



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE 911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM BOARD

December 14, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the 911 Emergency Telephone System Board held on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at Reids' Harvest House. Chairman Bobby Helmers called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Board members present:	Bobby Helmers Lyn Thies Kelli Wright Jarrod Peters Marc Kiehna
Board members absent:	Mark Prange Kevin Miller Chuck Kelley Sean Lukes (Proxy – Jeremy Kempfer)
Others present:	Cindy Wagner, 911 Administrator Sherry Craig, 911 Secretary Daniel Niemeyer, Randolph County Sheriff's Office Jeremy Kempfer, Sparta Police Department

MINUTES

After a review of the minutes from November 9, 2023 by the Emergency Telephone System Board, Chairman Bobby Helmers asked if there were any questions or concerns. Chairman Bobby Helmers asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Marc Kiehna moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Jarrod Peters.

BILLS

After a review of the bills by the Emergency Telephone System Board, Chairman Bobby Helmers asked if there were any questions or concerns. Lyn Thies moved to approve the bills, seconded by Jarrod Peters. Roll call vote: Yeas: Bobby Helmers, Lyn Thies, Kelli Wright, Sean Lukes, Jarrod Peters and Marc Kiehna. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

BUDGET

FY24 shows November year-end total at First National Bank of Steeleville and Buena Vista Bank. Cindy was asked last month to speak with the Treasurer's Office regarding Illinois Fund at 5.5%, which has a new line item. Illinois Funds money can be accessed at any time. Cindy and Ashley, Treasurer's Office spoke about moving \$900,000.00 into Illinois Funds. Cindy asked the ETSB their thoughts. Jarrod Peters motioned to move \$700,000.00 from First National Bank of Steeleville and \$200,000.00 from Buena Vista Bank into Illinois Funds, seconded by Lyn Thies. Roll call vote: Yeas: Bobby Helmers, Lyn Thies, Kelli Wright, Sean Lukes, Jarrod Peters and Marc Kiehna. Nays: none. Motion carried. A line item for the 1st Net phone was added to the FY24 budget, which should be \$39.00 monthly. Cindy commented would be good to look at 5-year budget plan in the next several months. A 911 equipment update could be anywhere from 5 to 6 years out, with a software update needed possibly sooner. **November** revenue came in at \$103,534.84 including a \$69,000.00 true up check from the State and \$33,361.00 regular statewide surcharge deposit. Health line item went over due to sick days paid out for Sherry. The actual expenses came in \$29,759.15 under budget line item. The large expense this year was the security system.

