

# Cass County Public Safety Communications Commission

## Minutes

April 26, 2022

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

Present: Steve Green, CC BOS; Mark O'Brien, CC BOS (virtual); Jim Behrens, Atlantic;  
Lee Sisco, Atlantic

Absent: None

Staff present: Mike Kennon, TAC; Darby McLaren, Cass Co. Sheriff - TAA

Citizens present: None

Chair Jim Behrens called the meeting to order at 5:13pm.

M/S/C Sisco / Green to approve the agenda. Carried unanimously.

M/S/C Green / Sisco to approve the minutes of the 3-22-2022 meeting. Carried unanimously.

Mike Kennon stated that current expense totals continue to be below budget year-to-date.

M/S/C Green / Sisco to approve March 2022 financial reports. Carried unanimously.

TAC Report: Mike Kennon reported on the status of the local Motorola enhancement project. There was a concern about lead paint on the water tower, but that issue was resolved after tests revealed lead was below acceptable levels. There may also be some "supply chain" issues with a generator. Kennon was told that it may be 1-2 years before we receive one. There will be a Design Review Meeting this Thursday at 10am in the courthouse meeting room with the Motorola team. Hopefully, we can get an idea when this project will be completed. Steve Green then asked where we were with payments on this project. Kennon answered that the County has paid 85%, the final 15% will be due when we sign off at completion.

County Fire Departments are waiting on Motorola to install mobile radios in their equipment. These installs should be starting very soon. They are also waiting on portable handheld radios. Another supply chain issue has Motorola waiting on chargers. When County Fire Departments are operational with their new radios, we will need to assess if the County can fully integrate onto the ISICS Radio System, then decide if we will continue to maintain our current VHF System.

Kennon announced that he will be working with Sean from IT to organize and clean up the server room. Sean also informed Kennon that there will be a Federal cyber security audit

Respectfully Submitted



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scheduled for February 2023.

There was then a lengthy discussion about Dispatch staff. One of our Dispatchers was offered a position in the Treasurer's Office across the street. There was some confusion about the rate of pay before this person makes a commitment to accept the job, so Kennon has not received an official two-week notice from this employee. The BOS will meet on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> to make final decisions on the transfer of this employee to another County department.

Kennon said that this situation highlights a problem that has existed for a while when comparing Dispatchers to other County employees. Courthouse employees have higher wages in general, they work M-F, 8-4:30, and they don't work Holidays. Courthouse employees also don't have to possess the unique skills required to handle 911 calls, radio traffic, computer data entry, answering admin calls, etc. all at the same time and often under intense pressure. Kennon sees this transfer as a net negative for Cass County. He will now start a hiring process that may yield an inexperienced employee who will need months of training before they are a certified, stand-alone Dispatcher.

Kennon said that the Dispatchers will receive a 6.0% increase on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a very welcome boost in wage rate, but Kennon stated that this will not eliminate the gap that Dispatchers see with other County employees.

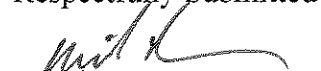
Old Business: The County Handbook will be a permanent item in Old Business until the County produces a handbook for us to review.

New Business: Kennon stated that after the general elections in 2024 may be a good time to review the organizational structure of EMA and 911. The new Sheriff, PD Chief and PS Board can get together and shape these organizations how they see fit. They can potentially divide Dispatch Staff, Dispatch Operations, Radio Systems, Addressing, Mapping and other responsibilities. Some changes may also require an adjustment to the budget FYE2026.

Public comments or concerns: None.

M/S/C Green / O'Brien to adjourn a 5:55pm

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mick", is written over a horizontal line.