

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
ARKANSAS 911 BOARD  
February 20, 2025**

A regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas 911 Board was held virtually at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2025, with a Zoom link and conference bridge provided.

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

**The following members were in attendance:**

**Board**

A.J. Gary, Chairman	Director, Arkansas Division of Emergency Management
Shelby Johnson - Zoom	Director, Arkansas GIS Office
Rusty McMillon - Zoom	County Judge, Greene County
Sally Pittser - Zoom	911 Director, Union County
Bo Robertson - Zoom	Director, Garland County Department of Emergency Management
Robert McGowen - Zoom	Administrator of Public Safety, Benton County
Doug Sprouse - Zoom	Mayor, City of Springdale
Kevin Molder - Zoom	Sheriff, Poinsett County
Danny Baker - Zoom	Police Chief, City of Fort Smith
Tommy Sizemore - Zoom	Fire Chief, City of Barling
Jamie Pafford-Gresham - Zoom	Pafford Emergency Medical Services

**Executive Director**

C.J. Engel

**Assistant Attorney General**

Aaron Lowrey

**The following members were absent:**

TJ Fowler	Designee, Auditor of State
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Motion made by Kevin Molder and seconded by Doug Sprouse to approve the Minutes from January 16, 2025, Arkansas 911 Board Meeting. Motion passed.

**Financial Report** – C.J. Engel provided the financial report reflecting the total assets and liabilities as of January 31, 2025, to be \$22,682,891.98 in which \$12,829,998.33 is in the State Treasury and \$9,852,893.65 is with U.S. Bank.

**Expenses** – Expenses for month ending January 31, 2025, totaling \$907,708.19 included:

- LEC Charges - \$277,639.88
- Arkansas GIS Office - \$14,111.12
- AT&T Mobility FirstNet - \$41.23
- U.S. Bank - \$315.96



- Contract Labor - \$15,600.00
- Lonoke County - \$600,000.00

Motion by Robert McGowen and seconded by Kevin Molder to approve the financial report and expenses as reviewed. Motion carried unanimously.

**15% Allocation Reimbursement Requests** - Requests for 9-1-1 CPE upgrade reimbursements were received by the following:

- Miller - \$35,000.00
- Mississippi - \$35,000.00
- Pike - \$35,000.00

Motion by Robert McGowen and seconded by Doug Sprouse to approve the 9-1-1 CPE upgrade reimbursements. Motion passed.

Requests for PSAP consolidation expense reimbursements were received by the following:

- Saline County - \$400,000.00

Motion by Robert McGowen and seconded by Sally Pittser to approve Saline County's PSAP consolidation expense reimbursement request. Motion carried unanimously.

An updated report of the ETSB Carryover Allocation Fund was presented reflecting no new requests for reimbursement, leaving a remaining balance of \$203,089.15.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**GIS Data Aggregation for NG911 Service** – Shelby Johnson updated the Board on the Arkansas GIS Office's recent project activities including Cleveland County being moved to the Complete column, and Randolph and Marion County being moved to the Live GeoMSAG column. Boundary changes reported through the online fire portal are in progress and there has been continued movement with LECs pending ALI change requests.

**ESInet & NextGen Core Services** – C.J. Engel shared that following Union County's recent consolidation and CPE upgrade, 86 PSAPs and 4 Dispatch Centers are now connected to the statewide ESInet covering a total population of 2,911,132 or 96.12% complete. Jamie Pafford-Gresham stated that this would be a good point to do some media on the successes of this project.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Garland County – City of Hot Springs PSAP Funding** – In the January meeting the decision on funding for Garland County was tabled with a request to follow up with the Attorney General's Office on the Board's ability of preventing an entity from sharing 911 funds with other entities and to ensure that the Board acts within its authority. Assistant Attorney General Aaron Lowrey discussed statute and his opinion that the Board has authority to determine reasonable and necessary costs for 911 funds and whether that includes sharing funds with any other PSAP or Dispatch Center. The Board could audit the 911 expenditures and if misuse or sharing of funds were found, the Board could limit or withhold funds completely. Mr. Engel made a recommendation based on timelines and past



discussions with Garland County and the City of Hot Springs, that the Board send all 911 funds to Garland County.

Kevin Molder made a motion to disburse funds to Garland County to be used only for reasonable and necessary costs to enhance, operate, and maintain 911 service at the Garland County PSAP only, and seconded by Jamie Pafford-Gresham. Motion carried with Bo Robertson abstaining from the vote.

Robert McGowen stated his appreciation for Mr. Lowrey taking the time to answer his questions and concerns from the previous meeting.

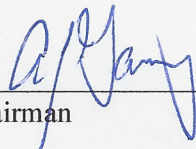
**Annual PSAP Report** – C.J. Engel provided a quick preview of the new PSAP Reporting tool that the Board approved at its January meeting and informed that the survey has been distributed with a deadline of April 1, 2025.

**From the Floor**

A.J. Gary opened the floor to questions/comments from the board and/or guests. Jamie stated that Representative Johnson decided not to file bill that addressed screening non-emergency medical services 911 calls.

The next regular meeting has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at the Desha County Emergency Communications Center. 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 Danny Baker and seconded by Robert McGowen to adjourn. The motion carried.

  
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Chairman