

**Story County 911 Service Board
Special Meeting
January 3, 2019**

The 911 Service Board met for a Special Meeting on 1/3/2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sheriff's Squad Room at the Story County Justice Center.

Story County- Paul Fitzgerald, Linda Murken, alternate
ISU- Michael Newton, Rob Bowers, alternate
Ames- Chuck Cychosz; Doug Houghton, alternate
Cambridge- Not present
Collins- Not present
Colo- Dennis Clatt
Gilbert/Franklin- Brian Grove; Tom Kepley, alternate
Huxley- Gerry Stoll
Maxwell- Not present

McCallsburg- Chris Erickson
Nevada- Ric Martinez; Ray Reynolds, alternate
Roland- Not present
Slater- John Kahler
Story City- Matt Sporleder
Westory- Not present
Zearing- Sally Larsen, alternate
Story County EMA- Keith Morgan
Secretary- Amanda Roush

Guests: Rick Sanders, Story County BOS representing StoryComm; Dina McKenna, Story County Communications Commander; Josh Bennett, Ames Fire

Fitzgerald opened the meeting at 6:30pm and voiced his appreciation for everyone's participation in the meeting.

Fitzgerald began that the urgency for the meeting is that we are under time constraints with the radio project and our consultants cannot start negotiations with the vendors until the 28E agreement is signed by all parties. He continued that Roush had emailed out the 28E for review prior to the meeting. He described that each agency has an official designated representative on StoryComm. There are three ex officio members on the 911 Board; Sheriff Fitzgerald is the designated representative for the Board.

Cychosz thanked ISU and the County for their work in moving the project forward and committing to make the new radio system happen. Newton recognized that the project is important to the entire county and we are at a critical juncture where procurement is ready to move forward.

Fitzgerald shared that the Story County BOS has already signed the 28E. Next, if the Board approves, he will sign. Cychosz will take the agreement in front of the Ames City Council for signature on January 8th and then ISU will follow for the final signature. After the document is filed with the state, negotiations with vendors can begin.

Grove asked who is on StoryComm. Fitzgerald replied that there is no way that the Board can afford this upgrade on its own. The only way the Board can move ahead is to have a partnership with the agencies that have funding capability (County, Ames and ISU). The three voting members on StoryComm are County, Ames and ISU. Currently the designees are Rick Sanders for Story County, Bob Kindred for Ames and Pam Cain for ISU. Grove mentioned those people are not defined in the 28E. Sanders explained that the agreement allows each entity to select its own representative, which could change as we progress. The ex officio members are the three permanent members of the Board, representatives of the three entities having communication centers.

Reynolds asked if this agreement is only for the formation of StoryComm. He continued that the fire services are concerned with at what point they have input on the buildout process. His understanding is that this agreement does not determine that. Fitzgerald answered that the 28E is building the structure of StoryComm and selecting the "bank". The voice of the Board would go through the ex officio members and then to StoryComm. Board members can engage any of the three ex officio members for questions, concerns and feedback.

Morgan said that he would like some clarification because the 28E includes more than just the buildout; it includes financing ongoing operations. Sanders acknowledged that StoryComm is the entity that will set the user fees on an annual basis; it is important that everyone is aware of that.

Grove asked about the setup of the tower fees. His fear is that if parameters are not written in the agreement that additional costs could come up and the departments will have no say and will be paying more. Fitzgerald replied that we are relying on our consultants' assessment to avoid those possibilities. Historically the Board has determined tower fees. Tower fees affect everyone just as they affect the smaller departments. Sanders shared that the project group has been meeting regularly for about the last year and a constant theme is that we have to make sure that this works for the smaller users on the system. The reality is if it doesn't work for smaller users, it fails for all of us. Second, once this StoryComm entity is formed, every meeting has to be public. There will be public notice of the meetings so everyone can participate and share directly to StoryComm. Sanders added that is one of the primary reasons why this entity is being formed.

Grove asked what happens after the 10 year term of the agreement. Newton said that after 10 years the agreement lives on, but partners could opt out at that time if they need to. He doesn't see that happening.

Martinez made a motion to approve the 28E, as presented, for signature. Cychosz seconded the motion.

