

**JONES COUNTY 911 SERVICE BOARD**

**MEETING MINUTES**

October 6, 2022

SERVICE BOARD MEMBERS

**Bold lettering** indicates those in attendance at this meeting.

Voting Membership

<b>Denny Coon</b>	<b>Oxford Junction</b>	<b>Jeff Swisher</b>	<b>Board of Supervisors</b>
<b>William Roller</b>	<b>Morley</b>	<b>Roxanne Tapken</b>	<b>Martelle</b>
Kevin Rohwedder	Olin Fire District	<b>Jeff Stout</b>	<b>Anamosa</b>
Britt Smith	Monticello		
Jacob Koch	Mechanicsville	<b>Brenda Leonard</b>	<b>Jones County EMA</b>
<b>Bert Kraai</b>	<b>Cascade</b>	Greg Graver	Jones County Sheriff
<b>Jean McPherson</b>	<b>Olin (Ambulance)</b>	Brandon Siggins	Lisbon

Non-Voting Membership

Sheila Frink	Anamosa Area Amb.	Jake Lindauer	Lisbon/MtVernon Amb.
<b>John Vacek</b>	<b>Wyoming Fire Co.</b>	<b>Russ Benke</b>	<b>Midland Ambulance</b>

VISITORS in Attendance:

**Terry Harris - Radio Communications,**  
**911 Coordinator**

**Gary Schwab - Jones County 911 Coordinator**

Chairman Coon called the meeting of the 911 Service Board to order at 7:12 PM.

**Motioned by Roller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tapken to approve the agenda. All Aye. Motion carried.**

**Past Minutes of September 8, 2022**

**Motioned by Swisher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kraai to approve the minutes. All Aye. Motion carried.**

**Budget Report**

Schwab reported financials through the end of September Fiscal 2023: Fund balance stands at \$566,082.67 due to infusion of the ARPA funds for the dispatch radio system, Revenue stood at \$326,459.39, Expenses stood at \$109,643.02.

**Motioned by Leonard, 2<sup>nd</sup> by McPherson to approve the budget report as presented. All Aye. Motion carried**

**Request from Cedar County to Add a Dish to the Amber Tower for SARA Interface**

Schwab reported that he has been in conversation with the EDGE engineering firm that has prepared the review of the Amber tower. I have also provided email traffic between myself and the engineer to clarify (put into laymen’s terms) what the report says about the tower. My basic question was this: after the implantation of the changes and equipment installed the tower is rated at let’s say 90% capacity and is more than adequate to handle the Cedar County request that would put the tower at approximately 98% capacity. What would have to be done to the tower to restore it to the 90% capacity. Part of the reason for asking this question is that at some point in the not-too-distant future there will be a new justice center. Depending on what and where that is changes to the Amber Tower may be required. We need to have the capacity for those changes. The engineer felt that an investment of between \$15,000 to \$20,000 would most likely cover it. I also asked about the integrity of the footings. He stated that the analysis rates the footing as being at 60% capacity.

Bottom line, based on the analysis the engineering firm states there is plenty of capacity. The only question mark would be the Justice Center demands. Chairman Coon asked if this has been brought to Cedar County. Schwab stated that he has discussed it with the RaCom Project manager a couple weeks ago, but that is it. Swisher asked what happens if we say no. Schwab said then Cedar County would have to figure something else

out. The engineer also stated that if Rev H of the standard was used the tower would rate better because the wind loading and ice load parameters are lower. Schwab asked why would we want to do that considering the wind storms we have had the last few years. Swisher stated it would be to Cedar County's benefit to add more support to the tower as it would likely be more cost effective than having to find an alternative, especially considering that there is already the SARA connectivity here. Swisher asked what are our options? Schwab stated we either tell them no outright or only if they beef up the tower to bring it to the same level as before their equipment is added. Other board members chimed in, even with that we do not know if that would be adequate as we do not know what future needs the justice center will create.

Another factor is that the 28E we have with Dubuque County touches on the topic of if they need to do something different to their tower equipment, they have to get our permission. What is not clearly stated and should be, is that if we want to do something to the tower for our equipment we would have to get Dubuque's permission, now potentially adding a third client to the mix would make it more challenging. Stout asked if there is equipment on the tower that will be removed/phased out? Harris stated that no not really. In his opinion the question that needs to be answered is are the legs of the tower being considered. Doing the diagonals at 120' still leaves the legs at 80-90% how will doing the diagonals improve the legs at 60'? that is his question. What is going to happen in the future is the big question. Any transition, adding for the justice center and then taking down existing courthouse equipment will most likely be a year in transition. Swisher asked, at some point would we need to consider a collaborative effort toward a new tower? After some discussion this is tough to answer as a tower at the justice center may become the primary tower.

Terry Harris spoke about towers and the specification versions used in classifying them. In short when the Amber tower was built it was to rev F of the tower classification. The tower was reviewed for Dubuque and Cedar County at Rev G. Now the specification is at Rev H which changed some of the wind and ice loading parameters. The engineer stated that by using Rev H it would actual improve the overall rating of the tower. Swisher commented that he is not comfortable with moving forward until Harris and Schwab are satisfied that the tower can handle the load while allowing Jones County to add equipment in the future. Terry also stated that if the tower were to be inspected today, it most likely would not pass because the paint has faded. And all parties on that tower would be held liable to get the tower in compliance. This issue gets back to the county tower ordinance. It would be financially advantageous to the county to not have the paint requirements in the ordinance and instead allow dual lighting. Swisher asked, do we need to paint the tower? When was it last inspected, and do we need to have it inspected? Terry said only if you want to.

**Discussion tabled for more information regarding the tower legs and whether adding diagonals will be enough.**

#### **Request from Symphony Wireless for Tower Access**

Schwab brought the request to the board for consideration. They were specifically looking at the Wyoming tower. In light of our other discussions and the fact that the Wyoming tower is not rated for more than it already has on it the request should be rejected.

**Motioned by Roller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tapken to deny the request. All Aye. Motion carried**

#### **Other Items of Interest**

Tapken asked if there was any money from the board to help departments get radios. Schwab stated that possibly the service board could help, however with other departments in the county getting radios on their own he felt that anything the service board did would have to be as a loan and would have to be paid back. She also wanted to know if they were going to have to change pagers. On the pager topic Swisher stated we are staying old school. Meaning no change is required, the pages will still work. On the financing issue Swisher recommended that Martelle should come to the Board of Supervisors with their request. At this point in time probably won't be able to get radios until February or March of 2023 so we may have to push the date for P25 turn on. It will be on the November agenda.

**Motioned by Swisher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kraai to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. All Aye. Motion carried.**

Next Meeting if required – November 3, 2022

Recorded by:

Gary Schwab, Jones County 911 Coordinator