

Cass County Public Safety Communications Commission

Minutes

January 30, 2024

Cass County Courthouse Basement Meeting Rm – 5 W. 7th St., Atlantic, Iowa

Present: Steve Green, CC BOS; Mark O'Brien, CC BOS; Shawn Sarsfield, Atlantic;
Jim Behrens, Atlantic

Absent: None

Staff present: Mike Kennon, TAC; Bobbi Jo Steffensmeier, Dispatch Supervisor
Citizens present: John Westering, CCSO; Devin Hogue, APD

Chair Mark O'Brien called the meeting to order at 5:16pm.

M/S/C Green / Sarsfield to approve the agenda as amended. Carried unanimously.

M/S/C Behrens / Green to approve the minutes of the 1-9-2024 meeting. Carried
unanimously.

911 Services Coordinator's Report: Steffensmeier reported that there have been a number of
vacation requests recently that have required scheduling changes for coverage. The full-time
dispatcher position has been filled and that person will be starting on February 5th. A
decision has also been made on the part-time opening and that person will be notified soon.

Kennon, Steffensmeier, McLaren and Hogue met with Atlantic School Administrative Staff
last week to discuss school safety in light of the recent Active Shooter event in Perry.
Recommendations from last year's school building assessment from the State were talked
about. Protocols for use of the SEARS radios installed in most buildings are nearly ready to
distribute to area schools. Periodic training on these radios is part of the plan. The Atlantic
School Superintendent seems to want to embrace comprehensive safety planning, along
with training and exercise activities. She is already working with local Law Enforcement on
an Active Shooter response exercise for this spring. Additionally, camera feeds from the
campuses of each of the County school systems is now being shared with the Comm Center.

Kennon stated that he has been involved with local "EMS as an Essential Service" efforts.
They would like to get a referendum on the ballot for this coming November election. This
would create the ability to levy taxes to support local EMS functions. Bobbi Jo is working
on a letter of support to bring before the Public Safety Communications Board at our next
meeting.

Finally, Kennon announced that RAGBRAI will be coming to Cass County this summer.
They will overnight in Atlantic on Monday, July 22nd. RAGBRAI will come from Red Oak
and likely pass thru Griswold and Lewis. They may then pass thru Wiota, Anita,
Cumberland and/or Massena on their way to Winterset. We will have to wait for the details
of the route to be revealed.

Respectfully Submitted



Old Business: None.

New Business: Kennon stated that the Comm Center monitors the jail, courthouse and other camera feeds. Adding multiple school building camera feeds to that system is not really feasible. Kennon would like to install another large tv next to the existing one to monitor the new school camera feeds. A small computer would also be required. The funding would come from a request to the Cass Co. 911 Service Board.

M/S/C Green / Behrens to request funding for purchase and installation of new computer and large monitor from Cass County 911 Service Board. Carried unanimously.

Public comments or concerns: There was a discussion about the possibility of placing the Cass Co. Public Safety Communications budget within the EMA budget as a line item. The EMA Board could then determine funding through a countywide special levy. Kennon was not opposed to this plan, but he did not wish to jeopardize future funding of both EMA and Public Safety Communications. The next step will be to talk with EMA Board members at their next meeting.

M/S/C O'Brien / Sarsfield to adjourn a 5:51pm

Respectfully Submitted

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