

Story County 911 Service Board
May 9, 2018

The 911 Service Board met on 5/9/2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sheriff's Squad Room at the Story County Justice Center.

Jay Christie, City of Collins; Melissa Spencer, Story County EMA alternate; Marie Carlson, Iowa State University alternate; Chuck Cychoz, City of Ames; Doug Houghton, City of Ames alternate; Marty Chitty, Story County alternate; Ric Martinez, City of Nevada; Brian Grove, Gilbert/Franklin Township; Matt Sporleder, City of Story City; Mark Pote, City of Huxley; Amanda Roush, Story County 911 with Paul Fitzgerald, Story County Sheriff, presiding.

Guests: Dina McKenna, Story County Communications Commander and Mike Bryant, Iowa 911 Communications Council.

Sheriff Fitzgerald opened the meeting at 6:30pm. He advised that there would not be a vote to adopt the Story County 911 Service Board Purchasing Policy at this time. Attorneys are still reviewing the policy.

Pote moved to approve the Public Hearing meeting minutes; Martinez seconded the motion. MCU.

Radio project update

Roush advised that Mission Critical Partners (MCP) will be back in Iowa for face-to-face meetings with radio users. MCP will be on-site the week of May 21st-24th. The user meetings will be smaller, more focused meetings than in Phase I. Roush will be contacting user groups with the schedule and agenda to help prepare for the meetings.

911 Service Board Purchasing Policy

Houghton explained that as part of purchasing the radio system, there was discussion about having standard purchasing practices in place so we are clear about what our legal obligations are. We had hoped that we could take Story County's purchasing rules and modify them to fit the 911 Service Board. As we began that process, there has been a determination that the County's rules are too specific and don't incorporate some of the statutory language that applies to the Board. We have submitted drafts to the Board's attorney and the County Attorney and it will take revision. A draft has been sent out to the Board as well. If you have a chance to look at it and have any suggestions or concerns, it would be helpful for you to forward those back to us. We will do a more thorough re-write and then bring it back to the Board for a formal vote.

Dispatch console update

McKenna mentioned that the Board had previously authorized the purchase of a 4th radio position for the Story County dispatch center. Story County is in the process of upgrading the console furniture in the center; going from 3 to 4 positions. The installation will be happening the week of May 21st. McKenna explained that the point of her sharing is because as we started to strategized to get the 4th position put in, we were faced with some challenges with the radio portion of the installation. There are programming issues that need to take place with the existing radios. At this point, we are gathering what that would cost and if it can be tabled now and negotiated with the radio project. If we wait until we have a vendor selected for the radio project, that would deter us from being able to put in the 4th radio position at this time. It doesn't make sense to spend money when we may potentially be changing systems or need upgrades to the radio consoles. There is not enough information to say one way or the other at this meeting. McKenna suggested tabling the matter until more information is available.

Right now our radio and our call taking positions are bundled together. Zetron needs us to separate radio and call taking. There is a significant cost to unbundling. The issue that we may be facing by remaining bundled -without having all the appropriate information- is we might not get software updates from Zetron. In the past Zetron had sent one update for both pieces and they will now be sending them separately.

Grove asked how often we get updates. McKenna answered that we have not had one for quite some time. Her guess would be 4 in the last 3 or 4 years. McKenna said that those are questions we are trying to get answered because we don't want to jeopardize the system.

Cychosz believes that it is smart to wait to spend the money until we see how the radio project plays out. He is concerned; however, that there is a domino effect of projects piling up behind the radio project. The situation just underscores the importance of MCP getting here and getting us moving in the selection processes. There is pressure to make sure the project stays on schedule.

Ames Police Department also budgeted to purchase a 4th position in FY19. They are facing the same challenges. ISU is technically an extension of Ames Police, so they are also affected. Carlson mentioned that communications did not want to bundle in the first place, but Zetron insisted.

