



# Tama County Communications

100 N. Main Street • PO Box 4 • Toledo, Iowa 52342  
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The Tama County 911 Service Board meeting was called to order to order at 6:31 PM on October 10, 2023, by 911 Chair Van Egmond (Dysart).

Members present: Billie Van Egmond (Dysart), Alicia Lidtke via Teams (Elberon), Matt Deam (Garwin), Lee Simcox (Meskwaki Nation), Bryan Staker (Montour), Sheriff Dennis Kucera, Tyler Sell (Traer), Shawn Kennedy (Traer), Mary Wankowicz (EMA),

Others in attendance: Glenn Thorne and Greg Westwater – (Amateur Radio), Carri Holtz via Teams (Traer) Ryan Goodenbour (EMA Coordinator), Zach Vroom via Teams (Prepared Live)

Motion by Simcox second by Staker to approve agenda. Motion Carried

Motion by Kennedy, second by Staker to approve meeting minutes from July 2023, all aye, motion carried.

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

## **Old Business:**

Jeremy gave an update on the Verizon Wireless co-location project at the Garwin tower site. Things are moving along and there was a site visit last week with the consulting and engineering firm hired by Verizon. The agreement still stands as what was previously agreed upon for lease payments and other fees. Verizon is currently working on the contract for our review.

Jeremy asked the board to approve additional full-time staff for the next fiscal year which would bring our staffing levels to 12 full-time. Jeremy explained the benefit to have additional staff would be, increased training opportunity without the need to back fill a shift, ability to hold regular staff meetings as there will be days that all staff will be in the Center at some point during the day, back filling for call in or vacation times. Minimum staffing levels will be at two staff with one being fully certified. This will also offer more flexibility in how the schedule is made. The board discussed that Jeremy should be free to make these decisions and gave the go ahead to proceed with increasing staff members to 12 full-time.

There was a discussion about having a contract negotiation committee that will attend this year's Union contract negotiations. There was a brief discussion regarding this, and it was determined that Billie and Jeremy will select those members to participate in this. All agreed on this course of action.

Jeremy presented a quote from Hilltop Fencing to fence in the shelter compound at the engineer tower. The quote presented was for a six-foot fence with two additional above that of barbed wire, a drive-in gate and walk in gate, similar to what we have at other sites. Quote was for \$12,000. Simcox made a

motion to accept this bid and have them start work on the fence. Deam seconded the motion and motion carried.

**New Business:**

Zach Vroom was online to present Prepared Live. This product allows the Communications Center the ability to text a caller's cell phone, request location information, live video to be introduced into the Communications Center as well as the ability to receive picture messages. Along with these features, it will also provide text translation for those callers that are not English speakers. The quote presented was \$5000 for the initial with market adjustments the following years. The Communications Center currently has access to the free version and has signed an agreement with the option to exit by January 2024 giving us access to the enhanced features. Due to technical difficulties, Zach was unable to share his screen and couldn't give a robust presentation. A small demonstration was given, and some questions were asked and answered. Zach did indicate that he would be able to give us access to the entire suite of features during this demo period for no additional cost giving responders access to what has been captured by the Communications Center. It was decided by the board to take no action at this time and advised Jeremy to do more research on this product. The board also indicated that they would like to see a list of others in the state that are currently using this product. There will be another time set up where Zach can give a demonstration of this product.

A proposal from lamResponding was presented to the board regarding a countywide lamResponding product. Jeremy explained that this or some similar product is highly recommended by our CAD vendor because of the number of messages that are currently being sent out at one time. At some point, we will be limited to the number of messages that we can send out. It is also believed that this causes a back up and delay of pages being sent out currently. There are currently four agencies in Tama County that use lamResponding and Jeremy believed that this could be a good option to go to. No action was taken on the proposal at this time. Jeremy mentioned that he could remove phone text messages rather easily and test this theory out. The board thought that this would be good to test prior to purchasing the third-party application.

Jeremy presented a proposal from PowerPhone, and a product called Total Response Site Licensed Training. This is an online portal for training and has a wide range of training topics. PowerPhone is eventually making all agencies switch to this product by the end of the year. The cost to send a new employee through EMD is \$366, with recertification every two years. Jeremy explained that there are two staff members currently that need to become EMD certified. Motion by Simcox, seconded by Deam to purchase the PowerPhone Total Response Site License package. Motion carried.

Jeremy presented a proposal from Ironside Systems for asset tracking. The cost of this is \$2500 annually and the initial term is for one year. This software allows for asset tracking of a wide array of fixed and assignable assets. Jeremy explained that he currently uses excel to keep track of equipment that was purchased under the original purchase agreement and that is under the county purchased maintenance agreement. There was discussion on who is ultimately responsible for tracking these assets after the distribution of them to the departments. It was felt that each agency should be responsible for tracking their equipment and not the responsibility of 911. The board could see benefits to this program and wanted Jeremy to continue to use this and get some questions answered regarding allowing others certain permissions if allowed access to the program and to come back to the board at the next meeting.



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Jeremy presented to the board his idea of a restructuring of 911 staffing and associated pay. It was explained to be an incentive for staff that are willing to take additional training and to maintain that training. Simcox made a motion to accept this incentive, Staker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jeremy presented information from Karl Chevrolet regarding the purchase of a new 911 vehicle. The information presented was for a 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe at a state bid price of \$49,355.20. It is estimated that the upfit will cost between \$15,000 - \$20,000 with a total price of \$69,355.20. Jeremy explained that the current 911 vehicle was a previous deputy vehicle purchased from the Sheriff's Office. The cab corners had been fixed as they were rusting out and there is more rust with the age of the vehicle. There was money just spent on brakes as well. The Sheriff made a motion to purchase the new vehicle and do the best with pricing, Simcox seconded the motion. motion carried.

There was a tour of the Communications Center after the EMA meeting.

Next regular 911 Board meeting will be held Tuesday January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:30PM. Motion for adjournment by Staker, second by Kennedy. Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeremy Cremeans, 911 Communications Director