

Cass County Public Safety Communications Commission

Minutes

November 24, 2020

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

Present: Steve Green, CC BOS; Kathy Somers, Atlantic (virtual); Jim Behrens, Atlantic; Mark O'Brien, CC BOS (virtual)

Absent: None

Staff present: Mike Kennon, TAC; Darby McLaren, Sheriff TAA (virtual)
Citizens present: None

Chair Steve Green called the meeting to order at 5:19pm.

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

M/S/C Somers / O'Brien to approve the minutes of the 10-27-2020 meeting. Carried unanimously.

M/S/C Somers / Behrens to approve October 2020 financial reports. Carried unanimously.

TAC Report: Mike Kennon reported on further progress of the Motorola console project. The project is still on track to be completed by the end of January 2021. Motorola techs have continued to configure the new consoles and they plan to physically move a Motorola console to Workstation 3 the first week of December. This will allow our dispatchers to use the new console with the call-taker phone system, mapping, MACH, IAR, etc.

Next week, Kennon and Andrea Goins will be a meeting with Montgomery Co. about 911 partnering with them for log recordings. If Cass and Montgomery can't come to an agreement, Kennon will have to reach out to other counties that purchased a log recorder and would be willing to partner. Kennon then briefly talked about recent maintenance projects on the ICN fiber network. The ICN network offers a great increase in dispatching capabilities, but Kennon worries about redundancy and the reliance on the fiber network.

Respectfully Submitted



Kennon announced that Cass County had just purchased a drone and that personnel were in the process of training to fly it. The drone will be housed in the Communications Center and insured by EMA. Covid-19 continues to dominate the time and energy of Kennon and the dispatch staff. Kennon continues to order PPE for the County, but he will now have to travel to Council Bluffs to get requested supplies. Kennon has also been working with Public Health to develop a vaccination plan which may be needed before the end of the calendar year.

The dispatch staff has avoided a Covid-19 outbreak in the facility. Many mitigation strategies have been employed, allowing the Communications Center to operate regularly and without disruption.

Finally, Kennon brought up the many challenges he has faced in the last year. On-going Covid-19 response, the Zetron Call-Taker Project, the Motorola Console Project, continued County ISICS Integration, a new County-Wide EMS provider, implementation of a Drone Program and a County-wide Firefighter Grant application were some of the year's major projects. It was also a much busier year than usual on the EMA side of the job. Darby McLaren suggested a possible change to help alleviate some of the pressures of the EMA/911 Director position. Kennon said that he is open to any ideas that would benefit the dispatch center, now and into the future. Kennon was asked to review current job descriptions and include this topic on upcoming meeting agendas for further discussion.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Kennon handed out a tentative Public Safety budget FYE2022. He stated that regardless of proposed increases in wages and salary, the budget asking will remain the same or less than any time in the last five years.

Public comments or concerns: None.

M/S/C O'Brien / Behrens to adjourn at 6:12pm

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kennon", written over a horizontal line.