RADIO COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Lyn, Daniel and Jarrod met with Richie, Walker Communication. Randolph County will not be able to go with StarComm due to it being costly. Richie, Walker Communication is putting a plan together for 5 repeaters throughout the County with possibly an additional 6th repeater in the southern part of the County. Sheriff Peters referenced no monthly fees to this proposed new radio system. Anyone that communicates on the radio now will work with the new system. Sheriff Peters referenced Sparta Police Department (PSAP #2) radio system was upgraded and would be compatible with the proposal coming from Walker. The cost would be around \$500,000.00 including a new radio console. The new system will be VHF and digital, presently the system is analog. There will be 2 options, fiber optic internet or microwave. Microwave will cost around \$5,000.00 per site and may require a 6th site. Fiber optic may already be at each site except Ellis Grove. The system will be set up to have cellular backup if something happened with the fiber. In looking at the 2 options internet could be interrupted or microwave the better option. Sheriff Peters reference Richie's comment in 5 years Randolph County could have the money to go with StarComm the Randolph County Sheriff's Office would have a great backup system. Sheriff Peters said Jackson County is in the process of building the same Leonardo system. Marc asked if Richie would be able to come to the ETSB February meeting and give an overview and bid. Lyn stated Richie would give the Randolph County Sheriff's Office ballpark numbers; however, the system will need to be put out for bid. Sheriff Peters said a coverage study estimated at \$1,000.00/\$3,000.00 will give us a map of strong and weak points. Marc asked the ETSB what would be a reasonable amount of money from the 911 budget for the radio system. Marc said considering the 911 surcharge paid by taxpayers and residence, an earmark for the radio system cost discussed would be inline. Sheriff Peters would like to get a solid proposal before further discussion on 911 appropriations towards the system. The ETSB asked Cindy's thoughts. Cindy said radio use is not only for 911 initiated calls but also covers a large range of County duties. Shared costs for shared equipment has always been the approach of the 911 Board. One-time cost and non-recurring on previous shared equipment between the ETSB and County Board have also been most considered when looking at the 911 budget. Cindy distributed an article for reference only regarding a 911 equipment solution in St. Charles County recently. The article outlines a shared cost approach. Cindy feels strongly that the radio communication purchase should be a shared County cost. Randolph County has in place a dispatch fee for some municipalities. Could those funds be expanded or accessed to pay a portion of the radio communication costs. Cindy shares the concerns of all emergency services, the Communication Committee and the 911 Board for a great need of an updated radio communication system. Hopefully everyone can work together as the boards have always done to facilitate this large project. Discussion was held on previous State 911 funds sweep. Cindy said the last 911 funds sweep was averted through education on the needs of 911 centers. Cindy said the Advisory Board and 911 Directors Office would be revisiting the 911 allowable costs in the near future. For most consideration, the State appears to be following the FCC guidelines for allowable cost, of which radio communication is considered. Cindy agrees with everyone the radio communication in Randolph County needs to be addressed. Cindy asked if a shared lease option could be a better approach in not tying up all 911 resources. Daniel said this is a state of the art system with a 5-year warranty or we can lease the system for 5 years. Cindy asked about pulling the console out and new furniture. Daniel stated the console/radio is included in the total however, furniture is not. He does have bids for the furniture. Sheriff Peters will contact Richie to attend the February ETSB meeting. Marc stated leases are good for technology upgrades. Sheriff Peters stated when leasing the radio equipment there are benefits to upgrades. If purchasing there is a 5 year warranty. Marc stated Cindy has worked hard on grants and worked with Washington County to build our funds. Sheriff Peters stated down the road we could look at using our dispatch fees towards this system. Lyn said Randolph County can have 1 StarComm radio and this system will be able to do a patch. If we needed to talk to Monroe County, the dispatcher can patch. The StarComm radio might have a recurring fee. When the 2023 budget was discussed last year, the ETSB didn't go too far out on line items because of not being sure of the surcharge restructure. Cindy agrees with this approach. Daniel will look at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) Grant for the Sheriff's Office.

911 LAW/RULES

1326 - Redundant systems – Randolph County 911 has a redundant system with Washington County. The network costs are paid for by the State. If the new language of 1326 moves forward as proposed some redundant network costs could be non-allowable.

Unman backups – How many unman backups are supported currently. Example. If Randolph County 911 still had equipment at Chester PD and it wasn't manned, it would not be a surcharge consideration

Restricting surcharge money for the use of 3rd party integration products. – Such as RapidSOS, the portal to bring in school systems.

1329 – Teleco – Rules and regulations for the telephone companies.

LEGISLATION

HB 3641 – Replaced everything. Initial purchase of street signs is covered, not recurring replacement.

HB 4162 – Open Meetings Act – Quorum can be obtained on the phone as opposed to physical.

HB 444 – First Responder Training. Improve situational awareness and communication in the field.

FY25 GRANT

Cindy received the FY25 Grant criteria and will be reviewing.

988 ARTICLE IN USA TODAY

Several concerns are lack of stable funding and awareness. Government has invested about \$1 Billion since 2022 to transition and expand the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline established in 2005. They hoped that each state would also organize funding to help support 988. Half of the States have no pending legislation to support 988. In 2022, 988 received 2.5 million calls. It's on track to receive 6.5 million by the end of 2023. Eight States have implemented 988. 590 – Crisis Mobil teams in each area. Randolph County is Comwell. Cindy asked if HIPAA hindered the public from being notified of a behavior health call. Sheriff Peters stated he didn't think there was a HIPAA regulation as long as no names are given.

COUNTY WEBSITE

The County website should be live in January.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Helmers asked the board for a motion to adjourn. Lyn Thies moved, seconded by Jarrod Peters. Motion carried.