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**Poweshiek County 911
Board Meeting Minutes for June 17, 2025**

The meeting was held in person and via ZOOM

Members Present: Brian Paul-EMA, Matt Maschmann-Sheriff, Gary Sears-Searsboro, Derek Kriegel-Hartwick

Dawn Disney-Addressing/Database Mgr.

Via ZOOM: Jason Roudabush-Poweshiek County

Members Absent: Barnes City, Chelsea, New Sharon, Sully, Montezuma, Belle Plaine, Victor, Deep River, Malcom (Excused), Brooklyn, Grinnell, Gilman

Guest: Via ZOOM: Stacen Gross – SCG Consulting

Call to order and Roll Call

Paul called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. - Members present as listed above.

Approval of Agenda

Motioned by Maschmann to approve the agenda as presented, second by Sears. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from May 13, 2025 Meeting

Motioned by Maschmann to approve the minutes as presented, second by Kriegel. Motion carried.

Business Items

SF659 – Bill signed by Governor Reynolds

Paul started the meeting off discussing SF659 which will take effect July 1, 2025. It covers the State's ask to take wireless funds from the local 911 boards to help cover the costs of the ISICS radio system. Even though many Sheriffs and organizations across the state wrote letters and met at the capitol to voice their disapproval and request for the bill to be vetoed, Governor Reynolds approved and signed the bill into law. The local 911 boards will be charged a "reasonable amount" for services to be paid to the state. Paul said we need to make sure that we have our ducks in a row and the budget lined up and ready to go.

Maschmann advised that he has a meeting tomorrow, June 18, 2025 regarding that bill. He doesn't know what it's going to cover, but the last time he attended a meeting on this subject the state had no clue what it was going to involve or the amount they would be billing the 911 boards for. They don't even have an amount in mind, and is basically a blank check for them to take whatever is a "reasonable amount" with no caps.

Gross advised that on Thursday, June 12th, there was a meeting and Director, John Benson and the Program Manager, Blake DeRouchey both with the state, were there and during the discussion they stated their displeasure. They said that Homeland Security had introduced the bill in January early in the session, because the state is going to run out of money in the first quarter of 2026. They initially asked for a twenty-cent increase to the dollar wireless surcharge, to basically keep everything going for another ten to fifteen years.

Gross said that the dollar charge goes back to 2013 or before. The state has the counties complete an annual report that shows how much it costs to operate local 911 dispatch centers, and what the counties are carrying over in their balances. He thinks that the Iowa 911 Boards are sitting on around \$60,000,000 dollars and that is what has got everyone wound up. What they don't understand, is that the 911 Boards bank money for years, and years, and years for major projects and equipment.

Paul said \$60,000,000 divided by 99 counties isn't much money.

Gross said that at the APCO/NENA Conference in the fall, and Benson and DeRouchey stated that they thought they had struck a deal where they state would get ten-cents. They were working with legislators on that and thought it was going to go through but then basically in the middle of the night, they passed the current bill which basically states that the state isn't going to give Homeland Security anymore money, and that Homeland Security is to go back to the counties for additional funds because of the amount of money the counties are sitting on.

So fast forward to last Thursday and what was said was that they basically projected that by March of next year, 2026, they will be out of money and that they are not going to ask anyone for any money until they have gone a month in the red. Benson and DeRouchey said that at that point they will provide a statement that will go back to each service board, and the way that it looks right now is that if that goes on for the whole year, it looks like each county would basically be paying 13% of the wireless surcharge currently being received from the wireless surcharge to Homeland Security.

Gross stated that he went into our five-year budget projections and has created a line item showing the state being paid 13% and that would be about \$26,000, if that goes on, for the next fiscal year. The reason I said if that goes on is because I think there is a push through APCO, the Sheriff's association, everybody, to basically go in January and get this rolled back. So basically, the question is how long is this craziness going to go on, but that is the impact that they believe it will be.

Paul asked if the state will be billing the counties monthly or annually. Gross said that they had talked about doing it quarterly because they remit funds to the counties quarterly. They are going to give each service board the option to either receive an invoice or they can withhold it from what they send. Gross said that he thinks it would be easier to have them withhold it from what is being sent. Disney said that as long as there is a breakdown received with the quarterly payments, showing the amount being withheld. Paul stated that the state is already keeping 40 cents on the dollar being sent and now they are going to get another 13 cents on top of that. Gross said that is correct.

Gross said that everything is going up and that the dollar surcharge needs to go up, and when they had the surcharge down to only going up by 10 cents, he's not sure why it didn't go through because who is going to miss \$1.20 a month?

Disney asked if Gross knew who was behind the getting the new law pushed through so quickly without input from counties, since Benson and DeRouchey weren't for it. He said that he'd have to ask Chris, from Muscatine County, because he doesn't remember, but there two or three Senators that were pushing that forward.

