

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
ARKANSAS 911 BOARD
January 16, 2025**

A regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas 911 Board was held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at the Saline County Emergency Communications Center with a Zoom link and conference bridge provided.

Chairman A.J. Gary called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and presided over the meeting with a quorum declared. Mr. Gary stated his appreciation to Saline County for hosting the Arkansas 911 Board.

The following members were in attendance:

Board

A.J. Gary, Chairman

Shelby Johnson

TJ Fowler - Zoom

Sally Pittser - Zoom

Bo Robertson

Robert McGowen

Doug Sprouse

Kevin Molder - Zoom

Danny Baker - Zoom

Tommy Sizemore - Zoom

Jamie Pafford-Gresham

Director, Arkansas Division of Emergency Management

Director, Arkansas GIS Office

Designee, Auditor of State

911 Director, Union County

Director, Garland County Department of Emergency Management

Administrator of Public Safety, Benton County

Mayor, City of Springdale

Sheriff, Poinsett County

Police Chief, City of Fort Smith

Fire Chief, City of Barling

Pafford Emergency Medical Services

Executive Director

C.J. Engel

Assistant Attorney General

Aaron Lowrey

The following members were absent:

Rusty McMillon

County Judge, Greene County

With a correction that Doug Sprouse was present via Zoom, motion by Doug Sprouse and seconded by Robert McGowen to approve the Minutes from December 19, 2024, Arkansas 911 Board Meeting. Motion passed.

Financial Report – C.J. Engel provided the financial report reflecting the total assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2024, to be \$20,945,912.50 in which \$12,779,791.49 is in the State Treasury and \$8,166,121.01 is with U.S. Bank.

Expenses – Expenses for month ending December 31, 2024, totaling \$10,517,709.89 included:

- LEC Charges - \$275,105.47
- Arkansas GIS Office - \$20,077.31
- AT&T Mobility FirstNet - \$41.23
- U.S. Bank - \$455.51
- Contract Labor - \$15,600.00
- 3Q24 PSAP Distributions - \$10,206,430.37

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

OLD BUSINESS

GIS Data Aggregation for NG911 Service – Shelby Johnson updated the Board on the Arkansas GIS Office's recent project activities including Greene, Prairie, and Clay County have all moved to complete column. Conway and Yell County have moved into live GeoMSAG. An annual update has been completed with fire district boundaries.

ESInet & NextGen Core Services – C.J. Engel shared that no new additions have been made to ESInet since the last meeting due to holidays. Two consolidations have reduced the number of PSAPs on the ESInet. 84 PSAPs and 5 Dispatch Centers are now connected to the statewide ESInet covering a total population of 2,863,593 or 94.55%. Transitions are scheduled for Lee, Desha, and Benton County in January.

NEW BUSINESS

Faulkner County – City of Conway Interlocal Agreement – Faulkner County has provided its interlocal agreement as well as a signed letter stating completion of consolidation and for all funding moving forward to be distributed to the City of Conway as stated in the agreement. The cost share of operations is based on population within the agreement and acceptance is recommended. Robert McGowen made a motion to accept the interlocal agreement for Faulkner County and the City of Conway, seconded by Jamie Pafford-Gresham. Motion carried.

Garland County – City of Hot Springs PSAP Funding – No extension request, and no PSAP consolidation progress for Garland County and the City of Hot Springs has been made. Following several updates and discussions around this project, with the Hot Springs City Manager not recommending consolidation to the city Board of Directors and budgets for both entities including individual PSAPs in 2025, a decision on funding for these entities needs to be made as Garland County has only been allocated one funded PSAP following a deadline of January 1, 2025. Robert McGowen asked what actions the Board can or needs to take to ensure the 911 funding would be directed to one entity and not shared. Several options are available to the Board, including sending all 911 funding to Garland County, sending all funding to the City of Hot Springs, or withholding funding from both entities until an agreement or progress is made. Mr. Engel shared his understanding of the board's responsibility of ensuring 911 funds are spent appropriately along with their authority to audit these funds, allows the board to direct these funds to one entity and prevent passthrough. Robert McGowen stated his opinion based on previous actions that Garland County has made an effort to meet the requirements of consolidation, but the City of Hot

Springs has not come to the table in good faith to make the same attempt and that Garland County should receive the funding but is concerned what the county will decide to do with those funds. Robert McGowen has asked to follow up with the Attorney General's Office as to what authority exists and action the board can take for funding and made a motion to table this item until the February meeting, with a second by Danny Baker. Motion passed.

15% Allocation Reimbursement Requests – Requests for PSAP consolidation expense reimbursements were received by the following:

- Lonoke County - \$600,000.00

Motion by Robert McGowen and seconded by Bo Robertson to approve the PSAP consolidation reimbursement request for Lonoke County. 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.

No new 911 CPE upgrade requests were received, leaving a remaining balance of \$2,765,000.00.

Request for PSAP Report Tool – C.J. Engel has researched several options for a new survey tool that would assist in making the annual PSAP report more efficient and an easier method of data collection. A quote provided by Qualtrics would be \$1,440.00 for one-year subscription to provide an online database survey tool. Robert McGowen made a motion to approve the subscription to Qualtrics, seconded by Bo Robertson. Motion carried.

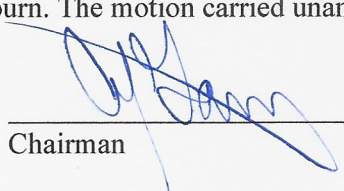
From the Floor

A.J. Gary opened the floor to questions/comments from the board and/or guests.

Saline County Judge Matt Brumley thanked the board for having its meeting at their facility and stated his pleasure in the board's work and the positive results of the consolidation efforts in Saline County. The end of March will be one-year anniversary of full-consolidation within the county with over 130,000 calls answered.

The next regular meeting has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at the Crawford 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 Robert McGowen and seconded by Jamie Pafford-Gresham to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.



Chairman