

**Story County 911 Service Board
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2025**

The 911 Service Board met on 2/12/2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sheriff's Squad Room at the Story County Justice Center.

Story County Board of Supervisors	Linda Murken
Story County Sheriff's Office	Paul Fitzgerald; Nicholas Lennie, alternate
ISU	Michael Newton
Ames	Karen Tapper, alternate
Ames Police Chief	Geoff Huff; Aaron DeLashmutt, alternate
Cambridge	Taylor Bassett
Collins	Not present
Colo	Dennis Clatt
Gilbert/Franklin	Brian Grove
Huxley	Nathan Albaugh
Maxwell	Not present
McCallsburg	Not present
Nevada	Not present
Roland	Not present
Slater	Not present
Story City	Matt Sporleder
Westory	Not present
Zearing	Not present
Story County EMA	Melissa Spencer
Secretary	Amanda Pyle
Guests	– Nic Briseño, SCSO; Marylin Mosinski, SCSO; Chris Brandes, City of Nevada; Louis Johnson, ISU

Fitzgerald opened the meeting at 6:30 pm and led introductions.

Agenda approved.

Grove made a motion to approve the minutes from November. Second by Murken. MCU.

APCO Conference Scholarship

The application period closed on Monday, February 10th. Eight applications were submitted. At least one applicant from each center. Communications Managers reviewed the applications from their staff and made recommendations to the 911 Executive Board. The Executive Board was asked to make selections by February 19th.

FY26 Budget – Proposed Expenditures

Line 1. Personnel Costs. The proposal is \$78,740 based on the scaled increase and 3% COL increase.

Line 2. Office Supplies. No change. Remain \$800.

Line 3. Postage. No change. Remain \$100.

Line 4. Advertising. No change. Remain \$500.

Line 5. Insurance. Proposal is \$26,300 based on a 5% health insurance increase.

Line 6. Education & Training. No change. Remain \$16,000.

Line 7. Other: Data Processing. Decrease to \$400. No license fee for GIS ArcMap in FY26.

Line 8. 911 Telephone Expense. No change. Remain \$10,000.

Line 9. Other Telephone Expense. No change. Remain \$500.

Line 13. Mapping. No change. Remain \$3,000.

Line 16. Telephone Equipment Repair/Maint. The proposal is \$50,650 for Shared Services call taking and recording, Logger/Recorders, and ECATS reporting. The decrease is due to a capital project that was completed with call taking software in FY25. A one-time cost that we do not need to budget in FY26.

Line 17. Radio Equipment Repair/Maint. No change. Remain \$10,000.

Line 18. Other Equipment Repair/Maint. Increase to \$81,050 to cover 5% rise for MAPSG shared network annual maintenance (Central Square).

Line 19. Consultant Fees. No change. Remain \$26,000. \$25,000 for general consulting (pay by the service); \$1,000 for 911 Board legal.

Line 23. Communications Towers & Equipment. Proposal is \$81,450. 20% of 1,000 public safety radios at a fee of \$33.93 per radio, per month.

Line 24. 911 Funding Grant. No change. Remain \$50,000.

Line 26. PSAP Equipment. No change. Remain \$6,000.

The re-estimated expenditure for #19 Consultant is low because the 911 Board has a contract with the communications consultant for \$25,000 to use just as needed. The re-estimation accounts for the actual expenses that we anticipate for the remainder of FY25. We expect to utilize the consultants much more for capital improvement projects that are on the horizon. The StoryComm Board also piggybacks off the 911 Board's contract with MCP and reimburses for services that they receive.

Bassett asked why the 911 Board is putting more on the cities with radio fees and if the 911 Board is going to support the cities who are struggling to afford radio expenses.

Fitzgerald said that through the years the 911 Board has used a process to shift subscriber fees to gradually give responsibility back to the cities. The 911 Board has decreased share by 10% for the last two years, proposing to cover 20% for FY26.

Expenditure line #20 911 Funding Grant allocates \$50,000 for agencies to apply for aid with subscriber fees. Information for the upcoming grant period will be sent out in March.