Paul asked if he was right, that they will be withholding 53% instead of 40% going forward. Gross said that makes sense and sounds right to him. Disney asked if that could change at any time throughout the year, without any warning or the need for any further action. Gross said that he saw this train coming down the tracks when we did the last upgrade and went with the State shared services. The State shared services concept was brought up the last time and the fact that the 911 boards are setting on too much money. So, the state thought that there needed to be less PSAP's across the state and the compromise at that time was that by sharing technologies it would bring the costs down. Gross said that he stated to DeRouchey at that time that eventually everyone would end up jumping on board and the state would be paying those fees for every county, and they would run out of money. He believed that Homeland Security knew that they would run out of money but

because they were doing what they were asked for the last six or seven years, that they could go back to the table and ask for more funding, but obviously times have changed.

Paul said that hopefully we can get the current bill changed, and that he thinks that the state is trying to take over the PSAP's or force them to consolidate. Gross said that Director, Benson started out as the states 911 Coordinator, and he doesn't think that there is any ill will on the part of Homeland Security to eliminate PSAP's. He thinks it comes down to the elected officials seeing the funds that the counties have saved and they can't comprehend what the counties are going to do with all of that money so they don't think you need it. So that is the narrative that everyone needs to use when talking to those folks in January.

Disney asked what Gross thinks will happen if there is a PSAP that can't pay the state? Gross said during his discussion with Benson, Benson made the comment that the state has a contract to cover the NexGen statewide mapping system being used in the PSAP's with Geo-Comm and jokingly asked if they could just not pay that bill. Gross said that is the position that Homeland Security is in, that they are to a point where they can't pay their bills and believes that everyone involved in the situation was extremely surprised at what happened in the dark of night.

Sears asked if our budget could handle this. Gross then went over the adjusted budget projection with the board. He stated that the service board should be fine, that we have basically spent a bunch of money and refreshed the whole radio system, we're on the state shared services for 911 which means the state is on the hook to refresh that, all though the board has some skin in the game because the board has taken on paying the annual support on that. The service board is now kind of on a maintenance mode where we paying the maintenances on these relatively new systems. So, there shouldn't be a need to buy anything new for quite some time, but you can see that initially the board was carrying over \$1,000,000 but now at the end of year five it will be \$650,000. It will impact the board over time if it stays in place.

Paul said, yes, we are in a maintenance phase at this time, but that we are coming up on a year already with the new radio system and within five or six years there will be equipment that will start to need to be replaced. Gross said that is exactly right and the reason everyone is banking funds. There is a five-to-seven-year refresh on equipment and he doesn't think that a lot of them understand how that works.

Maschmann asked if we know what it will cost us in five to seven years to refresh out system. The reason he was asking is because he talked to someone from Warren County a week ago, and they are on ISICS and they were advised that their share of the upgrade is going to be \$10,000,000. Gross said that ISICS is owned by Motorola and then leased back to the state of Iowa, and the counties that are now on it are sub-leases and subject to whatever Motorola comes up with for pricing at the end of the lease. Gross said that in that regards, Poweshiek County dodged a bullet and we are more in charge of our destiny, but that would be an excellent question for Racom as well as when do they believe that we will need to refresh our system.

Maschmann said the \$10,000,000 was for another five years but doesn't know if it is the same amount for everyone on ISICS because if Poweshiek County was on ISICS we would only have one tower to refresh. He said that he assumes Warren County has one or two towers but is close enough to Polk County that they are probably bumping off of theirs and isn't sure how that works. We will have four towers to refresh, but we own it. He said that was a big surprise to him because the big selling point to get on ISICS was because it was "free", and now five years down the road and it isn't free and they don't have the money. Disney said that the Poweshiek County 911 Board was told that the shared services that Poweshiek County is now using was suppose to be free as well, but it isn't free either.

Paul said that brings up a good question that we had talked about sitting down and looking all of the contracts and maintenance agreements that the 911 Board is now paying for to see if there are any duplications between the 911 Board, Sheriff, Supervisor's etc., and if there are maintenance agreements that should actually be paid out of the Sheriff's budget, and that type of thing, so that we can be better prepared. Disney said when the 911 Board agrees to pay maintenance agreements that were negotiated and signed by the Sheriff, Board of Supervisors, etc., and the 911 Board doesn't have the details of the contracts, there's no way to tell if the invoices received are correct without having copies of the contracts. There have been instances where both the Sheriff's Office and 911 paid for the same service and then it becomes a bit of a mess with who gets the credits or receives the funds back which get deposited and then aren't available in that year's budget for expenditures.