Houghton said that we do have some bargaining strength with Zetron. Our intent all along has been to stay with Zetron, but maybe not now if there is a significant cost associated with staying; other vendors become competitive.

Fitzgerald believes that we can leverage by telling Zetron that we will rebid the equipment. Zetron might go extra distance just to prevent going out for bid. They are trying to get a big slice of the pie.

Grove asked if this is the software that is on the screen when a call comes in. Houghton replied yes, but he thinks Grove is talking about CAD. Houghton explained that there are 2 screens in the dispatch center, a call taking and a radio. Dispatchers don't use a regular radio, they use a console. At install, Zetron pushed the computer console that allows communication with radio and telephone together and now they want to split them apart.

Fitzgerald asked if we have a maintenance agreement with Zetron. Roush answered yes, until 2020. He asked since we have that agreement in place, isn't Zetron breaking the agreement on their part? Houghton said that we need to read the maintenance agreement and determine if the agreement gives them a right to change configuration of the software. Houghton said he would assume we would be entitled to credit at a minimum. He believes Racom will be pushing really hard on Zetron to make some accommodations to their customers around the state. We just are not far enough into it to have all the answers.

Carlson stated that there is no question that each center needs one additional console for the ability to be redundant and for relocation. Having the extra work space will be a benefit in the future. Houghton added that MCP has been told that we want the design to include an additional console at each center.

Old Business

None

New Business

Pote announced that effective June 1st, he is retiring from law enforcement. During the next Huxley City Council meeting they will remove Pote from the 911 Service Board and Executive Board. Huxley has named Sgt. Stoll as the interim police chief. A permanent chief will be named in mid to late June.

Fitzgerald said that we will need to replace Pote in the Executive Board position. With 911 business coming down the road, we need to fill the position as soon as possible. Since our next Service Board meeting isn't until August, Fitzgerald asked if anyone would have objections to circulating a nomination form by email and vote? Or do we want to have a special meeting? No objection to an email nomination.

Christie asked if there are any rules on what discipline it has to be? Fitzgerald answered, no. No rules at all, just three permanent members from the PSAPs and two at large that are voted in.

Comments from Public

Mike Bryant, a representative for Iowa Professional Fire Fighters on the Iowa 911 Communications Council shared that the state 911 money was left alone this year in the legislature. He explained the other hot topic is county hospitals formed under Iowa Code 347 joining the local service boards. The opinion of the Attorney General is that the hospitals have a right to be on the board. There is a committee on the State 911 Communications Council that will be working on a recommendation. More to be determined.

Comments from 911 Service Board Members

Houghton commented that while MCP is here, it is really important that all agencies in the county get someone to come to the meetings to share your needs. Your agency just needs to send one or two people to sit down and tell MCP who you want to talk to, what kind of equipment you want, how the system needs to work, and get your questions answers. Giving MCP the information obligates your to nothing. When you get the schedule information from Amanda, please make the effort to send somebody.

Martinez wanted to confirm that MCP should already be aware of concerns that police and fire have had. He asked if they were just supposed to emphasize that. Houghton said that he believes the questions will be how many radios do you have? What do you see your talk groups looking like? Answers to questions about cost and funding. Discussion will focus on your specific agency.

Cychosz shared that MCP will be communicating with the ISICS Board about utilizing the ISICS tower at DOT, whether that is part of the ISICS system or the SARA system. It is important to acknowledge that MCP will be making the contact on behalf of the 911 Service Board. Houghton added that MCP *has* sent out a letter of intent to ISICS. After meeting with the SWIC (Statewide Interoperability Coordinator) on Monday, it seems unlikely that the letter will come up during the ISICS Board meeting this week. ISICS has the letter and they understand the question that we are asking for permission to use their tower to hang equipment regardless of the system we choose. McKenna mentioned that she thinks we are the first to ask. It will be interesting to see how it goes.

Motion to adjourn by Martinez; seconded by Pote. MCU

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Roush, Secretary
Database Coordinator