

**Note: These minutes are a draft and are not to be considered official until approved at the next meeting.**

## **Poweshiek County 911 Board Meeting Minutes for January 23, 2024**

**Members Present:** Gary Sears-Gilman, Jason Roudabush-Poweshiek County, Kurt Hall-Brooklyn, Brian Paul-EMA, Tom Kriegel-Sheriff

Rusty Massengale-Malcom and Ruth Moore-New Sharon – via Zoom

Dawn Disney-Addressing/Database Mgr.

**Members Absent:** Grinnell, Hartwick, Barnes City, Chelsea, Sully, Belle Plaine, Victor, Deep River, Searsboro, Montezuma

**Guests:** Stacen Gross-SGC

### **Call to order and Roll Call**

Massengale called the meeting to order at 6:31p.m. - Members present as listed above.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Motioned by Sears to approve the agenda as presented, second by Roudabush. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Minutes from Meeting held December 19, 2023**

Motioned by Sears to approve the minutes as presented, second by Hall. Motion carried.

### **Business:**

#### **Countywide Radio System Update**

Roudabush advised that they started up the generators last week. They had a little bit of a problem getting to them due to the snow, but all four sites tested started and they are all working without any problems. Next they will start working on their punch list and hopefully start testing before too long.

Paul advised that the next meeting for that committee is tomorrow, January 24<sup>th</sup>, and he is looking for some good updates.

Roudabush stated that they have all the equipment has been installed on the towers and the only thing that he knows of that isn't working at this time is the light on the south tower. He will double check that when he leaves and if that is still the case, he will bring it to their attention at the meeting tomorrow. If

everything goes right, they will start testing in February-March, then start training, and looks for the turnover to take place possibly in August.

Sears mentioned that at the last meeting they indicated that they would be adding encoder to the base radio at the stations, and wanted to know if that is still going to happen. Paul said that it is still the plan.

## **Budget Workshop**

Gross with SGC presented the draft budget that was previously emailed out to the board members. Gross was perplexed with the amount of interest the 911 funds have generated this year, as it seems to be quite a bit higher than in the past. The revenue remains pretty stable, the interest has increased, and there was a noticeable increase in the number of residential markers sold this year. The expenditures were a little light, The new radio system has one year of support that is included in the contract, but after that there will be an increase as the 911 board will be paying for the maintenance. At this time, we've been banking some funds and preparing for the future expenditure increases. He said that Massengale brought up a point that he hadn't thought of when preparing the draft, and that is there is equipment on the old tower sites that will need to be removed. It might also be possible to sell some of it as well to help with the cost of removal. Gross asked Massengale if he received any quotes for that process. Massengale said that that he received an estimate for all three sites and the Searsboro site of approximately \$50,000 to \$70,000, but we might not be ready to remove it during this budget year either.

Gross brought up the amount that the board had set aside for hiring a consultant that is still available and has not been used. There is also line item 53 that was set aside for the purchase of radio equipment should a department within the county add an additional vehicle to their fleet. Those funds are available as well if needed and should cover the cost of removing the equipment if needed.

Massengale mentioned that something we might want to consider as well is budgeting for snow removal at the sights if needed, so that there is access to the equipment. This year Massengale had a couple of people that were kind enough to help us out with their side loaders, but it is something to consider. Roudabush said this past snowstorm was not typical, but that the County Road Department should be able to help out after they get the roads cleared first. If it ever becomes an issue it can be taken out of the general fund as well. Roudabush added that under the circumstances you probably aren't going to find someone that contract to removes snow because everyone was swamped for about five days. Roudabush feels confident that we can rely on the county road employees to get them cleared, and he said even the conservation crew had the parking lot cleared out at the south site. He said if we ever get a lot of snow inside the fenced in area that might be a problem but we could put up snow fence, or find someone with a skid loader. Massengale said that Racom said that this year was unique and it typically isn't a problem. Massengale just wanted to mention in so everyone can think about it in case the need arises.

Gross said showed the five-year projection and said that the way he has the numbers plugged in we are eating into the budget a little bit over the next five years and we will just have to keep an eye on it. The good news is that after this with using the states shared system, they refresh the equipment every five years or so, and it isn't a huge expenditure like it was when the board would go out and purchase all new equipment. Now we are in more in a balanced-out lease type of situation with a bump every five years but not having to dump \$200,000 at one time will make the revenues a little more predictable going forward. We've always had a cushion for any unforeseen things that occur.

Massengale asked the Sheriff if there is any additional training needed, or costs associated with training that the 911 board can help with. Sheriff stated that he feels comfortable with what the board is currently contributing and appreciates it. He said that training is getting cheaper as they are using more online training, so it is working out good at this time. Massengale said that the \$4000 in the training line item is also allocated for any training that Disney would need as well.

Massengale asked if anyone else had anything to add. Roundabush said that it might be possible to lease space on the tower to cell phone companies which would help offset the cost as well. Sheriff asked what the procedure would be should anyone be interested in leasing space. Roudabush said those interested should be directed to the Board of Supervisors, for the process and information needed.

Disney asked about the process for selling the equipment and buildings from the old tower sights. The last time the board sold the building and generators, it was handled by the 911 Board, published and bids received. Kriegel said that it was his understanding that Racom was going to help with that as they have customers that could be in need of the equipment, we are getting rid of as well as the buildings. Paul said that Racom told him the building at Malcom was highly sought after and could easily sell for \$100,000 with the generator in it and should be a problem.

Disney also mentioned that someone needs to reach out to Poweshiek Water Association to make sure that everything is removed to their satisfaction and thank them for their support and allowing us the use of their towers. Massengale said that he will contact them when we are closer to the cutover.

There being no further questions or comments, Roudabush motioned to publish the proposed budget as presented, second by Moore. Motion carried.

Gross said that he will be available via Zoom for the Budget Hearing as well.

**Discussion:**

**Next Meeting: February 13, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.**

**Motioned to Adjourn @ 7:08 p.m.** By: Sears, second by Moore. Motion carried.