

Cass County Public Safety Communications Commission

Minutes

August 24, 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; Darby McLaren, TAA

Citizens present: Dave Erickson, APD Chief; Devin Hogue, APD Officer

Chair Steve Green called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.

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

M/S/C O'Brien / Somers to approve the minutes of the 7-27-2021 meeting. Carried unanimously.

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

TAC Report: Mike Kennon announced that the Cass County Fire Association had recently received a \$370,000 grant award to purchase 50+ mobile 700Mhz radios and 14 portables. This will allow Cass County fire departments to more fully utilize the ISICS public safety radio platform. Law enforcement, hospital, EMA and the Communications Center are already fully equipped with 700Mhz compatible radios.

There was a lengthy discussion about the latest Motorola Enhancement Proposals. There was general disappointment with the proposal to help radio coverage in the Southeastern portion of the County. The Board felt that we should maybe pivot away from that proposal and look towards supplying County fire departments with vehicular repeaters like is used in County Sheriff's vehicles. It was also suggested that we include some portable radios for each FD and the Police Reserves. It was also suggested that American Rescue Plan funds should be used for the purchase of these radios if possible. Finally, there was a consensus that another proposal to place ISICS radio equipment on the Atlantic Water Tower should still be pursued.

Steve Green and Mark O'Brien have felt that whatever project(s) are put forward should be approved by the voting public. They would also like to have support from cities throughout Cass County as well as all emergency response agencies. Kennon was asked to approach County Auditor, Dale Sunderman for direction to create a

Respectfully Submitted



referendum to be put on the ballot for later this year. Kennon and Devin Hogue made the commitment to work to shepherd a referendum proposal through the processes necessary to get it on a ballot.

Kennon stated that Chris Maiers, State ISICS/FirstNet Director, will address the Cass County BOS next Tuesday morning at their regular meeting.

Andres Goins, County IT/GIS, has submitted her resignation. Kennon has concerns about the availability of a skilled person on-site to fix public safety IT issues in a timely manner. Regular GIS maintenance is also a concern.

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 6:38pm

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. H. Hogue", written over a horizontal line.