Robert McGowen asked for clarification within the Benton County consolidation recommendation, whether Siloam Springs was listed as a standalone or to be consolidated with another entity. Sherri stated that due several factors including call volumes and population, Siloam Springs would make sense to consolidate with another PSAP.

Danny Baker asked for Federal Engineering's interpretation of quasi-governmental entities. Ms. Bush answered that their definition included instances of privatized entities falling under governmental standards and regulations, private entities receiving public funds, or

privately owned entities with governmental members involved in the decision making process.

Jamie Pafford-Gresham stated that there has been a lot of worry and turmoil on what might happen and that this report was needed to make sure we are touching all of the bases. Danny Baker mentioned that the Board should do everything it can to support consolidation from infrastructure to staffing.

Jamie and Sherri asked the Board to funnel any additional feedback through Mr. Engel prior to the finalized report on June 28, 2021.

Annual PSAP Certification – C.J. Engel gave an update to the Board that all Certifications have been received. The Certification data was assembled and presented to the Board.

- 2020 - 911 Total Call Volume: 1,901,063
- 2020 - 911 Wireless Call Volume: 1,679,597 (88%)
- 1,094 Full-Time Telecommunicators & 171 Part-Time Telecommunicators
- 2020 – Total 911 Reported Expenses: \$68,887,734.63

RFP – ESInet and NG911 Core Services – Mr. Engel informed the Board that the signed services contract was not received back from AT&T in enough time to make it onto the June ALC agenda. The Office of State Procurement is uploading the agreement into the portal and is expected to be reviewed in July.

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

- The GIS team has two (2) meetings upcoming. One with Pope, Logan and Yell, the other with Sebastian, Scott, Logan and Crawford.
- Expecting to finish these initial regional meetings by the end of the year.
- Due to some lower preliminary completion numbers, it is expected that local GIS coordinators will have more work to do to ensure satisfactory data.

New Business

Crawford County PSAP Consolidation – C.J. Engel shared a letter with the Board from Crawford County requesting support of moving forward with consolidation between Crawford County, the City of Van Buren, and City of Alma. Shelby Johnson stated he would like to applaud Judge Gilstrap for pushing the project forward. No immediate action needed by the Board but will eventually need to accept interlocal agreements.

Johnson County PSAP Consolidation – Mr. Engel shared the interlocal agreement between Johnson County and the City of Clarksville to consolidate their two entities into one PSAP. Robert McGowen made a motion to accept the agreement, Shelby Johnson with a second. All members approved by vote.

Carroll County GIS Review – Shelby Johnson informed the Board that there had been a scheduled GIS review meeting for Boone, Madison and Carroll Counties with no representatives present from Carroll County. With critical boundaries between these counties, additional work could not be completed. A follow up meeting was scheduled in Eureka Springs coordinated through the local Office of Emergency Management and again

no representatives attended. The Board recommends additional follow up through new channels.

FROM THE FLOOR

Tina Owens mentioned that ADEM meetings have begun taking place in person again. C.J. Engel asked the Board if they would agree to the July meeting being in person at ADEM with Doug Sprouse stating he had no problem having the next meeting in person. No further discussion.

No further items of discussion from the Board.

Ms. Owens 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, July 15, 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 Skot Covert. The motion carried.



Chairman