

JONES COUNTY 911 SERVICE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 2022

SERVICE BOARD MEMBERS

Bold lettering indicates those in attendance at this meeting.

Voting Membership

Denny Coon	Oxford Junction	Jeff Swisher	Board of Supervisors
William Roller	Morley	Roxanne Tapken	Martelle
Kevin Rohwedder	Olin Fire District	Jeff Stout	Anamosa
Britt Smith	Monticello		
Jacob Koch	Mechanicsville	Brenda Leonard	Jones County EMA
Bert Kraai	Cascade	Greg Graver	Jones County Sheriff
Jean McPherson	Olin (Ambulance)	Brandon Siggins	Lisbon

Non-Voting Membership

Sheila Frink	Anamosa Area Amb.	Jake Lindauer	Lisbon/MtVernon Amb.
John Vacek	Wyoming Fire Co.	Russ Benke	Midland Ambulance

VISITORS in Attendance:

Adam & Terry Harris - Radio Communications, Trent Tapken & Jared Parker Martelle Fire 911 Coordinator

Gary Schwab - Jones County 911 Coordinator

Chairman Coon called the meeting of the 911 Service Board to order at 6:55 PM.

Motioned by Roller, 2nd by Smith to approve the agenda. All Aye. Motion carried.

Past Minutes of October 6, 2022

Motioned by Swisher, 2nd by McPherson to approve the minutes. All Aye. Motion carried.

Budget Report

Schwab reported financials through the end of October Fiscal 22/23: Fund balance stands at \$605,591.98 due to infusion of the ARPA funds for the dispatch radio system, Revenue stood at \$379,350.50, Expenses stood at \$123,024.82.

Motioned by Leonard, 2nd by Roller to approve the budget report as presented. All Aye. Motion carried

Possible Action on P25 Turn On for Fire and Ambulance January 1, 2023

Coon started the discussion by asking what is the latest on expected availability of radios for those departments that have orders pending? Terry Harris gave an update on what he is being told by manufacturers that December or January for some radios and maybe February of 2023. Coon asked Martelle and Morley Fire if they have ordered any radios yet? Trent Tapken offered that they have not. The trucks are good to go. William Roller offered up that it's the same story for Morley. Coon stated well if we can't get the stock and we can't get the programmed in time to meet January 1, 2023 we have to do something different. Terry Harris also offered that they will be working on the Mindshare console about that time as well. Coon asked for suggestions/comments. Terry Harris added that manufacturers are give 90 to 120 days turn. It's not just radios but everything else as well, it's just hit or miss. Schwab suggested that at this point push the date to June. Coon asked if we need a date, consensus seemed to be that a date was needed as we need to have something to push for. If all of a sudden everyone is ready beforehand, we can always move the date up. Smith asked how long would it take if all the equipment was in and programming could be accomplished. Terry Harris stated two weeks. Schwab stated at last month's meeting Swisher told Roxanne Tapken that Martelle should approach the Jones County Board of Supervisors and ask about a loan. Schwab asked if that has happened or what Martelle thinks. Swisher

said no it has not happened. Trent Tapken did not have any information. Smith asked Trent Tapken, what is your cost proposal right now? Trent stated he is looking at options, he is not keen on ordering P25 radios because of their situation with Linn County and that we keep changing things every five years. Schwab interjected, asking where this “every five years” statement comes from as the last time Jones County services had to change radios was in 2011 and that was because of the Narrow Banding mandate and all those radios were paid for with a grant. Trent Tapken then offered that they have to work with Linn County and now Cedar County is going 800 he is looking at triband or quad band radios, he repeated “our trucks are already set up”. Linn County gave radios to Martelle when Linn went to 800 Mhz. Trent feels the system has gone backward as we have to carry two radios. One for Linn County and one for Jones County. He wants to be in a position that if the state ever edicts that everyone must be 700 MHz all he will have to say is “come on down and program the radios, we are ready”. Unfortunately, the radios that can do that are \$5,000, now trying to figure out the budgeting for that. Trent Tapken then asked about paging, He understands that we are staying analog. He wanted to know if there was any advantage to going digital. Terry Harris offered that there is only one company right now that has a digital pager. There is a lot of mixed discussion. The digital pagers are display only as has been used in Cedar Rapids for many years, Iowa and Benton Counties are going digital paging. By the same token the analog/P25 paging is very popular. The tough decision is that the digital page has a longer range, but no or very poor voice whereas analog pagers have better voice, and you can repeat pages without being distracted by having to look at the screen. It all boils down to what you want to do. Terry Harris’ concern with the digital system that Iowa and Benton are going with is a proprietary system. Only one company (Swissvox) and there are only 10 system in the North American Hemisphere and seven of those are in Iowa. Makes Terry very nervous, how long will they be supported? There are other options such as “Zello” and Motorola’s “Beyond”.

The one issue with analog paging is that if the trucks are on P25 and responding, people with analog pagers will not hear the response. Bert Kraai offered that that is exactly what Cascade is doing now. Bert Kraai then asked, “exactly what channels are going to be going to P25 for Jones County?” Jeff Swisher stated that we do have to sort that out as some of the TAC channels are used nation-wide and will have to stay analog. Bert Kraai said that is something that needs to get figured out. So most likely the Jones County TAC channels will change. This will have to be on a future agenda. Terry Harris did state that analog and P25 can be programmed on one radio.

Now the question is what if we have to move the date what date should be selected? Britt Smith has a concern that right now with just Law being P25 the ambulance crews have no way to talk to Law without going through dispatch. Terry Harris offered that it is possible to program that one channel in the ambulances to P25.

Motioned by Leonard, 2nd by Swisher to move the P25 Turn on for Fire and Ambulance Services to August 1, 2023 or sooner if everyone has equipment in place. All Aye. Motion carried.

Request from Cedar County to Add a Dish to the Amber Tower for SARA Interface

Schwab started the discussion by stating it is his recommendation that the request from Cedar County to add SARA communications/connectivity to the Amber tower be denied per reasoning explained in the monthly Coordinators report. The principal reason is that of the unknown impact the future Jones County Justice Center communications demands may be.

Motioned by Swisher, 2nd by Roller to deny the request. All Aye. Motion carried

Other Items of Interest

None

Motioned by Leonard, 2nd by Swisher to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM. All Aye. Motion carried.

Next Meeting if required – December 1, 2022

Recorded by:

Gary Schwab, Jones County 911 Coordinator