

Cowlitz 911 Public Authority Resolution

2023-002

FINDING OF EXISTENCE OF EMERGENCY PURSUANT TO RCW 39.04.280(2)(b)

The undersigned hereby certify that the Board of Directors of Cowlitz 911 (Board) agreed to the following on the 20th day of September 2023:

WHEREAS, Brannon Starr, the Facilities Manager of Cowlitz 911, informed Deanna Wells of Cowlitz 911 in August 2023, that radio equipment facility at the Abernathy site required major repairs to the roof, and two walls due to water damage caused by adverse weather conditions at that site; and

WHEREAS, this site provides emergency communications coverage to the north portion of Cowlitz County, and is even more critical due to the land slide that disabled our Johnston Ridge microwave site, leaving it inoperable for an undetermined amount of time. The facility stores critical radio equipment, and should the structure fail at Abernathy, it would eliminate emergency radio coverage for the outlying areas of Castle Rock, Toutle, and portions south of Castle Rock. The Abernathy site is also a major part of our public safety radio system providing communications throughout portions of the county and connects into our simulcast radio system at Rainier, including 911 dispatch; and

WHEREAS each radio tower site has a facility which provides protection of the radio equipment and ancillary radio parts. The facility contains power sources, usually AC power and a back-up battery bank, HVAC systems, generators, radios, and repeaters, which are all critical public safety radio equipment, and each site is a links to our simulcast system; and

WHEREAS, if the Abernathy structure failed. the site would become inoperable, causing a loss of dispatch and emergency responders communications for several weeks, creating an unacceptable condition for the communities it serves; and


WHEREAS, the Cowlitz 911 Executive Director, based on the above and based on his authority to act in the event of an emergency, declared that an emergency situation existed, waived competitive bidding requirements and awarded all necessary contracts, on or about the end of September 2023, on behalf of the public authority to address and alleviate this emergency situation, in accordance with RCW 39.04.280(2)(b); and

WHEREAS, RCW 39.04.280(2)(b) requires the Board of Directors of Cowlitz 911 to review the decision of the Executive Director, make an independent written finding of

whether the emergency situation appeared to exist and duly enter a record thereof no later than two weeks following the award of the contract.

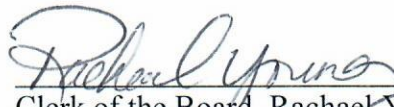
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Board hereby finds that the failure of the Abernathy radio site facility, on or about the end of August 2023, created an emergency for Cowlitz 911 under RCW 39.04.280 in that Cowlitz 911 was then faced with a degraded communications system and with the further prospect of losing all dispatch communications in northern Cowlitz County, for the possible duration of several weeks, and that therefore the Executive Director thereby acted within his authority, based on RCW 39.04.280, and in compliance with the desires of the Board of Directors, as required by RCW 39.04.280(2)(b), by hiring a contractor to make the repairs without competitive bidding and then bringing the matter to the attention of the Board of Directors at the soonest opportunity.

COWLITZ 911 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



~~Chair of the Board, Brad Thurman~~
VICE CHAIR ALAN HEADLEY

ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board, Rachael Young

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



General Counsel, Frank Randolph