Murken commented that the capital schedule appears that we have more money in reserves than we need to cover the anticipated capital replacement costs over the next seven years. Murken made the motion to change the amount of #23 Communications Towers & Equipment for FY26 subscriber fees to \$122,200. Second by Bassett.

Lennie explained that our ongoing concern is that revenues from year to year are unknown. We could be up against the state taking a big portion of the 911 revenues from local 911 Boards, legislation is being considered this session. Currently, we are not bringing in excess revenue, but just about breaking even. The Board recognized that a number of years ago and began to strategically plan how to continue to fund infrastructure costs in our PSAPs. One method in that plan was to slowly reduce the amount of subscriber fees that the Board covers and offer the 911 Grant to ease the shift.

Briseño has a concern with impending legislation that limited revenues will continue to get more limited. The 911 Board has helped cover the subscriber fees but has reached a point where we are running consistently in the red and need to press on with the plan to back off responsibility for fees. Concerns have been heard but the 911 Board cannot continue to float fees that aren't our fees.

Murken added that her concern is the response in the county if agencies are taking radios off the system because they can't afford the associated fees.

Fitzgerald responded that the plan has been discussed widely for many years to give foresight into this gradual shift back to the agencies. This is not a new discussion. It has been a challenge to keep everyone informed with city government seats changing frequently.

Role call vote on motion: 6- Yes, 5- No. The motion carried.

FY26 line #23 Communications Towers & Equipment will be \$122,200 to cover 30% of public safety subscriber fees. Same percentage as FY25.

FY25 Budget- Proposed Revenue

The two guaranteed revenue sources are wireline (landline) and wireless telephone surcharge.

Line 5. Landline Surcharge. Proposal is \$130,000.

Line 6. Wireline Surcharge. Proposal is \$275,000.

Line 7. Interest. Proposal is \$35,500.

Line 8. Misc. Refunds and Reimbursements. Though we can anticipate \$24,000 for GIS grant awards, it is not guaranteed revenue. Proposal for FY26 is zero.

The 911 Executive Board suggested leaving just \$50,000 in Unassigned Funds for FY26, transferring the excess into Assigned Funds to be earmarked for future purchases and projects. No concerns. The Ending Fund Balance table on the revenue worksheet reflects the recommendation.

Murken made a motion to approve the amended FY26 budget for Public Hearing. Second by Huff. MCU.

Public Hearing date set for Tuesday, April 15 @ 12:00 (Noon) at the Justice Center- Squad Room.

Election of Service Board Members to the Executive Board

Current members: Fitzgerald, Huff and Newton are fixed, representing the communications centers. Martinez and Clatt are additional elected positions.

Grove nominated Clatt. Clatt nominated Martinez. No other nominations. Unanimous decision to re-elect Clatt and Martinez to Executive Board.

Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Huff nominated Fitzgerald for Chairperson. No other nominations. Unanimous decision to re-elect Fitzgerald as Chairperson.

Murken nominated Martinez for Vice Chairperson. No other nominations. Unanimous decision to re-elect Martinez as Vice Chairperson.

Legislative Update

There are two bills this session that could impact the 911 Board. SF271 involves Board membership, voting and non-voting members. We will be monitoring the bill.

HSB104 was introduced by HSEMD that had been developed amiably with a group of local stakeholders. Right away, the Governor said she would not accept an increase in 911 surcharge. HSEMD then reworked the bill to a version that all public safety associations in Iowa are now opposed to. The version changes surcharge distribution to 45% for a period and then to 55% in the final phase. This is a reduction from the current 60% that 911 Boards receive quarterly. HSEMD hosted an informational call where many shared their concerns and poor opinions of the bill.

There is a subcommittee meeting on February 20th where there will be representatives from public safety. The mutual preference would not be to amend, but to ax the bill altogether.

Old Business None

New Business None

Comments from the Public None

Comments from 911 Service Board Members

Ames has promoted Amber Paull to Emergency Communications Supervisor.

Grove made a motion to adjourn at 7:18pm. Second by Clatt. MCU.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Pyle, Secretary
911 Database Coordinator