

Story County 911 Service Board
February 13, 2019

The 911 Service Board met on 2/13/2019 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- Doug Houghton, alternate

Cambridge- Not present

Collins- Dawnell Kennedy, alternate

Colo- Dennis Clatt

Gilbert/Franklin- Not present

Huxley- Gerry Stoll

Maxwell- Not present

McCallsburg- Not present

Nevada- Ric Martinez; Ray Reynolds, alternate

Roland- Not present

Slater- John Kahler

Story City- Matt Sporleder

Westory- Kenneth Kling; Brandt Murry, alternate

Zearing- Not present

Story County EMA- Keith Morgan

Secretary- Amanda Roush

Guests: Dina McKenna, Story County Communications; Clint Miller, ARES; Chad Fleenor, Slater; Mike Bryant, Iowa 911 Communications Council.

Sheriff Fitzgerald opened the meeting at 6:30pm. He stated his wish to move agenda item Election of Chairperson and Vice Chair Person before Election of Executive Board Members. Agenda approved with changes.

Clatt moved to approve the November minutes and Special Meeting minutes. Morgan seconded the motion. MCU.

Radio project update

Houghton shared that soliciting the ISU purchasing department was one of the best decisions made with this project. With ISU Procurement assistance comes specific rules that limit the amount of information that can be shared at this time. The working group has begun evaluations, but has not made an award yet. We are close to making an award and we estimate being about 4-6 weeks out from contract. Mission Critical Partners (MCP) and ISU Procurement are helping work through the cost pieces so that we get the best value system for the price.

The StoryComm Board has been established and had their first meeting. StoryComm still has organizational decisions to make. Vendor recommendations will be heard at the next meeting.

Once a contract is negotiated and signed, the vendor will be invited in. Users will have the opportunity to see what is offered, look at equipment and make choices on what is best for their agency. Martinez asked what negotiations will take place after contract signing. Houghton answered that the County, Ames and ISU have a number of radios that they have committed to purchasing. Other agencies will have the option of buying radios at the contract price from the vendor. If other agencies agree to buy radios on the contract, it is possible that higher quantity will get us a higher discount per radio. The hope is that the contract price is attractive enough that it's going to be hard to buy from anywhere else. The radios offered on the contract will be high quality; there will be cheaper options available elsewhere. In addition, as EE price levels increase, there may be incentive to move to a new system faster. There could be financing options or leasing options negotiated to help agencies do that.

Morgan asked if there will be a list of minimum requirements to meet if you want to use another vendor to buy radios. Houghton replied that the entire list has not been developed, but MCP will help do that.

Budget - Expenses

Roush explained the focus points for FY20 expenditures. The Public Hearing will be held Tuesday, March 12th at 5:30pm.

Line 31. Personnel Costs. The county is anticipating a 2% salary increase.

Line 35. Insurance. Increase factors in a 15% Health insurance increase and employee Family Plan.

Line 36. Training Expense. The line item covers training for the 911 Coordinator position. We propose an increase to \$10,000. In the past training was \$10,000 but was reduced due to budgetary constraints. We would like to build that back up to provide training opportunities for dispatchers at the three agencies.

Line 46. Radio Equipment Repair & Maintenance. Increase to \$15,000 to cover paging system repairs and labor on the current system.

Line 48. Consultant Fees. We continue to put money in the line item for Tom Cahill, the 911 Board's Attorney. We will put \$1,000 there for legal services. \$235,200 is for the MCP Phase III contract. The 911 Board has been managing payment on the consulting contract. MCP invoices the 911 Board, Roush pays the full invoice and then gets reimbursement from County, City and ISU for their share based on the 28E agreement. The reimbursements come back as revenue. The consulting line item has to be large enough to cover the whole of the invoices for Phase III. Total \$236,200.

Line 49. City Governments. This line covers amount invoiced by the City of Ames for Ames dispatch 911 addressing labor. The re-estimated figure for FY19 will be half, \$893. This line will be zero in FY20.

Line 52. Communications Towers & Equip. EE tower fees will increase \$7 per radio, per month. The 911 Board pays 50% of the tower fees on radios in the county. \$130,800 factors in the increase.

Line 53. 911 Funding Grant. We will put \$80,000 back into this line for FY20. The 911 grant has been on hold as we progress through the radio project, but that money is building and will be available when the grant is reinstated.

Line 63, Column C \$983,500 is the amount that we want to itemize as assigned funds for projects, equipment and upgrades. The state has advised the last couple of years to try to leave only about \$250,000 unassigned so that our reserves are protected. Last year, the Board concurred that we would be safe to leave about \$150,000 unassigned. Itemizing \$983,500 will leave \$150,055 in unassigned reserves for FY20.

Revenue

Line 2, Column C \$882,500 is the amount that we itemized as assigned for FY19. Because we didn't spend any of that money, it will carry over and we will begin FY20 with that balance. We will then be building onto that in FY20 to equal \$983,500.

Line 5 and Line 8 are telephone surcharges, constant revenue.

Line 7 \$181,400 is miscellaneous revenue that includes refunds, grant money and reimbursements. Column C reflects the estimated reimbursements from County, City and ISU for the MCP consulting contract and a \$5,000 training grant that will come from the state.

Fitzgerald advised that the 911 Board is setting aside money to fund \$94,000 for the new paging system and pagers. He continued that our approach to this project is different from the past. We finally have our own consultant and the help of the County, Ames and ISU. If it wasn't for the help, we would not be able to see this project through. We are making progress and we appreciate the help.

Morgan made a motion to accept the FY20 budget as presented for Public Hearing. Newton seconded the motion. MCU.

Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Kahler made a motion to keep Fitzgerald as Chairperson and Cychosz as Vice Chairperson; Martinez seconded the motion. MCU.

Election of Service Board Members to Executive Board

Fitzgerald named the current members of the Executive Board. Morgan moved to retain Martinez and Clatt; Newton seconded the motion. MCU.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Comments from Public

Bryant, a representative for Iowa Professional Fire Fighters on the Iowa 911 Communications Council shared that the state budget was proposed to continue to fund the Land Mobile Radio system (LMR) out of the Rebuild Iowa Fund and DOT. The 911 Communications Council is preparing for next legislative session by reviewing and looking at improvements to Iowa Code 34A. Bryant believes that there will be money left for carryover to the PSAPs at the end of the fiscal year, but there are no promises.

Reynolds advised that AFG Grant reviews are the last week in February.

He also mentioned that Polk County radio channels 1 and 14 are county fire, so either way you move the dial you can find fire. Reynolds liked the programming idea and wanted to pitch it to the group.

Martinez likes the way the attendance is now being listed on the meeting minutes. Fitzgerald added that he appreciates the alternates that are present for the meeting.

Miller, Amateur Radio Emergency Service, shared assistance that ARES gave Des Moines with radio interference. She said if anyone has jamming issues with their systems, ARES has techniques to find interference directionally. Miller is also on the ISICS Technology Committee, which has been working on air-to-ground channels and developing standards to get onto the statewide system. The set of standards will be published.

Morgan added that ARES can help fill the gaps for interoperable capabilities in emergency operations.

Houghton said that all of the interop channels will be programmed into the P25 radios as part of the arrangement. The rest of the channels will be up to the individual agencies to choose what they need. The vendor will be charged to help with that.

Comments from 911 Service Board Members

None

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Roush, Secretary
Database Coordinator