



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 6:30 PM on May 11, 2021 by 911 Chair Boll (Toledo).

Members present: Billie Van Egmond (Dysart), Alicia Lidtke (Elberon), Jacob Molitor (Meskwaki Nation), Brian Staker – via Zoom (Montour), Dennis Kucera (Sheriff), Shawn Kennedy – via Zoom (Traer), Tyler Sell – via Zoom (Traer Alt.), Joe Boll (Toledo), Kendall Jordan (Toledo Alt.), Todd Apfel – via Zoom (Vining), Bob Vokoun (LeGrand), Mary Wankowicz (EMA)

Others in attendance: Larry Thomas

Motion by Van Egmond second by Vokoun to approve agenda, motion carried.

Motion by Van Egmond, second by Staker to approve meeting minutes from April 13, 2021, all aye, motion carried.

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

Old Business:

GeoComm Mapping and Shared services was tabled until the next meeting so that questions could be answered and sent out to the group and research could be done on a possible alternate solution for mapping.

Jeremy advised the board that the Vining Tower site has been decommissioned and is set for sale with the Board of Supervisors opening sealed bids on Tuesday May 24th.

SARA radio project continues. Dennis, Kendall, and Jeremy went to RACOM to go through the staging acceptance procedure which is the radio system is up and running in the staging area and the capabilities of the system are tested to make sure that they are working as they should. The tests were all successful and this portion was signed off on. Tower crews will be starting at the Vining Site on May 17th and working their way around the county ending at the Garwin site. Once the tower crews are complete with their work, RACOM will come around behind them and install the radio system components. A spreadsheet was provided with other dates and projected completion dates. Looking at having a Fire Chief and EMS Director meeting sometime around June 21st to go over paging and deliver agency pagers. This is still tentative as we are waiting on the tower crew completion and installation at Chelsea and Montour.

It was decided not to purchase “mutual aid” radios for surrounding communities that respond into our area. It will be more cost effective to utilize other frequencies that they have access to.

New Business:

Jeremy talked about the current need for a back-up center in case there were ever a need to evacuate the current location for an extended period of time. Jeremy attended a virtual training on grant writing that was being taught by the Marshall County Communications Director which started a conversation about this. She inquired if Tama County would be interested in a joint venture to share a regional back-up center in Marshall County. It was discussed that it would need to be brought up at a board meeting. There was a short discussion about this, and it was felt by those present that Tama County would be better off looking for some place within the county to house this back-up center.

Jeremy brought up to the group for discussion and possible action of hiring additional full-time staff. Jeremy advised the Board that in hindsight of everything that took place with the pandemic and the derecho, there were some possible shortfalls learned during these events. It was also discussed that the Comm Center is currently at minimum staffing and losing just one full-time staff member puts our schedule into turmoil. There was discussion on this, and Jeremy was advised to look at his budget to see if it would support this hiring and then go to the Board of Supervisors and see if they would help support this. All in attendance were in agreeance that this would be suitable course of action.

Next regular 911 Board meeting will be held Tuesday June 8, 2021 at 6:30PM. Motion for adjournment by Van Egmond, second by Vokoun. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeremy Cremeans, Director