

JONES COUNTY 911 SERVICE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2024

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
Vacant	Olin Fire District	Vacant	Anamosa
Joe Bayne	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

Brandon Kent	Anamosa Area Amb.	Jake Lindauer	Lisbon/Mt Vernon Amb.
John Vacek	Wyoming Fire Co.	Russ Benke	Midland Ambulance

VISTORS in Attendance:

Terry Harris – RC Systems, Tara Polek – RaCom, Josh Brenneman – Monticello Council, Lisa Mootz – Jones County IT Manager, Stephanie Wallace – Jones County PSAP

911 Coordinator

Gary Schwab - Jones County 911 Coordinator

Chair Denny Coon called the meeting of the 911 Service Board to order at 7:10 PM.

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

Past Minutes of January 4, 2024

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

Budget Report

Schwab reported financials through the end of January Fiscal Year 24: Fund balance stands at \$485,765.21, Revenue stood at \$138,321.35, Expenses stood at \$114,893.72.

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

Public Hearing – Proposed Jones County 911 Service Board FY24/25 Budget

Chairman Coon asked to open the public hearing at 7:13PM motioned by Bayne, Seconded by Roller

Schwab reported that there were no comments received either orally or written by his office. Schwab also pointed out that in the budget documents filed with the state funds have been set aside for future system updates and improvements.

Chairman Coon asked to close the public hearing at 7:15PM

Motioned by Roller, 2nd by Kraai to approve the proposed FY24/25 budget as presented. All Aye. Motion carried.

Backup Dispatch Transmission Lie Discussion Possible Action

Schwab opened the discussion by clarifying that instead of transmission lines he should have said network connection.

Lisa Mootz stated that we currently have two network connections to the backup dispatch, a fiber connection and a Media Com connection. She asked the board if two were necessary as she would like to save the county \$3,000 by cancelling the Media Com network.

Motioned by Bayne, 2nd by Kraai to approve cancellation of the Media Com network contract. All Aye. Motion carried.

Status of P25 Switch Over for County EMS and Fire

Trent Tapken, Martelle Fire Chief asked about the difference between EMS and Fire paging in the county as when he is in the Anamosa DOT shop he can not get Martelle pages very well even though EMS pages come through. Trent asked why that is and what if anything could be done to address his concern. Terry Harris said EMS pages are transmitted multicast to all tower sites. Fire pages are “steered” to specific towers. Terry Harris went on to say Delaware County is in the process of changing their paging to a simulcast system that is going to cost them \$300K. To do the same in Jones County would also be expensive, \$300K to \$400K. This topic resulted in a lot of discussion. Early on why fire was not multicast because all traffic would be broadcast throughout an incident, no one wanted to hear that. And early on simulcast systems did not work very well, Today simulcast systems are much more reliable. Times have changed. We have fewer fire departments and fewer personnel in those departments. The question then is does the board need to look at planning for a simulcast system or will P25 digital paging technology improve to be a more viable solution. The consensus is Paging has always been a flash point trying to figure out a viable solution is going to take some time and planning that this board needs to address.

Schwab reported that there have been ongoing issues with Jones Regional Hospital in both the emergency department and in the ambulances receiving pages/hearing traffic. There have been two meetings with RC Systems and RaCom regarding the issues. Some reprogramming and other adjustments have been made to improve reception. While the situation is better it is still not working very well. One possible solution would be to relocate the courthouse EMS repeater to the Anamosa water tower on Tower Drive. This would improve the signal penetration into the hospital and improve reception in and around the Anamosa area due to the added height above terrain. Might as well consider moving the fire repeater as well. Schwab took the action to contact the city of Anamosa to see if they would even consider it.

Other Items of Interest

None

Motioned by Swisher, 2nd by McPherson to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM. All Aye. Motion carried.

Next Meeting if required – March 7, 2024

Recorded by:

Gary Schwab, Jones County 911 Coordinator