

# Cass County Public Safety Communications Commission

## Minutes

July 27, 2021

Cass County Courthouse Basement Meeting Room – 5 West 7<sup>th</sup> St., Atlantic, Iowa

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

Staff present: Mike Kennon, TAC; Darby McLaren, TAA  
Citizens present: None

Acting Chair Jim Behrens called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

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


M/S/C O'Brien / Somers to approve the minutes of the 6-22-2021 meeting. Carried unanimously.

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

TAC Report: Mike Kennon stated that training for the newest dispatcher hired continues to progress very well. He also said that he is concerned about retention of our all our local dispatchers. There are numerous public safety dispatch jobs currently available in neighboring counties. Cass County does pay a comparable wage to surrounding counties for now, but Kennon fears that there is pressure to raise wage rates. Entry level wages for all jobs are much higher than they have ever been. Many courthouse employees in other departments have seen significant increases recently. Kennon feels that the Commission needs to watch this situation closely so that we do not lose a dispatcher due to non-competitive wages.

Mike Kennon and Lead Dispatcher, Jen Holaday have taken LASO (Local Agency Security Officer) Training. This is required training from the State that emphasizes necessary physical and cyber security measures within the dispatch center. Kennon also reported that he was requesting reimbursement for completed Cares Act grant fund projects. He has also applied for America Rescue Plan funds that recently came available to Emergency Management Agencies.

Respectfully Submitted



---

Finally, there was a lengthy discussion about possible ISICS public safety radio enhancements. Motorola has delivered a proposal for an enhancement on the Atlantic water tower as well as an existing tower in Massena. They will be meeting with Cass County officials next Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, to discuss options asked for at a previous meeting. Kennon will forward details of this meeting when they become available.

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.

New Business: None.

Public comments or concerns: None.

M/S/C Somers / O'Brien to adjourn a 6:20pm

Respectfully Submitted



---