

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ARKANSAS 911 BOARD
September 16, 2021**

A regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas 911 Board was held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 16, 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
Rusty McMillon - Zoom	County Judge, Greene County
Bo Robertson - Zoom	Director, Garland County DEM
Doug Sprouse - Zoom	Mayor, City of Springdale
Rodney Wright	Sheriff, Saline County
Keith Edmonds	Director, Madison County EMS
Danny Baker	Police Chief, City of Fort Smith
Tommy Sizemore - Zoom	Fire Chief, City of Barling

Executive Director

C.J. Engel

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

Daniel Faulkner

Chairman Gary called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm and presided over the meeting with a quorum declared.

Upon a motion presented by Rodney Wright and a second by Danny Baker, the minutes of the August 25, 2021 regular monthly meeting were approved unanimously.

Financial Reports – Following a motion presented by Shelby Johnson and a second by Keith Edmonds, the financial report was approved unanimously as provided which reflected the total assets and liabilities as of August 31, 2021 to be \$20,822,918.68 in which \$2,045,679.16 is in the State Treasury Money Management Fund account and \$18,777,239.52 is in the US Bank working capital account.

Expense Report – Monthly expenses of \$12,206,393.65 were approved for payment as submitted. Included in the approved expenses were:

- LEC Charges - \$214,114.59
- AT&T Mobility FirstNet - \$41.23
- Arkansas GIS Office - \$8,315.97
- Lawrence County - \$961.27
- U.S. Bank Visa - \$856.30
- Executive Director Reimbursement - \$1,246.81

- Contract Labor - \$10,415.00
- 2Q21 PSAP Distributions - \$11,970,442.48

Shelby Johnson asked if the ESInet & NGCS charges will be billed separate from the current charges. C.J. Engel stated he will discuss the billing options with AT&T.

15% Allocation Balance by County Report – An updated report of the 15% Allocation Fund was presented with one new request from Lawrence County approved unanimously for \$961.27 with a motion by Rusty McMillon and second by Rodney Wright. The 15% Allocation Fund reflects a new balance of \$544,421.15.

Old Business

ESInet & NextGen Core Services – Mr. Engel provided an update to the Board that, Letters of Authorization (LOA) will be sent out by AT&T soon and that regional project information meetings have been scheduled as follows:

- North Central – October 11 at 2:00 pm, Mountain View
- Northeast – October 12 at 9:00 am, Jonesboro
- Central – October 12 at 2:00 pm, Conway
- Southeast – October 13 at 9:00 am, Monticello
- Southwest – October 13 at 2:00 pm, Hope
- Northwest – October 14 at 9:00 am, Fort Smith

Arkansas 911 Board – PSAP Consolidation Plan – Shelby Johnson asked if one of the members present at the county judge’s meeting would summarize the discussion. Rusty McMillon stated at least three county judges informed the panel they were planning to request allotment of additional PSAPs. Several frustrations were made from larger counties towards the idea of one PSAP allowed for counties with only 5,000 – 10,000 population yet only two or three allowed for counties with 250,000 – 400,000 population. A.J. Gary agreed with the summarization and added that his thought process would not include additional PSAPs for larger counties even if regional consolidation occurred.

Rusty said he had conversations with two county judges regarding interest in regional consolidation at the meeting. Rusty added with the county judges that the number of PSAPs has been blown out of proportion with PSAPs being created and applying for funding as recently as 2012. These services were provided prior to separation and once these entities noticed funding available it was about dipping into that money.

Doug Sprouse maintained that if the goal is to have high quality dispatch services across the state, he does not see how some smaller counties wouldn’t consolidate. If the Board holds these agencies to certain standards, some will see the benefit of consolidation. He feels that it is just as wrong to have a county with a PSAP that doesn’t need a PSAP, than a county with too many PSAPs. A.J. Gary has heard from a couple of counties that are still discussing consolidation and will see the financial advantage of that. Danny Baker added that the delivery will be key towards the possibility of consolidation with counties as it’s easier to accept something with education and advantages presented.

Shelby Johnson asked if the Board should set a deadline for its draft plan to be ready for approval. The Board agreed that the draft plan is to be ready by the November meeting. He mentioned quality of service and setting standards. A.J. felt the Board should focus on the consolidation plan now and look at possible needs for rules and standards after the first of the year. He also asked if we should discuss the timeline for consolidation to take place. Danny Baker stated this should be done in a separate meeting where more opportunity for

feedback was given. He feels the consolidation timeline should be the focus on the agenda for the October meeting.

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

- The regular GIS progress update report was distributed
- Two meetings coming up in October in Ouachita and Miller Counties with only 5 meetings remaining.
- Following the last of these meetings, the team will begin to determine a schedule for round two.

New Business

Authorized Expenditures – A.J. Gary has had a couple of questions regarding allowable expenses for 911 funding such as spending on street signs or vehicles. While legislation is pretty clear, would like to distribute a clarification letter on those allowable expenses. The legislation has been included for the Board members' review.

AR 911 Board Meeting Locations – C.J. Engel informed the Board that there have been requests of whether the Board might have their meetings in different areas similar to the August meeting in Northwest Arkansas. Rodney Wright stated it was a good idea to divide the state up into quarters and rotate locations once a quarter. Other members agreed.

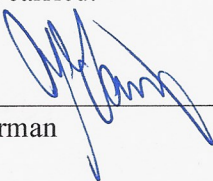
From the Floor

Chairman Gary opened to questions or comments from guests. Hearing none.

No further items of discussion from the Board.

The next regular meeting has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 21, 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 Rodney Wright. The motion carried.



Chairman