Disney currently has an invoice from Racom that has acronyms used as descriptions and doesn't even know what it is for and if it is correct. Gross has seen a copy of it and said that it is for a control board, and equipment that we have received and that invoice should reflect the cost of the shared services and recorder and be what we are invoiced annually going forward. Disney commented that the counties free part of the shared services is \$17,000 annually. Disney advised that the 911 Board has received invoices from both Zetron and Racom for the same thing and it is confusing. Gross said that Racom is the distributor and installer for Zetron, which is the phone system, and the same for Harris, which are the radios. Gross said it is strange because the invoices are sent on Racom's paper but then it states pay to Zetron. Disney said correct and then they had Poweshiek County, with an address in Washington and the entire invoice was confusing and incorrect. Disney asked Gross why she would be getting invoices from both for the same thing. Gross stated that he doesn't know why Racom is even on the invoice because it should come direct from Zetron referencing state shared services, and agree when you look at it the invoice doesn't even state that it is for state shared services. Disney said that the board also did an upgrade to the recorder and a maintenance agreement on it, but then the recorder got replaced and came with a one-year warranty, so what happened to the unused warranty? Gross stated that Wahltek, who we've purchased our previous recorders through, is now also a provider and contracted with the state for shared services. He suggests that we contact Yates with Wahltek and ask when the previous maintenance was to expire and when did our new maintenance take effect. Disney said, that is exactly what Brian is talking about doing, is getting those that receive invoices for services related to the PSAP and radio system together to go over the maintenance agreements and what is covered, the costs and who is to be invoiced.

Gross said the other thing is that our phone charges went from \$80,000 to \$33,000 when doing comparisons, but when we went on the Next Generation 911 the state agreed to pay all of the phone bills and that never happened either. So, he thinks if some legislation is going to get passed, that it needs to clarify that issue at the same time and do as they had initially stated. That would help tighten things up on our end where if they would pay the bills that they said they were going to pay, prior to them withholding funds from the surcharges we receive. Disney said, then they would probably just tack it on top of what they are already withholding from us.

Gross said the next topic is about a request to add a third dispatch position for \$80,490. He said as of the 15th there is \$112,000, so we could go ahead and purchase that, but remember that you are committed to paying maintenance on the new radio system which is approximately \$150,000 and I'm going to assume that it will increase by adding the third radio console position so just be aware of that and it will probably add another \$4000-\$6000 a year on maintenance. Gross went on to ask while it appears that there is \$112,000 to carry over, the Board made an agreement with Racom regarding the decommissioning of the old tower sites, and Racom purchasing the buildings from the old sites, has that all been taken care of yet? He couldn't find any expenditures to Racom nor funds from Racom for the sheds. Disney advised that Racom hasn't invoiced the county for the decommissioning as it hasn't been completed as of this date, and the sheds are still in place and last she knew Rusty hadn't heard back from Racom.

In addition to that, the Board of Supervisors offered to pay for the new recorder out of funds still available from the radio project, so we will not be paying for that expenditure and have those funds available. Gross said that if the Board can pay Racom directly then it wouldn't have to run through the 911 budget and would be the cleanest. There could be expenses that come up and not expected next year and hopefully by doing that way it will help from having to do a budget amendment.

Paul said he thought we had already paid for the recorder out of the 911 budget, but Disney said that it hadn't been paid because Racom kept sending her sales orders, which wasn't an actual invoice which is what is needed to file a claim. In the meantime, the Board of Supervisor's offered to pay it, so the Auditor said once the actual invoice was received that she would pay Racom directly. So those funds are still in the 911 budget. Roudabush said that is correct. Gross said we should be fine then if Racom is going to provide the 911 Board a credit for the cost of the sheds which could be applied to the cost of the decommissioning. Gross said that means that there is enough money in the budget then to purchase the third console and pay the Zetron invoice.

Disney asked if he is recommending paying for the third console out of this budget instead of waiting until next fiscal year. He said, yes, it would be better to do that so we don't have as big of a carry-over. Maschmann said that we are only two weeks over the quote date, so he doesn't think it will be a problem to get it for the price quoted. It was good for 60 days, and he will contact Racom tomorrow. Someone asked if there was maintenance included on that quote. Maschmann said that there is maintenance for each radio, but it doesn't say that on the quote it shows technical services which listed everything involved in testing, setting up and maintaining the radio system and status updates. He will ask Racom that as well. Gross said that typically the new console will come with one year of maintenance and then it will get added after that.

Paul asked if there were any other questions or discussion, and hearing none he said he would entertain a motion for the Racom quote to purchase a third position console for \$80,490.

Motioned by Kriegel to approve the Racom quote as presented, seconded by Sears. Motion passed.

Discussion

Paul said that Racom had notified him that they were starting the decommissioning in Deep River tomorrow and then going to move around in a circle. He said that they will start pulling the wires from the conduit and doesn't know exactly how long it will take but imagined that it should be done within a couple of weeks. Maschmann said that when the electric was disconnected at the tower sites that the generator(s) kicked on and he received a call from Criswell Propane letting him know that the propane was going down quickly. Maschmann called Racom and they came out and disconnected the generator at the Malcom site and checked the other sites, which didn't have generators. Maschmann said it all got worked out, and Paul said he didn't think anyone thought about the generators at the time the service was disconnected.

Paul said hopefully we will have a full report of the decommissioning and finalize the purchase of the sheds at the next meeting. Roudabush said maybe they can send out an update when they get all of the tower decommissioned. Paul asked when the board would like to meet again, and it was decided that at this point there wasn't anything needing addressed and to wait and have a meeting when needed.

Next Meeting

To Be Determined (as needed) @ 6:30 p.m. – Poweshiek County Public Safety Building

Adjourned @ 7:07 p.m.

Motioned by Maschmann, second by Sears. Motion carried.