

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ARKANSAS 911 BOARD
August 18, 2022**

A regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas 911 Board was held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 18, 2022 at the Embassy Suites – Northwest Arkansas with a Zoom link and conference bridge provided.

The following board members were in attendance:

A.J. Gary, Chairman	Director, Arkansas Division of Emergency Management
Shelby Johnson	Director, Arkansas GIS Office
Rusty McMillon - Zoom	County Judge, Greene County
Bo Robertson	Director, Garland County Department of Emergency Management
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 - Zoom	Fire Chief, City of Barling

The following board members were absent:

Brian Presley	911 Coordinator, Independence County
Skot Covert	Designee, Auditor of State
Jamie Pafford-Gresham	Pafford Emergency Medical Services

Chairman Gary called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and presided over the meeting with a quorum declared.

Upon a motion presented by Doug Sprouse and a second by Robert McGowen, the minutes of the July 21st regular monthly meeting and July 29th special meeting were approved.

Financial Report – Following a motion presented by Robert McGowen and a second by Rodney Wright, the financial report was approved unanimously as provided which reflected the total assets and liabilities as of July 31, 2022 to be \$17,056,800.77 in which \$2,050,959.39 is in the State Treasury account and \$15,005,841.38 is in the U.S. Bank account.

Expense Report – Monthly expenses of \$333,681.65 were approved for payment as submitted. Included in the approved expenses were:

- LEC Charges - \$301,077.58
- AT&T Mobility FirstNet - \$41.23
- Arkansas GIS Office - \$19,196.39
- IAEM - \$199.00
- ADEM - \$680.70
- U.S. Bank VISA - \$109.44

- Executive Director Reimbursement - \$297.31
- Contract Labor - \$12,080.00

15% Allocation Balance by County Report – An updated report of the 15% Allocation Fund was presented reflecting a balance of \$544,421.15 with no new requests for approval.

Old Business

GIS Data Aggregation for NG911 Service – Shelby Johnson introduced and thanked Katie Hattenhauer and Casey Vannoy who have both been instrumental in working with PSAPs on their data for the ESInet project.

NG911 GIS Data Validation Service Procurement – Mr. Johnson shared that following the 911 Board’s approval at its special meeting on July 29th, OSP was able to finalize negotiations and prepare proposal for legislative review and will be on the committee agenda for August 23rd and full council on August 26th.

ESInet & NextGen Core Services – C.J. Engel shared that 19 PSAPs have been transitioned to the ESInet with two remaining for August and nine scheduled for September.

Bylaws, Rules & Guidelines Subcommittee Update – The Subcommittee’s meeting was suspended for this month. Proposed standards for roads and address as well as minimum upload schedule has been shared with the board and would like to potentially adopt in next month’s meeting. The larger counties were polled on their perspective of the upload schedule and the consensus from those have been that twice per month is acceptable and necessary.

PSAP Consolidation Funding – Mr. Engel presented the following information to the Board regarding providing potential funding to the 15 counties with PSAPs required to consolidate:

- Total State Population – 3,011,524
- Population of 15 Consolidating Counties – 1,789,545
- Consolidating Counties Population Percentage – 59%

\$9,258,097.76 remains in the 15% fund with \$8,713,676.61 available and unallocated. An average increase of \$221,902.93 per month to this fund in FY22. Mr. Engel stated that this monthly surplus will decrease as more PSAPs transition to the ESInet and those expenses go up. As the Board wants to offer some funding towards consolidation efforts, the following numbers were presented:

- \$100,000 ea. - \$1,500,000 total – 17% of Fund Balance
- \$125,000 ea. - \$1,875,000 total – 22% of Fund Balance
- \$150,000 ea. - \$2,250,000 total – 26% of Fund Balance
- \$175,000 ea. - \$2,625,000 total – 30% of Fund Balance
- \$200,000 ea. - \$3,000,000 total – 34% of Fund Balance
- \$225,000 ea. - \$3,375,000 total – 39% of Fund Balance
- \$250,000 ea. - \$3,750,000 total – 43% of Fund Balance

