

Cedar County Joint 911 Service Board
1410 Cedar Street
Tipton, IA 52772
(563)886-3355

The regular quarterly meeting of the Cedar County Joint 911 Service Board was held on April 11, 2024, both in-person and by online forum with the call originating from the Cedar County EMA Administrative Offices at 1410 Cedar Street, Tipton, IA 52772. Those attending in-person included: Warren Wethington, Cedar County Sheriff; Jon Bell, Cedar County Supervisor; Joe Sparks, Mayor of Bennett; Andrew Oberbreckling, Mayor of Mechanicsville; Tammi Goerdt, Mayor of Tipton; Todd Sawyer, Mayor of Stanwood; Roger Laughlin, Mayor of West Branch; Kevin Stoolman, West Branch Fire Chief; Adam Paidar, Mechanicsville Fire Chief; Jared Semsch, Durant Fire Chief; Dan Sterner, Durant City Council Member; Dan Baker, Mechanicsville Fire Department; Jodi Freet, Director Cedar County EMA/911; Mindy Beekman, Office Coordinator Cedar County EMA; Sue Hall, Press. Attending virtually were Tara Pollock, RACOM; Glen Reynolds, RACOM; Ken Fleege, RACOM; Jason Roblin, MCM

Chairman Wethington called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Two corrections were made to the agenda: January Expenses YTD, under #4 Approval of Expenditures, was changed to \$94,670.98; Radio Governance Board – appointments were moved to item C and HF2652 was added under #7 E under new business. Bell made a motion to approve the agenda with changes; seconded by Laughlin. Motion carried.

Laughlin made a motion to approve minutes of January 11, 2024 regular meeting; seconded by Sparks. Motion carried.

Sparks made a motion to approve minutes of February 20, 2024 budget public hearing; seconded by Sterner. Motion carried.

Chairman Wethington yielded the floor to Freet to discuss atypical expenditures and revenues from the previous quarter. Freet advised that there are several atypical expenses: In February, 300 aluminum sign blanks were purchased from Moore Welding for \$3,393.00 and RACOM \$562.50 for troubleshooting on legacy system; In March, atypical expense for budget hearing in the newspapers 276.40, APCO/NENA conference \$650.00 and \$225 to Jones County 911 service board for 28E for Amber Road Tower electricity.

Laughlin made a motion to approve expenditures; seconded by Sawyer. Motion carried.

Chairman Wethington yielded the floor to Director Freet for discussion of old business.

- Freet advised that termination letter has been sent certified to Graybill. Letter was received with no further response from vendor.
- The 911 service plan remains on hold. The expectation is to address after the start of the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year.

- Freet advised that GIS Funding must meet all monthly benchmarks to obtain \$1000/month in funding. Targets have been hit every month and continued to receive the funding.

Radio Network Updates

- Freet advised that decommissioning of the Graybill system equipment has a deadline of May 1st due to bond restrictions. There has been considerable research regarding city ownership of equipment issues.
- Reynolds/RACOM advised that all of the equipment removed but no lines have been removed yet. The I80 location has not been disconnected yet due to the need for access into the building. Final invoice for decommissioning is \$61,500. None of the power feeds have been removed at this time. Antennas should be out before the end of the month.
- Tara advised that she has sent the quote for the BDA for West Branch Schools and then also needs photos of the headsets in dispatch.
- Freet advised that trouble tickets have been tracked on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and there is a loss of confidence in the Cedar Rapids office. There will be a transition of the contract to the Moline office. There will be a process for reporting trouble tickets to EMA.
- Radio Governance Board appointments have been made with the exception of Clarence and Lowden. There is no meeting currently scheduled but there will be the need for a meeting in the future regarding radio access.
- Discussion was held regarding radio transmissions in the West Branch High School. Freet advised that during the testing in West Branch, when holding up the radio, it would make a difference in the signal inside the school. Jason Roblin advised that there is an option for a BDA extender system in the West Branch Schools due to the inability to transmit from inside the majority of the school buildings. The option of Simplex channels was discussed by MCM. There is a quote for the BDAs at \$33,644 to install. Freet advised that there is not a way to fund the antennas through 911 surcharge funds. Wethington advised that it is a state-of-the art system but there is a 90-95% coverage in the county. Wethington advised that it will be the school's responsibility to purchase the equipment to keep their kids safe. Freet raised question if there was the possibility of Simplex channels. Ken advised that he can look into the simplex channels. Stoolman advised that due to the small amount of responding initial officers, an extender may increase safety as law enforcement would then be able to speak with dispatchers. Ken brought to light that testing should have been done with radio on hip and shoulder mic. Freet confirmed that is not how it was done and that testing was with RACOM techs.
- A process for trouble/maintenance tracking has been established. This process is for non-emergent situations. Any trouble tickets will be emailed to 911@cedarcounty.iowa.gov. There is a spreadsheet that will track days open, incorrect information, and unwarranted extensions.

New Business

- There have been 5 addresses assigned year to date in Cedar County.
- Policy reminder - Freet advised that fleet mapping, no matter how small, needs to be sent through in order to make changes to programming.

- Director Freet advised that there needs to be a redundancy on the paging system. There have been multiple complaints about the mobile app "Who's responding" due to it not working for several fire departments. 911 is seeking permission to purchase access to the app "IAmResponding" in order to gain control and the ability to troubleshoot the system while maintaining control as well as access to the system. Once purchased, departments will be brought online agency by agency. Any departments would need to go through 911 for future hires and any changes for paging access. It also has additional modules that will help other departments and future initiatives. Sterner made a motion to approve the purchase of IAmResponding; seconded by Sawyer. Motion carried.

No report from Dispatch.

No trainings scheduled at this time.

The next regular meeting will be held on July 18, 2024 at 6:30 pm at 1410 Cedar Street, Tipton.

Motion made by Sparks, seconded by Sterner to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Minutes Approved 07/18/2024


Warren Wethington/Chairman


Jodi Freet, 911 Coordinator