

Cass County Public Safety Communications Commission

Minutes

December 23rd, 2025

Cass County Communications Center – 705 Poplar St., Atlantic, Iowa

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

Absent: Steve Green, CC BOS;

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

Guests: None.

Vice Chair Shawn Sarsfield called the meeting to order at 5:17pm.

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

M/S/C O'Brien / Behrens to approve the minutes of the 11-25-2025 meeting. Carried unanimously.

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

Dispatch Supervisor's Report: Bobbi Jo said that there has been sickness among dispatchers. This has caused Bobbi Jo to rearrange schedules to cover for missing staff.

ISICS radio encryption has been a statewide and regional topic lately. Some surrounding counties are moving exclusively to encrypted talk groups. They are doing this to keep outside non-law enforcement entities from listening to their radio traffic. To them, this is an officer safety issue. The problem is that neighboring county's must get authorization to unencrypt and pay to reprogram radios. Cass County does not wish to go to full encryption at this time. There are already some encrypted talk groups that can be used for sensitive traffic.

There was a lengthy discussion about County EMS and then Bobbi Jo handed out some budget documentation. She distributed a preliminary budget that reflected a \$1.50 increase for dispatch wages. She also handed out a page that showed "wage rankings" for counties in our region. Bobbi Jo pointed out that a \$1.50 increase would not change our status as one of the lower paying area counties. After further discussion, it was determined that a decision would not be made at this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted



There was also some discussion about equipping Bobbi Jo's new office to include an operational dispatch workstation. Funding for this would come from 911SB. Bobbi Jo will look into how other Comm Centers do this and report back to this Board.

911 Services Coordinator's Report: Kennon stated that there had been a sewer issue in the building over the last weekend. Thankfully, it did not affect Dispatch Center operations.

There was a discussion about when tenants in the basement might be moving out. O'Brien thought that they would be leaving early this spring. Sean (IT) plans to move into a back office which would allow Bobbi Jo to take over Sean's current office. O'Brien said that there is still a chance that Mick Allen may return to the building for a time, but that is uncertain. Kennon said that he thinks we should have a strategy or long-range plan in place before we bring any new tenants into the building. He thinks it would be unwise to tie up space in the building for years potentially only to find that it could be useful in another capacity. For instance, the upstairs might be serviceable as a future unified law enforcement center. Also, the entire basement may be needed if the State regionalizes PSAP call centers and/or EMAs.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Public comments or concerns: None.

M/S/C O'Brien / Behrens to adjourn at 6:31pm

Respectfully Submitted

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