



# Tama County Communications

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The Tama County 911 Service Board meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM on July 11, 2023, by 911 Chair Van Egmond (Dysart).

Members present: Gordon Fassett (Clutier), Billie Van Egmond (Dysart), Alicia Lidtke (Elberon), Matt Deam (Garwin), Lee Simcox (Meskwaki Nation), Bryan Staker (Montour), Sheriff Dennis Kucera, Jason Bina (Tama), Tyler Sell (Traer), Shawn Kennedy (Traer), Joe Boll (Toledo), Mary Wankowicz (EMA), Bob Vokoun (LeGrand),

Others in attendance: Glenn Thorne and Greg Westwater – (Amateur Radio), Carri Holtz (Traer) Ryan Goodenbour (EMA Coordinator), Trudi Scott (Joined later)

Motion by Vokoun second by Boll to approve agenda. Motion Carried

Motion by Fassett, second by Vokoun to approve meeting minutes from April 2023, all aye, motion carried.

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

## **Old Business:**

The radio project update was given by Director Cremeans. He stated that the radio reprogramming is underway with the Sheriff's Office, Tama, Toledo, and Meskwaki PD being complete and now are working on Fire and EMS radios. There was a schedule sent out to all departments on estimated times when RACOM will be around. Jeremy also advised that he will be coming to the next meeting with quotes on fencing in the Engineers site as it was waiting on the construction of the building next to the tower site which is underway. All items have been completed in regard to the original project now.

Jeremy gave an update as to staffing levels for RAGBRAI. He advised that there are two extra positions for this 24-hour period with one position being at the Comm Center and the other at the command post at the Toledo Fire Department. The old VHF radios were repurposed for RAGBRAI volunteers so that the public safety system would be as congested.

## **New Business:**

Additional staffing levels: Jeremy brought up that the Comm Center is currently fully staffed once again. Lexi Meek was hired and started on July 10<sup>th</sup> training on the power shift.

Jeremy also brought up to the board about the possibility of increasing our staffing levels to 12 full-time employees. Jeremy explained that this would create 3 positions during a good majority of the time lessening the need to back fill for training opportunities and call offs. It was discussed about not wanting to burn out the current staff with overtime opportunities that are abundant during the summer

months and with illnesses in the winter months. Jeremy also indicated that there would be some scheduling flexibility with the addition of more Telecommunicators. No action taken.

Nation APCO Conference Nashville, TN: Jeremy requested permission from the Board members to be able to send two staff members to the nation APCO conference this year in Nashville, TN. Approximate cost with conference registration, air fare, and lodging would be around \$5000. There was some discussion about the Director being able to make these decisions without board approval and that he is responsible for the budget. All were in agreement that this will be left up to the discretion of the Director.

Union Contract Negotiations: Jeremy brought up that negotiations will be taking place this fall and he would like to see a committee of board members in attendance. Chairperson Van Egmond recommended that the executive committee make recommendations on who will attend these meetings. All present agreed with this.

Verizon Wireless Proposal: In the meeting packet there was an initial offer from Verizon Wireless to co-locate cellular equipment at the Garwin tower location. There was discussion regarding the low initial offer of \$1000 per month on lease payments. There was some research done prior to the meeting with suggested market value being closer being \$2000-\$3000. There was a brief discussion regarding some other items that would be beneficial to have in the contract as well. The board felt that it would be best if Jeremy continued the negotiations and get back with the executive committee. All that were present were in favor of allowing this to happen.

Jeremy requested that any 911 related issues or questions come to him. During his absences in recent months, Ryan was the point of contact. Now that Jeremy is back to full-time status, he should be the main point of contact. Jeremy expressed his gratitude to the board for being understanding during his absences.

Jeremy also advised that the new county website is up and running. The 911 page has a lot of beneficial information and forms for responders and the public. He encourages everyone to go and look at the new site. [www.tamacounty.iowa.gov/911](http://www.tamacounty.iowa.gov/911)

Next regular 911 Board meeting will be held Tuesday October 10, 2023, at 6:30PM. Motion for adjournment by Bina, second by Kennedy. Meeting adjourned at 7:06PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeremy Cremeans, 911 Communications Director