Robert McGowen wants to make sure that any leftover funding does not sit unused for years like the 2009 allocation fund has done. Doug Sprouse asked about risks associated with going up to the higher amounts. C.J. Engel discussed the AT&T ESInet contract and how the increase in expenses being paid monthly out of this 15% fund will increase as more PSAPs transition on. The contract is being paid out monthly and will be approximately \$100,000-\$150,000 more per month than what is currently paid for legacy costs once all PSAPs are live although the legacy costs should go to \$0 once all are transitioned. This will decrease the surplus amount the fund is growing every month as more money will be going out. There is a possibility while paying both legacy and ESInet that at some point the costs could exceed the revenue coming in causing the Board to dip into the fund. The 15% fund pays for the local exchange carrier costs, ESInet, legacy costs, annual CPE maintenance reimbursements for PSAPs, and GIS contracts. Mr. Engel would like to ensure that the Board keeps a comfortable savings in the fund to ensure the Board would be covered in the case of those costs exceeding the revenues for an amount of time while all these project implementations and transitions are occurring.

An additional item of thought is the larger the amount allocated towards consolidation, the less remaining to assist towards additional equipment upgrades in other places. Rodney Wright asked if anything the Board pays will go away through any of the current projects. C.J. responded that while the legacy AT&T bill around \$200,000 - \$250,000 will go away following full ESInet implementation, it is replaced by an approximate \$350,000-\$400,000 monthly bill with the Board taking on more costs from the local PSAPs. Doug asked best case when the legacy bill will go away. Mr. Engel stated best case, 18 months, and more realistic would be two years and worse case three years. After several conversations with jurisdictions going through consolidation, their expenses will range from \$150,000 for transitioning equipment up to several million dollars for new or remodeled facilities. Requirement for the funding would be to submit the local consolidation plan, request a pre-approval from the Board, then provide invoices for final approval as reimbursement. If consolidation is already completed and funds have already been spent, the requirement would be proof of invoice and connection to consolidation as well as request for reimbursement.

Rusty McMillon's preference would be to hold onto money for assisting with equipment upgrades across the state in the future and allow the consolidations to take place with the increase of 911 fees from 2019 as they've seen a 100% increase in Greene County. Rusty motion not to use this funding for consolidation at this time, hearing no second, motion failed.

Doug Sprouse asked how the remaining funds could be used for upgrades of equipment in the future. C.J. discussed the possibility of a grant style program of these funds to assist PSAPs upgrade equipment such as call handling equipment if the funding remains available. Chairman Gary wants to clarify whether he understands that we can help the 15 consolidating counties now or assist all other counties with upgrading equipment with these funds in the future. Mr. Engel explained that even if the Board approves \$3,000,000 to help with consolidations there would be \$5.7 million remaining that could be used at some point to assist the remaining counties with other upgrades that they may need.

Robert McGowen made a motion to allocate \$3,000,000 or up to \$200,000 per county for the 15 counties under the consolidation requirement with any unexpended funds being reverted into the 15% fund and will not be reserved for other uses by that jurisdiction, Rodney Wright with a second. Motion carries with Rusty McMillon opposed.

New Business

No new business presented.

From the Floor

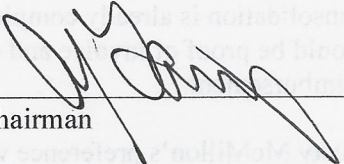
Robert McGowen would like for C.J. to test the Owl web camera currently used by ADEM’s directorate at the next Board meeting. Due to the price of over \$1,000, Robert made a motion that following testing at the next meeting, C.J. purchase an Owl web camera to replace the current camera used for Board meetings, Rodney Wright with a second. A.J. gave clarification of what an Owl camera does. Motion carried.

Chairman Gary discussed how the 911 Board will remain a priority for him and will continue his duties as Chairman, but as the newly appointed Secretary of Public Safety, a proxy may be needed more often than in the past.

A.J. Gary gave an update on mileage for Executive Director and potential options of providing a vehicle following discussions with Douglas House from the Attorney General’s Office.

The next regular meeting has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2022 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 Rodney Wright. The motion carried.


Chairman