

# Cass County Public Safety Communications Commission

## Minutes

December 19, 2023

Cass County Comms Center Conference Room – 705 Poplar St., Atlantic, Iowa

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

Absent: None

Staff present: Mike Kennon, 911 Services Coordinator; Bobbi Jo Steffensmeier, Dispatch Supervisor

Citizens present: John Westering, CCSO

Chair Jim Behrens called the meeting to order at 5:20pm.

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

M/S/C Green / Sisco to approve the minutes of the 11-28-2023 meeting. Carried unanimously.

M/S/C Sisco / Green to approve November 2023 financial reports. Carried unanimously.

Coordinator's Report: Mike Kennon stated that he had been working with AmeriCorps to fund the Rural First-Aid Project Director, Erik Johnson. AmeriCorps requires that timesheets be verified, quarterly reports be completed, etc. Kennon is pleased to not have to direct this project, but it certainly has not taken away all his responsibilities. EMS as an Essential Service has been in the news for surrounding counties. Shelby County passed their ability to tax for County-wide EMS and they immediately had to stand up a new service to replace their current EMS service. Page County has announced that they will be putting EMS as an Essential Service on the ballot November 2024.

There have been a number of upcoming training opportunities announced in nearby counties. Bobbi Jo will need to decide if some of these trainings can be worked into her schedule and/or for the dispatch staff. Kennon stated that these types of local training opportunities are very cost effective. No or minimal registration, no hotel room, minimal mileage, etc.

Respectfully Submitted



HSEMD has warned local EMS and 911 entities to have clear agreements as to who has responsibilities for specific equipment, maintenance and operational functions. They have been hearing about some local conflicts involving ISICS. Examples include things like ownership of communications towers, maintenance of tower properties, and on-going service contracts.

Steffensmeier reported that she had published the new hire position in local newspapers. She said that she has not received many applications yet, but that she would expect more after the holidays. We will be accepting applications through January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Old Business: None

New Business: Kennon handed out an updated budget worksheet FYE2025. The worksheet reflects a 3.5% increase in wages, salaries and corresponding benefits. The base rate for certified and trained dispatchers will be \$25.00/hr. New hires with no experience will start at \$20.00/hr. The entire budget raises 2.81%.

M/S/C Sisco / O'Brien to approve and pass the FYE2025 Public Safety Communications Budget as presented. Carried unanimously.

Public comments or concerns: Kennon asked the Board if they wouldn't mind changing the next regular Public Safety meeting to 1-30-2024. He had inadvertently scheduled something else on the previous Tuesday. The Board was okay with the change.

M/S/C O'Brien / Sisco to adjourn a 6:17pm

Respectfully Submitted



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