

Story County 911 Service Board
Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2020

The 911 Service Board met on 8/12/2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sheriff's Squad Room at the Story County Justice Center. Participation by Webex teleconference also made available due to guidance regarding social distancing.

Story County- Paul Fitzgerald; Linda Murken (Phone)

Story County Sheriff- Dina McKenna; Nickolas Lennie, alternate

ISU- Michael Newton, Rob Bowers, alternate

Ames- Tom Hackett

Ames Police Chief- Geoff Huff, alternate

Cambridge- Not present

Collins- Not present

Colo- Dennis Clatt

Gilbert/Franklin- Brian Grove; Tom Kepley, alternate

Huxley- Gerry Stoll (Phone)

Maxwell- Not present

McCallsburg- Not present

Nevada- Ric Martinez; Ray Reynolds (Phone)

Roland- Not present

Slater- Not present

Story City- Matt Sporleder

Westory- Brandt Murry, alternate

Zearing- Not present

Story County EMA- Keith Morgan

Secretary- Amanda Pyle

Fitzgerald opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

Introductions in the room and on the phone.

Meeting agenda approved.

Newton moved to approve the Public Hearing minutes from March. Hackett seconded. MCU

Special Election of Vice Chairperson

As of August 3, 2020, Chief Cychosz retired from the City of Ames. Commander Huff has been named acting Chief and is representing Ames on the 911 Board.

Pyle mentioned that per the bylaws, the Vice Chairperson must be a member of the Executive Board. The eligible Executive Board members are Newton, Martinez, Huff and Clatt.

Clatt nominated Martinez for Vice Chairperson.

Martinez nominated Clatt for Vice Chairperson.

Nominations closed.

By majority vote, the Board elected Chief Martinez Vice Chairperson.

Paging Overview

The paging system update is part of the permanent radio system implementation. We are getting closer and are starting to have discussions about the pagers and options that are available. The 911 Board has budgeted for 400 pagers to be replaced in the county. The StoryComm Working Group will be in contact with agencies soon to organize meetings for fleetmapping and planning.

The contract with RACOM quotes Swissphone s.QUAD analog voice pagers in two variations. One is push button only, where the volume and menus are digital. The second option adds a rotary knob for volume control. There will be outreach to Chiefs and users to determine what will work best for your department so we can build the order. The pager with knob is a bit more expensive. The amount budgeted by the 911 Board does cover the higher priced option.

Multi-channel paging is an optional feature in the pagers that could have some budgetary impact. Multi-channel gives the ability, with agreements in place, to receive pages from bordering agencies/counties. There is the potential, but there are some limitations. Because surrounding counties would be on a different frequency, it would take a software upgrade to the pager. The upgrade would be \$47.50 per pager, cost that is not included in the budget. The Working Group will work with Fire and EMS to consider this option as we make ordering decisions.

The Motorola Minitor pagers should work on the new system with some programming changes. Fitzgerald asked the Working Group to consider whether it would be best to deploy pagers from just one or both vendors.

Grove asked when new pagers are expected to arrive, as some departments have held off on buying new and are going without. Hackett responded that paging would be active on the full permanent build of the radio system, which is about a year out. The pagers could potentially be ordered and delivered earlier.

The Working Group can explore the possibility for the new pagers to be deployed on the temporary system in the interim. There are several questions for RACOM and items that would need to be checked out at the dispatch level to make the determination. There are no guarantees.

Radio Project Update

All tower locations for the permanent radio system are approved. Next step is construction of towers. There have been setbacks that effect the project timeline. We will be looking at transition after the first of the year, 2021.

The recent windstorm has caused tower communication challenges on the temporary system. A damaged Windstream fiber line was determined to be the main issue. Windstream is estimating days to fix the fiber. Dispatch is trying modifications to overcome the limitations.

Lennie added that the current limitations that we are having on the temporary system are not indicative of the permanent system. The permanent system will have redundancies in place that will eliminate the vulnerabilities that we are seeing now.

Discussion about radio challenges and channel options.

RACOM monitors and sends notification of system wide failures. Terminal hardware failures and issues out in the field must be reported for resolution.

Old Business

In March, there was suggestion to add language to the bylaws to support holding meetings electronically. Currently the Board is covered by Iowa Code Section 21.8.1 to hold electronic meetings due to conditions of the pandemic. For inclusion in the bylaws, Pyle will bring language for consideration to the November meeting.

New Business None

Comments from Public None

Comments from 911 Service Board Members

The Board agreed to move the November quarterly meeting a week ahead of schedule as not to interfere with Veteran's Day. Next meeting date will be Wednesday, November 4 at 6:30pm.

Clatt made a motion to adjourn at 7:17pm. Second by Hackett. MCU

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Pyle, Secretary
911 Database Coordinator