

Cass County Public Safety Communications Commission

Minutes

November 22, 2021

Cass County Communications Center – 705 Poplar St., Atlantic, Iowa

Present: Mark O'Brien, CC BOS; Steve Green, CC BOS; Kathy Somers, Atlantic

Absent: Jim Behrens, Atlantic

Staff present: Mike Kennon, TAC

Chair Steve Green called the meeting to order at 5:17pm.

M/S/C Somers / O'Brien to approve the agenda. Carried unanimously.

M/S/C O'Brien / Green to approve the minutes of the 10-26-2021 meeting. Carried unanimously.

M/S/C O'Brien / Somers to approve October 2021 financial reports. Carried unanimously.

TAC Report: Mike Kennon reported on the Motorola Enhancement Project. The bonding authority has been approved and the contract has been signed. The next step will be to secure a loan and pay the initial payment to Motorola to get the project started. Motorola also needs to appoint a Project Manager.

A new County IT, Sean Berens, was hired today and he was getting an orientation with Scot Bennett. Kennon said that there is a couple of projects in the Comm Center awaiting Sean when he can get to them. Sean will be introduced to GIS next month when Schneider representatives will be visiting. Schneider has been keeping Cass County compliant with GIS data, meeting benchmarks set by the State.

Kennon continues to work with Public Health on COVID-19 response. PPE distributions have come to an end for now, but vaccine booster clinics may happen more frequently.

A dispatcher has recently wrapped up "40-Hour" training. It is a State requirement for dispatchers to complete this training in their first year of employment. Kennon stated that Cass County dispatch is now fully staffed and fully trained. He added that there are likely only a few Dispatch Centers in the State that can make that claim.

Respectfully Submitted



Kennon said that he has been working on Budgets for Public Safety, 911 Service Board, Emergency Management and 911 Annual Forms to report expenditures to the State. Emergency Management EMPG grant funding application will be due soon. The final draft of the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan has been sent to County stakeholders, the last step before submission to the State and FEMA. Also, Audubon County recently lost their EMA Coordinator and is searching for a replacement.

There was then a lengthy discussion about the County-wide ambulance service. They will move their station from the current location to the west side of Atlantic on December 1st. They have also recently sent out new Tier Agreements to County volunteer ambulance services. Additionally, they have indicated to partners Cass County, City of Atlantic and CHS hospital that they would require more total subsidy if they are to continue to provide EMS ambulance services in the County.

Old Business: Kennon said that we are still waiting for the Cass County BOS to adopt an updated County Employee Handbook. As soon as the County approves the new handbook, this board can consider adopting it.

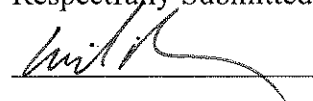
Kennon handed out a budget worksheet with a 5.00% increase. There were questions about Worker's Comp figures and a comment that Health Insurance would likely need to increase by 13.08%. Finally, there was a brief discussion about staff compensation. The Compensation Board will meet soon and more will then be known about possible wage increases.

New Business: Kennon asked if it would be possible to reduce the number of yearly meetings for Public Safety. After some discussion, there was a consensus that some monthly meetings could potentially be eliminated. This topic can be revisited when the new City of Atlantic Board representative starts in January.

Public comments or concerns: Kathy Somers will be off the Atlantic City Council and therefore off the Public Safety Communications Board the end of this year. Kathy has overseen some important changes to the Cass County Communications Center over the last 8 years. She was involved with the move of the Comm Center to its current location. There was also the loss of a 911 Director and the hiring of a new Director. The 911 phone system was changed out in 2020. The radio consoles updated to the Motorola ISICS system in early 2021. Also, the County ISICS enhancement project has recently been approved. We will miss Kathy and we will miss her perspective on important issues related to Public Safety Communications. Kathy, thank you for your years of service on the Public Safety Board!!

M/S/C Somers / O'Brien to adjourn a 6:22pm

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. O'Brien', written over a horizontal line.