

Cass County Public Safety Communications Commission

Minutes

October 28th, 2025

Cass County Courthouse Meeting Room – 5 West 7th St., Atlantic, Iowa

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

Absent: None.

Staff present: Bobbi Jo Steffensmeier, Dispatch Supervisor; John Westering, Sheriff

Guests: None.

Chair Steve Green called the meeting to order at 5:23pm.

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

M/S/C Sarsfield / O'Brien to approve the minutes of the 9-23-2025 meeting. Carried unanimously.

M/S/C O'Brien / Sarsfield to approve the September 2025 Financial Reports. Carried unanimously.

Dispatch Supervisor's Report: Bobbi Jo stated that there was nothing new for staff issues. She said that herself and a couple of dispatchers attended the APCO/NENA conference earlier this month. Pott Co gave a presentation on their response to last year's tornado events. She plans to attend WISG in a couple of weeks in Shelby County. WISG is a group of Western Iowa 911 Directors, ISP Comms, DOT and State reps that discusses various current topics related to Public Safety Communications.

Bobbi Jo has been in discussions with a company called Tango Tango. It is a lot like I Am Responding (IAR), a responder notification system we currently use. Bobbi Jo has gotten some negative feedback about IAR in the past. She received an underwhelming response from County fire departments when presenting the idea of switching, so she may not be pursuing this other company for now.

Bobbi Jo handed out dispatcher salary and wage "comparables" to the Board. Cass County is well behind other nearby Counties. Cass County dispatcher workload is also greater than all other comparable Counties. Cass County's call-for-service numbers are significantly higher than others. Interstate calls account for much of the increase in calls verses other

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countries. Finally, Kennon said that Bobbi Jo won't bring up her own possible increase, but she has done a very good job in her supervisory role in the dispatch center. Kennon believes that recognition for her work performance should come in the form of increased pay.

911 Services Coordinator's Report: Kennon stated that Sean (IT) has received the new computers for dispatch. He will be working with Solutions tomorrow to get them installed. Gene Schmelling, from the Atlantic FD, will be here tomorrow to inspect fire extinguishers. We still need to set up a time to have fire extinguisher training for courthouse employees. Kennon was also involved in the annual Lockdown Drill at the Atlantic Campus of IWCC a couple of weeks ago.

Finally, Kennon mentioned the Iowa DOGE Task Force recommendations that were recently published. As it pertains to Public Safety Communications, the State has encouraged a system of "shared services" that would make it much easier to consolidate or regionalize dispatch services at some point.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Public comments or concerns: There was a question about the future of the Rural First Aid program. Kennon said that the grant needs to be closed out before the end of the calendar year. Erik Johnson has said that he would be willing to continue to manage the program, but there will need to be some decisions made about the future of the program. It was suggested by some that the equipment be distributed to fire departments, law enforcement, etc. and the program be terminated.

M/S/C O'Brien / Sarfield to adjourn at 5:57pm

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