

**JONES COUNTY 911 SERVICE BOARD**

**MEETING MINUTES**

December 1, 2022

**SERVICE BOARD MEMBERS**

**Bold lettering** indicates those in attendance at this meeting.

**Voting Membership**

Denny Coon	Oxford Junction	<b>Jeff Swisher</b>	<b>Board of Supervisors</b>
<b>William Roller</b>	<b>Morley</b>	<b>Roxanne Tapken</b>	<b>Martelle</b>
Kevin Rohwedder	Olin Fire District	Jeff Stout	Anamosa
Britt Smith	Monticello		
Jacob Koch	Mechanicsville	<b>Brenda Leonard</b>	<b>Jones County EMA</b>
<b>Bert Kraai</b>	<b>Cascade</b>	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.	<b>Russ Benke</b>	<b>Midland Ambulance</b>

**VISITORS in Attendance:**

**Terry Harris - Radio Communications, Glen Reynolds (in person) and Scott Zaputil (Zoom) RaCom, Jodi Freet (Zoom) Cedar County EMA**

**911 Coordinator**

**Gary Schwab - Jones County 911 Coordinator**

Vice Chair Swisher called the meeting of the 911 Service Board to order at 6:50 PM.

**Motioned by Roller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kraai to approve the agenda. All Aye. Motion carried.**

**Past Minutes of November 3, 2022**

**Motioned by Kraai, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roller to approve the minutes. All Aye. Motion carried.**

**Budget Report**

Schwab reported financials through the end of November Fiscal 22/23: Fund balance stands at \$602,839.89 due to infusion of the ARPA funds for the dispatch radio system, Revenue stood at \$380,477.76, Expenses stood at \$126,904.17.

**Motioned by Tapken, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kraai to approve the budget report as presented. All Aye. Motion carried**

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

Schwab started the discussion by introducing Glen Reynolds who is the project manager for the Cedar County SARA initiative, Jodi Freet – the Cedar County EMA Coordinator and Scott Zaputil with RaCom. Swisher introduced himself and Terry Harris with Radio Communications. Schwab then recounted actions that took place after the Service Board’s November meeting by notifying Glen that the Service Board had elected to deny access to the Amber Tower. RaCom, through Glen, contacted me providing information suggesting that the tower could handle adding a six-foot dish antenna for Cedar County and still have capacity for any antenna needs for future Jones County justice center needs. I advised Glen it would be up to this board and all I can do at this point is give some time onto the agenda for the December meeting.

Swisher then asked for questions from the board.

Glen spoke saying that he understood the confusion about some of the percentages on the engineering report. He reached out to Edge Engineering, who did the structural analysis. Edge Engineering stated that they used Rev H of the current standard that was released in 2017 although it has not been fully adopted across the country it has been adopted in some areas. Rev H is considered to be more accurate than Rev G which was used

previously to rate the Amber Tower. With this version, wind loading was lowered from 120 to 115 Mph and ice loading s was also lowered. Glen then asked Edge to run the analysis used for Dubuque County from Rev G and G to Rev G for the Structure and Rev H for the criteria and it came out at 85% which was significantly less than where we started. Adding in the dish from Cedar County at 125 feet took the analysis to 95%. When RaCom went with a third structure analysis (projecting possible Jones County addition for the justice center) now accounting for a supplemental dish antenna at 148 feet that came in at 99.5% on the structure. Still no tower modifications needed. Glen then stated, he knew that was a concern for this board, would there be enough capacity when it came time for Jones County to add a dish antenna to the tower. The answer from the three structure analysis reports that have been done the answer is yes. Keep in mind, depending on where the justice center goes the dish antenna may not have to go that high. With all of this data RaCom is asking that the Jones County Service Board reconsider the decision. Keep in mind that by having the Cedar County dish installed it enhances the SARA network for this area. Cedar County will be adding microwave dishes to Walcott for Scott County. The Cedar County dish would provide an absolute perfect flow-through for the entire network in this area. And should Jones County decide to go with SARA sometime in the future a big portion would already be in place.

Schwab had one comment that in the analysis drawing the future Jones County dish was pointed in the wrong direction and on the wrong leg. Would correcting that have any detrimental effect on the analysis? Glen said it could, RaCom did not know where the justice center was going to be located, so they just chose a spot to have a representative 300 to 440 pounds to show that the tower could handle the weight without any issues. Schwab also asked whether or not there was an ice shield for the dish as the report does not seem to show one. Glen stated the report may not show it but there would be one. Terry Harris stated that that would add about 900 pounds. Glen said he would have to go back and double check, an ice bridge and shield should be there. Swisher asked about the weight of the dish itself. Glen stated depending on the style of dish anywhere from 300 to 600 pounds. Depending on the hop between sites at 6 GHz it's a six-foot dish, shorter hops could operate at 18GHz which would only necessitate a 3 to 4 foot dish. There are unknown variables at this point. Swisher asked, what happens if we still deny putting a Cedar County dish on the Amber Tower, How would you work around it? Glen said that is where the difficulty comes in. We have looked at Solon, Palisades Park, Riverside and Walcott, one possibility they might have is doing a (2 plus O link(?)) back to the Walcott tower. Basically, instead of having everything geographically disbursed all their links would go through Walcott. So, they are trying to keep everything geographically disbursed using the Amber tower instead of having the system all in one line where any interference would not give an alternate route. The Amber tower site is a perfect solution for the system and offers many other ancillary benefits as well. Terry Harris and Swisher asked, how does this help Jones County?

Swisher added, the reason we voted this down is what assurances do we have that if we have to put a bunch of stuff up there, for whatever reason, and then we need another tower or need to beef up the Amber Tower. What assurances do we have that Cedar and quite frankly Dubuque have to help out? We want that in writing, that support will happen should the need arise. Glen said that is something he cannot answer, I can take it back with Scott to Mike Miller the owner of RaCom. Swisher stated he understands it's just that if we all are going to be on the tower, we all have a stake in either beefing it up or whatever has to be done.

Glen said that they are working on a 28E agreement even with Dubuque County and they would have one with Scott County as well and there would be one with Jones County. Scott Zaputil asked if, as he understands it, if we put the Cedar County dish up now and do it so that it does not take away any capacity for the future Jones County needs that would be acceptable. Swisher added, not just capacity but no interference, we won't have any problems or if we do it will be taken care of by either Dubuque or Cedar counties. Scott stated, I understand you're looking to mitigate your risk. Schwab added it goes both ways. When you talk about mitigating interference, if we add something that impacted you negatively you would expect us to fix it. Schwab asked if Cedar was going to bring in their own electric service or use Dubuque's service? Glen said they will be using Dubuque's, but they have not worked out a deal on that yet. Glen also said he understands that Jones County has an agreement with Dubuque to move our equipment into their shelter should the need ever arise.

**Motioned by Kraai, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roller to table this item until we get the proper documents, or another discussion is placed on the agenda. All Aye. Motion carried**

**Other Items of Interest**

Tapken asked if there was any money available from the 911 Service Board to give to fire/ambulance departments for the purpose of buying P25 radios or reimbursing those departments that have already made a purchase. Swisher stated that the city of Martelle should address the Board of Supervisors regarding their need for P25 radio funding and not the 911 Service Board. Right now, the city council is waiting to see how things work out funding wise with their new fire truck that is expected in January and then will decide how to proceed.

**Motioned by Tapken, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roller to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM. All Aye. Motion carried.**

Next Meeting if required – January 5, 2023

Recorded by:

Gary Schwab, Jones County 911 Coordinator