

**Story County E911 Service Board
Board Proceedings
May 9, 2012**

The E911 Service Board met on 05/09/2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sheriff's Squad Room at the Story County Justice Center.

Scott DeYoung, City of Cambridge; Mike Gustafson, City of Maxwell; Connie Hambly, Story County E911 Service Board; Doug Houghton, City of Ames Alternate; Wally Looney, City of McCallsburg; Dina McKenna, Story County Alternate; Ricardo Martinez, City of Nevada Alternate; Jodi Meridith, Westory Fire; Mark Pote, City of Huxley; Mary Beth Sprouse, City of Slater; Jerry Stewart, Iowa State University and John Wilson, City of Colo present with Chuck Cychosz presiding.

Guests: Marie Carlson, Iowa State University Department of Public Safety.

Approval of Minutes

DeYoung moved; Looney seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meetings 2/8/12 and 3/12/12. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

DeYoung moved; Sprouse seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Consideration of using CodeRed for weather alerts

Cychosz briefed members on the weather event Story County and Ames experienced May 2nd. Cychosz advised Emergency Management & Sheriff Fitzgerald had conveyed their concerns for the citizens residing in the unincorporated areas of the county not receiving adequate notification. Ames did not set off their sirens due to the fact a tornado warning had not been issued. There's been some discussion on whether the Service Board could do a better job of alerting the citizens. Hambly advised CodeRed added a product that delivers alerts issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) directly to the citizen. The process alleviates the activation by the communications center. Looney expressed concern why the pagers weren't set off. He had received information that the county didn't want spotters activated. McKenna advised sirens were activated in Nevada and northern portion of the county as requested. Meridith stated Emergency Management (EM) Coordinator made the decision not to activate the spotters but had concerns about the bow echo that was directly over Kelley. DeYoung asked if each town had the discretion to set off their own sirens. McKenna advised the majority have the ability. Pote advised the weather radios for the City of Huxley are programmed with Boone County, Greene County and Dallas County to monitor storm progress.

McKenna spoke of her concern for using a CodeRed activation for weather alerts. Cychosz advised there were many low cost/no cost options available to the public. The citizens of Ames wanted the sirens activated for the micro burst the northern portion of

the city experienced. However, current policy prohibits the use of the sirens, except for tornado notification. Cychosz stated the concerns expressed should be forwarded to Emergency Management for a consensus on the threshold use of sirens. The majority of the public think sirens are the final best warning device. The effort has been to educate the public on the value of weather radios. Sirens are an *outdoor* warning system only. Straight line winds are hard to predict. The communication centers can only push out information *when* it's supplied to them by the NWS. Cychosz referenced a website weatherusa.net that offers free weather alerts for text messaging and emails. Pote advised there have been a number of new applications available for cell phone users. All members agreed to the need for dialog with EM.

Cychosz highlighted the issues

1. Accuracy for forecasting straight line winds
2. Activation of spotters
3. County wide policy for siren activation for straight line winds
4. Promotion of alternate devices

Update of 9-1-1 Legislative Action

Hambly advised Senate File 2332 introduced by the Ways and Means Committee was signed by Governor Branstad. The bill changes the allocation of the wireless funds. Wireless service providers were receiving. Instead of the 21% of the total amount of surcharge generated going to the wireless service providers, it will now be added to the 25% the PSAPS receive. It also established a study of the formula used to distribute the funds between the PSAPs.

Another bill was introduced by the Government Efficiencies Committee. Senate File 2338 would require the State E911 Council report to the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board. That bill was met with some opposition. It has gone to the Governor for his signature. It is unclear if Branstad will sign this into law.

Progress reports on narrowbanding from cities

McKenna advised a committee of Houghton, Bowers, Hambly and McKenna had been meeting on a regular basis the past year to organize the narrowbanding throughout Story County. The committee was aware of work being done in the communities but wanted to check the progress. Story County, Iowa State and Ames completed narrowbanding already.

Huxley- complete

Nevada- Fire is complete but the police department has not been done. Hambly asked about the sirens. Martinez advised tested and one was in need of repair. That one has been fixed.

Cambridge – complete

Colo- unknown

McCallsburg- not done

Maxwell- complete
Westory in Kelley and Roland– complete
Slater – complete
ISU – complete
Ames – complete

Cychosz and McKenna acknowledged the work done by the communities to prepare their agencies for narrowbanding.

Purchase of Netclock for Ames and ISU PSAPs

Houghton briefed the board on the function of Netclock in the PSAP. It's responsible for keeping all the computer equipment on the radio network synchronized to the exact same time. Historically, E911 Service Board purchased two netclocks approximately 12 years ago and has maintained funding for repairs. The one in Ames failed and other computer equipment on the network started crashing. The original goal was to replace both netclocks with one and place it on the multi-agency public safety network. However, until the E911 phone equipment is replaced, two netclocks are needed. The cost to replace the netclock was just under \$5,000. The E911 Service Board budgeted \$2,000 for repairs this FY. The issue of using repair funding for the purchase was brought before the Executive Board. The request was to use the \$2,000 with an additional \$3,000 from the Multi-Agency Public Safety Group. The Executive Board did approve the funding and the netclock was replaced. Hopefully, the netclock at Story County will continue to operate without problems.

Old Business

Houghton advised the Radio Console Grant project was on schedule. There had been some scheduling conflicts with the OSSI CAD training, but those have been worked out. The consoles are scheduled to be implemented at Story County May 30th. Ames is scheduled for June 18th with ISU scheduled for June 29th. The project is funded through the PSIC Grant and needs to be completed by June 30th.

Gustafson reported some problems between Maxwell 1st and Maxwell Fire on radio equipment secured with the E911 Funding Grant of 2011. Maxwell City Council gave direction to the 1st responders.

New Business

Hambly reported Iowa Code 34A requires an Enhanced 911 Service Plan be developed by the joint E911 Service Board and approved by the State E911 Program Manager. The last service plan on record for Story County was 1989. Hambly has been working with wireline telephone service providers to detail the current equipment used to provide E911 service. Some companies have been reluctant to supply that information. Other information needed is estimated charges incurred by the service board directly attributed to wireline 911 services. The Service Plan will be filed and reviewed by the E911 Program Manager. If the plan is disapproved, the Service Board will have 90 days to submit revisions. When approved, the Service Board will be notified and required to adopt the plan. This approval of the plan should be included on the August agenda.

Hambly also advised the 911 maps should be going to print soon.

Comments from the Public

None

Comments from the E911 Service Board Members

None

The next quarterly meeting will be August 8th.

DeYoung moved; seconded by Pote to adjourn, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Connie Hambly, Secretary
Database Coordinator