



Tama County Communications

100 N. Main Street • PO Box 4 • Toledo, Iowa 52342

Office – 641-484-3760 • Fax – 641-484-2198

The Tama County 911 Service Board meeting was called to order at 6:28 PM on April 13, 2021 by 911 Chair Boll (Toledo).

Members present: Joe Boll (Toledo), Charlie Bidwell (Montour Alt.), Chief Jason Bina (Tama), Bob Vokoun (LeGrand), Shawn Kennedy (Traer), Billie Van Egmond (Dysart), Mary Wankowicz (EMA), Matt Deam – via Zoom (Garwin), Jacob Molitor – via Zoom (Meskwaki Nation), Todd Apfel – via Zoom (Vining Alt.) Sheriff Dennis Kucera – via Zoom (Sheriff), Jeremy Cremeans (911 Director).

Also in attendance: Kendall Jordan (Toledo Alt.) Tyler Sell (Traer Alt.), Carrie Holst, Dan Anderson, Marie Carlson (RACOM), Brad Hall (RACOM), Mike Hardy – via Zoom (Zetron)

Motion by Kennedy second by Boll to approve agenda, motion carried.

Motion by Van Egmond, second by Kennedy to approve meeting minutes from March 9, 2021 all aye, motion carried.

Motion by Kennedy, second by Van Egmond to approve Claims. All ayes, motion carried.

Old Business:

Marie Carlson, Brad Hall with RACOM and Mike Hardy with Zetron were present to showcase Iowa Shared Services to the Service Board and answer any questions. There was a short presentation on what is being offered to and what Tama County has selected as part of the price quote given. Jeremy explained that this would also include certifying all the current staff in EMD. There has been much discussion in the baseline knowledge committee about EMD. Jeremy feels that at some point in the future this will become a requirement in Iowa as part of the baseline knowledge, though nothing official from the state has come out on this. If Tama County decided to go with shared services, we would get a refresh on our currently owned equipment with the MAX Call Taker equipment. Zetron recommends every 5-year refresh on this equipment. Our current equipment is approximately 6 years old. The Communications Center would gain another pre-answer map for 911 calls coming in, adding another tool in locating callers that may be unfamiliar with Tama County. Voice logging of 911 calls would be maintained by the state and just as accessible as it is now. Tama County would still need to maintain their current voice logger for administrative lines coming into the Communications Center and Sheriff's Office. Currently Tama County pays \$2320 annually for voice logging maintenance to Waltech. We also currently pay RACOM \$9750 annually for MAX CT maintenance and support. This does not include equipment refreshing but keeps our equipment's software updated. There would be some responsibility of Tama County to pay for part of the equipment and install. The state would pay the remaining portion. Jeremy was asked to check into current costs and current maintenance agreement and bring it back to next months meeting. This was tabled until the next meeting.

Decommission of the old Vining tower will be started April 16th and then the property will be sold by sealed bid. There have been some weather delays with this as it was to be completed on Tuesday April 13th.

Jeremy gave an update on the radio project and hand out. All the sites now have power and avoidance/marker lights are working. There were issues with the lighting controller that have been corrected now. Generators are starting to be installed at each of the sites. Once the generator is installed at the Engineer site, we will be able to disconnect the temporary power. This site needed to remain on generator power using the old generator. Central Iowa Water has committed to purchasing the generator at the Gladbrook water tower. There was a price of \$2500 given at the recommendation of Best Services which was accepted. In speaking with Farm Services, we will keep our current LP tank and Central Iowa Water will be responsible for purchasing a new tank. This has been communicated with Bruce Yeager. The Staging Acceptance procedure will be April 28, 2021 at RACOM in Marshalltown. This is a day long meeting where RACOM goes through the entire radio system and illustrates that everything works as it should before we accept. Once this is completed, installation of electronics can begin at the tower locations. Tower crews are being lined up and antenna work should begin soon. June, July, and August we should begin prep, training, and testing.

New Business:

It was determined that there were some calculation errors during the split of EMA and 911 on the budgets. Jeremy met with the Board of Supervisors and Laura Kopsa about a month ago. It was determined that it would be easiest to take half of the county contribution for 911 and give it to EMA which would cover the short fall in that budget. Laura said that the 911 budget looked to be in good shape and that it wouldn't be detrimental to do this. The Board of Supervisors were very appreciative of the flexibility to get this accomplished.

Jeremy included in the packet some severe weather procedures that he will put in place for this storm season. It has been questionable of exactly how to proceed with storm notifications in the past and this should clear it up. The noticeable change is that the Communications Center will sound the outdoor warning sirens at Otter Creek and the Fair Grounds for winds forecasted 70 mph or greater along with any tornado warning. It will be left up to each municipality to sound their own sirens. It was also noted that during the derecho, it was impossible to keep up with the number of calls coming into the center and a catastrophic event procedure was written. Basically, during an event with widespread destruction, the Communications Center will focus on life safety/emergency calls. The board was in favor of these.

Jeremy presented a quote from RACOM for 7 mutual aid radios that would go to surrounding communities when Tama County switches to the SARA network. This would be for the ease of communication from VHF systems to SARA during mutual aid events. The total cost of this would be \$14,726.25. It is known that some of our neighbors will be switching to SARA at some point down the road, this will be for the interim. No action was taken and was tabled until the next meeting.

Jeremy presented information regarding a 911 simulator which is like what is at the State Fair in the Hall of Flame. This will be something that we can take to community events and speaking engagements, educating the public about 911. Jeremy said that he intends to seek a grant to pay for this. The board was in favor of this and thought it was a good idea and much needed. Jeremy will seek a grant to



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procure this equipment. There was a question about upgrades when cellular products are upgraded, and Jeremy will check into this.

There was a question asked about moving up meeting times as there may be some conflicts. There was some discussion about this, and it was determined to keep it as is. There are some that leave work early now to make the meetings.

Jeremy advised the board that this was Nation Public Safety Telecommunicator Week. He said that Tama County is fortunate to have 18 dedicated professionals that do an outstanding job every day of the week and that if anyone has an opportunity to thank them, to please do that. Chairman Boll said that he speaks for the entire board and said that the work that the staff does is outstanding and that they are much appreciated which was echoed by those in attendance.

Next regular 911 Board meeting will be held Tuesday May 11, 2021 at 6:30PM. Motion for adjournment by Boll, second by Kennedy. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeremy Cremeans, Director