

Cass County 911 Service Board

Mike Kennon, 911 Director
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MINUTES

April 22, 2025 – 6:00pm
Cass County Basement Meeting Room – 5 West 7th Street, Atlantic, IA 50022

Members present: John Westering (CCSO), Jim Behrens (Atlantic), Mark O'Brien (CC EMA) - virtual, Randy Baxter (Marne), Steve Green (CC BOS), Simon Jensen (Anita) – virtual, Kirk Stapleton (Griswold) and Virginia Coughlin (Cumberland).

Members absent: Dave Reynolds (Elliott), Mitch Boysen (Wiota), Ryan Archibald (Lewis), Greg Vetter (Grant), Jackson Bissell (Massena) and Clif Anderson (Council Bluffs).

Staff present: 911 Services Coordinator Mike Kennon and Dispatcher Supervisor Bobbi Jo Steffensmeier

Guests present: None.

Acting Chair Virginia Coughlin called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Introductions

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

M/S/C Stapleton / Behrens to approve the 1-28-2025 minutes. Carried unanimously.

M/S/C Stapleton / Green to approve the Financial Statements since last meeting. Carried unanimously.

Coordinator's Report: Kennon reported that the current fund balance for 911 SB was \$298,639. It seems like a lot of money, but we just paid a \$89,911 ISICS Site Maintenance fee. Kennon said that funds were spent to replace some dispatch workstation monitors and some all-in-one computers used at each workstation. Kennon also purchased two large screen TV monitors to view new live feed videos from schools, courthouse, jail and other areas.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kennon stated that there are reports that the County's share of 911 surcharge funds will be cut by some amount from the State. The State has also said that trunk fees that the local 911SBs pay will 'go away' at some point, but that has not happened yet. Also, we are responsible for more expenses than we used to pay, like ICN fees of \$452/month. Finally, there is a lot of uncertainty about what Public Safety Communications will look like in the future. Will there be enough funding to operate a PSAP? Will PSAPs be forced to consolidate? Will EMA positions be consolidated?

Old Business: None.

New Business: There was considerable discussion about paging and the need to get more 700 pagers out to Fire Departments in the County. We currently dual-page, meaning we send pages out with both VHF and 700 signals. This has created problems because of the limitations of our equipment to transmit both signals. If we could get enough 700 pagers in firefighter's hands, we could abandon VHF paging.

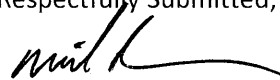
Griswold FD currently has 700 pagers. They applied for grants and/or bought the pagers they needed. There was a question as to why other FDs in Cass County had not done the same. All County Fire Departments had received County ARPA funds and there are many small, but easy-to-qualify for grants out there. The Board came to a consensus that they recognized the need for these pagers, yet did not want to fund the entire project.

M/S/C Green / Baxter to purchase 5 pagers for each of the 7 fire departments in Cass County in need of 700Mhz pagers. Carried unanimously.

There were no public comments or concerns.

M/S/C Baxter / Green to adjourn at 6:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Sign-In Sheet

DATE: January 28, 2025

LOCATION: Cass County Courthouse Basement Meeting Room

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