Morgan commented that the agreement will legally bind the Board for commitment to provide funding for the next 10 years. He said we will be doing so with or without the 28E. User fees are going to be determined by an entity that is not the Board and if you want to get on the system, you have to pay those fees. He continued that signing doesn't give the Board any additional influence in the operation of the system. Not signing gives the Board more flexibility in what it uses those user fees for in the future. Morgan does not see the big payback to the Board.

Fitzgerald followed up saying that we are limited right now, we are living on borrowed time with our antiquated radio system. He said if there are other suggestions, we can look at those and start the process over. Morgan replied, "quite honestly, you can execute this 28E with or without the 911 Board." Cychosz responded that if the Board doesn't commit to support some of the ongoing costs, then we are right back to higher cost for the users. Newton added that the Board will also lose its voice and seat at the table if it does not sign.

Morgan believes that it is best for the Board to let everything progress and strike the part of the agreement that commits the Board to funding for the next 10 years. Newton responded that he doesn't know how the other entities feel about that, but ISU may not be willing to sign under those circumstances.

Fitzgerald said that it has been the consensus at the StoryComm meetings that we are all partners in this. Reynolds shared that it feels better to have the Board on board because they have been helpful to the departments in the past. He thinks we would be crazy not to partner.

Sanders mentioned that early on StoryComm talked about other models of splitting, making the Board a full participant in funding the backbone. There is not the capacity there, but part in the agreement would be support in offsetting some of the user fees instead of looking for some big upfront payment.

StoryComm truly views the project as county line to county line. In ground coverage, we are looking at more area outside of Nevada, Ames and ISU.

Bennett added that something to consider for agencies that are drawing township funds, there is a maximum amount you can budget. If the Board is contributing user fees for you, the money that you have in your budget for other things can be available. I think that is the benefit.

No other comments. There is a motion and a second to approve the 28E as presented and to accept Sheriff Fitzgerald as the designated StoryComm representative for the Board. One dissenting. Motion carries.

Other Business

Cychosz advised that Mission Critical Partners is contracted to assist with design and selection of a vendor. Once that's complete we will need another phase of assistance for project management of the buildout, etc. Soon the Board will be asked if they want to be part of funding Phase III or if they want the other three entities to do so. There is no proposal at this point, just something to understand. Fitzgerald added that once the 28E is signed, the consultants will be able to take a closer look at the contract numbers before we determine what might be asked of the Board.

Sanders said that he would like to see a continued partnership for Phase III the same way as we are doing Phase II; splitting four ways.

As far as vendor selection, our purchasing agent has not yet designed a clear process for us to collect feedback from those who attended oral presentations. It is important that questions and concerns get fed back into this process. Newton mentioned that the purchasing agent will be sending questions to the vendor very soon. Getting questions in quickly would be helpful.

RFP proposals and oral presentation notes cannot be shared until the evaluation process is complete. ISU has provided a very experienced purchasing agent that has been very good at drilling into the issues that the vendors need to be held accountable for. Cychosz publically expressed his appreciation for the caliber of assistance.

Cychosz shared that after sitting in StoryComm meetings, part of the philosophy is to control lifecycle and ongoing costs so that we can all stay together. The commitment of staying together on a shared radio system has been at the core. Fitzgerald added that we are seriously talking about the entire county; how everyone will have coverage and have necessary equipment so we can communicate and maintain mutual aid. Communication with the state will be built into the system. Depending on the vendor, we will have a variety of solutions to speak to VHF radios. The state is also currently in the process of putting a P25 console in each PSAP.

Grove asked what if some departments can't afford radios. Sanders replied that it's been recognized as a potential issue; there is no formal solution. Accept our goal of everyone on the same system.

Newton said that there might be other options besides the physical radios. Sanders added to be aware that user fees per unit are going to change dramatically. We will see a reduction in number of units countywide, but the overall fee will not change a lot. That doesn't necessarily mean that we are paying more overall, but we will pay more per unit.

Fitzgerald welcomed Linda Murken, Story County Board of Supervisors. Murken will replace Chitty as Story County alternate.

Motion to adjourn by Morgan; seconded by Newton. MCU

Comments from Public

None

Comments from 911 Service Board Members

Reynolds asked if we could charge FirstNet a fee to use our towers for better coverage in the county. Fitzgerald said that he got notice that FirstNet put in an application to build a tower 1.5 miles east of Zearing. FirstNet is already putting up towers; there are certain standards and restrictions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Roush, Secretary
Database Coordinator