

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
ARKANSAS 911 BOARD  
January 19, 2023**

A regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas 911 Board was held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 19, 2023 at the Bi-State Justice Center in Texarkana 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
TJ Fowler	Designee, Auditor of State
Rusty McMillon	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	Fire Chief, City of Barling
Jamie Pafford-Gresham	Pafford Emergency Medical Services

**Executive Director**

C.J. Engel

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

Douglas House

**The following members were absent:**

Brian Presley 911 Coordinator, Independence County

Chairman Gary called the meeting to order at 1:03 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 December 15<sup>th</sup> regular monthly meeting were approved.

**Financial Report** – Following a motion presented by Robert McGowen and a second by Bo Robertson, the financial report was approved unanimously as provided which reflected the total assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2022 to be \$17,136,758.69 in which \$2,071,779.75 is in the State Treasury account and \$15,064,978.94 is in the U.S. Bank account.

C.J. Engel informed the board that following research of a couple of current Local Exchange Carrier (LEC) statements paid monthly by the 911 Board currently, it appears that these costs are associated with wireline charges. It has been the board's position historically

that the local entities are responsible for any wireline charges as they receive wireline 911 fees directly. The 911 Board has covered wireless charges as it receives wireless 911 fees in the 15% Fund. A motion by Robert McGowen to continue to pay these statements through 2023 and for the local entities be responsible for these beginning in 2024, second by Jamie Pafford-Gresham. Motion carried unanimously.

**Expense Report** – Monthly expenses of \$325,096.36 were approved for payment as submitted. Included in the approved expenses were:

- LEC Charges - \$294,200.01
- AT&T Mobility FirstNet - \$41.23
- Arkansas GIS Office - \$17,271.74
- ADEM - \$879.81
- U.S. Bank VISA – 431.17
- Executive Director Reimbursement - \$192.40
- Contract Labor - \$12,080.00

**15% Allocation Balance by County Report** – An updated report of the 15% Allocation Fund was presented reflecting no change and a remaining balance of \$478,235.91.

### **Old Business**

**GIS Data Aggregation for NG911 Service** – Shelby Johnson commended the 11 counties have all achieved the 98% standard match rate between MSAG, address points, and centerline. Several new counties have been added to the work in progress but there are still challenges with the data. A turnover of county judges and 911 addressing coordinators has slowed progress. He shared that the aerial imagery project has officially started.

**ESInet & NextGen Core Services** – C.J. Engel shared that 50 PSAPs have been transitioned to the ESInet. Of these, 30 have been cut RFAI and 20 are i3. A population of 1,952,189 or 64.72% is currently covered by PSAPs on ESInet. AT&T bill reviews have shown a combined monthly savings of \$79,779.84 or \$957,358.08 per year to local PSAPs with a yearly average of \$20,812.08 per PSAP.

**PSAP Consolidation Plans** – C.J. Engel shared that PSAP consolidation plans were received and shared with the board prior to the January 1, 2023 deadline from Clark, Crittenden, Garland, Lonoke, Pulaski (Pulaski-Jacksonville), Sebastian, and Washington County. This leaves Miller County and the City of Texarkana as the only entities that have not provided a plan to consolidate or address where their funding should be directed.

### **New Business**

**Annual PSAP Certification** – Mr. Engel provided the updated Annual PSAP Certification to the board. These will be sent out on February 1, 2023 and April 1, 2023 will be the due date for the local jurisdictions to submit in accordance with Arkansas Code 12-10-305.

**Attorney General Update** – Doug House gave an annual update to the Board on how business should be handled including freedom of information, absences, conflict of interest, and statements of financial interest.

**Miller County – Texarkana Proposals Review** - Assistant Police Chief Bobby Jordan presented on behalf of the City of Texarkana. The presentation included information about the Bi-State Justice Center and the Central Records and Communications (CRC) Division made up of the City of Texarkana, Texas, City of Texarkana, Arkansas, and Bowie County, Texas while detailing the importance of these entities working together. Currently these three entities equally share the costs of the CRC three ways and recently signed an extended commitment of 5-years to provide combined services. The City of Texarkana offered two proposals for consolidation. The first proposal included the City of Texarkana receiving all wireless funds from the Arkansas 911 Board and taking 911 calls for Miller County and sharing an interface with the county to join Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) while retaining their dispatch and records keeping function. The second proposal included Miller County joining their records and dispatch functions with the CRC at a 25% share of the total operational costs or approximately \$917,000 with all wireless funds from the 911 Board to be used to offset both Miller County and Texarkana's costs to the CRC.

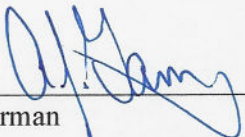
Miller County Judge Cathy Harrison presented on behalf of Miller County. The county removed themselves from Bi-State in the 90s due to financial issues. Meetings had taken place with the Mayor along with representatives and senator that represent the area to find a mutually acceptable plan to move forward with meeting the Arkansas 911 Board's plan for one PSAP to be funded in Miller County. Following several meetings, a 5-year commitment between the Bi-State entities was signed and these meetings stopped. Judge Harrison broke down the operational and financial reasons as to why neither of the proposals presented by Texarkana would make sense for Miller County. Miller County has proposed to build a standalone PSAP at the Sheriff's Office with \$3.8 million in funds from ARP. This would allow for expansion to include services for Texarkana, Arkansas if they were to withdrawal from Bi-State while holding excess funds in a dedicated account for this specific scenario. While Miller County would be open to joining the CRC, this would only be practical at a fair share cost such as by population or call volume usage, not at a 25% cost share.

Further discussion was had regarding the makeup of Bi-State and the CRC and how the funding and cost share is handled. Other concerns and distinct characteristics of Miller County and Texarkana were brought up. Texarkana Police Chief Michael Kramm pointed out the additional option is for both entities to continue receiving their current funding for two funded PSAPs with the board's vote. It was requested by the board to provide numbers on what a cost share for Miller County would be based on usage or population to be a part of the CRC.

#### **From the Floor**

Chairman Gary opened the floor to questions or comments from the Board and guests. Hearing none. The next regular meeting has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management 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.

  
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Chairman