

Seward County Communications Board
September 23, 2021 7:00 PM
Seward Municipal Building, 142 N 7th St., Seward, NE 68434

The Seward County Communications Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 7:00 PM at the Seward Municipal Building, 142 N 7th St., Seward, NE 68434. Notice of this meeting and the corresponding agenda were posted on the public bulletin boards at the Seward, NE County Courthouse, the Seward, NE City Hall and the Milford, NE City Hall and were duly transmitted to all members of the Communications Board. These items are also listed on the Seward County website.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ANNOUNCE LOCATION OF COPY OF OPEN MEETINGS LAW

A quorum was achieved at 7:00 pm and at that time Chm. Jessica Kolterman called the meeting to order and asked all members present to rise for recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and announces that the copy of the Open Meetings Law is posted on the wall of the meeting room of this building.

ROLL CALL of Members Present

Chm. Jessica Kolterman asked for roll call of member present. The following Communications Board members were present: Darrell Zabrocki, Curtis Deremer, John Culver, Forrest Siebken, John P. Singleton, Brian Peters, Mike Vance, and Jessica Kolterman. Members absent: None. Also, in attendance were: Communications Director Andrew Matney and Lisa Borges, acting as board secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No discussion. Culver made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2021, meeting. Singleton second the motion; voting aye: Zabrocki, Deremer, Culver, Vance, Peters, Singleton, Siebken, and Kolterman; nay: none; absent: none; motion carried.

No discussion. Zabrocki made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2021, meeting. Vance second the motion; voting aye: Zabrocki, Deremer, Vance, Peters, Singleton, Siebken, and Kolterman; nay: none; abstained: Culver; absent: none; motion carried.

ACT ON BILLS; BUDGET REPORT

Director Matney provided the board members with current budget projections. The budget is below projection at 19%. Matney forgot the list of bills to be presented. No Further discussion regarding bills.

Vance asked Matney for an update on the recording system in Zuercher. Matney reported that there is currently an issue because the recording system is internet based. He has a group working on coming up with a more secure process to fix this. Matney explained that according to Tom (IT provider) the recording system is not secure and can be accessed by anyone off a web browser. Kolterman suggested this be tabled until Tom can provide a more detailed explanation. Culver and Zabrocki will reach out to Tom to get an update on this project.

No bills need to be acted upon. Vance asked if 911 is caught up on Motorola, Matney informed the board that the next payment was set aside in the sinking fund.

No further discussion, Siebken made a motion to accept the current bills as presented. Deremer second the motion; voting aye: Zabrocki, Deremer, Culver, Vance, Peters, Singleton, Siebken, and Kolterman; nay: none; absent: none; motion carried.

Discuss/Action – Radios for fire departments and future technology upgrades

Kolterman met with Tom regarding future technology needs. Kolterman explained the challenges with the analog radios that are being used with some fire departments. These radios will be obsolete within 12-18 months. Discussion regarding current radio systems departments are using and current problems they are having. Conflicting information was discussed between First Wireless, and Seward County IT. Kolterman stated that no action needs to be taken at this time, just wanted to get this conversation started. Singleton will reach out to the radio manufacturers. No further discussion regarding radios.

Culver informed the board that he heard back from Tom regarding the recorder. Tom informed Culver that the recorder is validated and 100% ok to go. The problem is that Matney stopped Tom from installing the final cable as he did not want Officers to have access to hear the calls. Matney claims that this is incorrect and that the problem was due to the internet security problem. Discussion went back and forth briefly. Kolterman suggested this subject be tabled for the Zuercher update portion. Singleton suggested that at that point Culver gets Tom on speakerphone to explain everything.

No further discussion, no action taken.

Discuss/Action – Tower inspection

Matney will forward report to the board, no major issues noted. Only thing major was the outside lighting that needs to be fixed within the next 90 days. Matney reported that a new lighting system could cost anywhere from \$6,000-\$8,000. First Wireless would buy and install the tower lights for \$455 per month for 60 months or the next step down from First Wireless would be approximately \$300 per month. Clarification that this is just referring to the Erickson Tower. Discussion regarding how often inspections should be done. After discussion by the board, Matney will provide a template for a logbook to keep track of the inspections. The inspection cost \$6,000-\$7,000. Singleton suggested that Matney reach out to previous Director to find an old logbook. Kolterman suggested that \$8,000 if this is required. Siebken suggested that Matney get a list of the requirements of the inspection.

No further discussion, no action taken.

Discuss/Action – Interlocal agreement

Zabrocki discussed the agreement and that the 911 Director should be a county employee. Singleton voiced concerns regarding 911 Director being a county employee. Zabrocki continued discussion regarding more of the changes. Zabrocki would like more decisions before a decision would be made. Kolterman asked that City Administrator Greg Butcher speak about the proposed interlocal. Butcher recommended that this be looked at like a service agreement where you can build it and add to it. Butcher did recommend shorter terms for the agreement. Also stated that #5 and #20 are contrary to each other. Butcher recommended the rates be looked at. Butcher asked questions regarding the Rural Fire Boards and clarification on these entities. Butcher stated that after his first review these were a few of his concerns. Discussion regarding how the percentages were split up. Kolterman stated that as a city representative that this would need to be brought to the City Council. Zabrocki had Seward County Attorney Wendy Elston draw this up as a working document. Kolterman suggested this continue as a topic for agenda for future meetings.

Discuss/Action – Staffing challenges

Matney reported that there is one open spot that he is offering, would start October 18th. Kolterman and Zabrocki have attended several staff meetings. Pay is an issue as well as comp accrual. Culver explained Seward County Board is working on a new OT policy that would allow employees to earn overtime. Culver explained the county policy regarding this matter. Discussion between board members on different overtime/accrual options.

Matney has worked with Lincoln 911 on sending some new staff to their dispatch academy. This would help training go much faster. Brief discussion regarding training of new staff.

Matney reported that he worked 38 hours straight due to staffing restrictions. Kolterman asked if anyone had any concerns relating to Lincoln 911 training. Vance suggested to use York 911 for training, especially since they have Zuercher. Matney reported that the training in Lincoln would be very basic dispatch functions. Siebken suggested to send 1 dispatcher and see how it goes.

Culver reported that Tom with IT confirmed that the recording system is 100% secure and can be ready and can be used. Matney stated he has no problem plugging it in and giving access to the individuals that requested it. He stated that the last information he was given was that there were security concerns with the recording software. Now that this has been cleared up, access will be given on Monday.

Communications and Facility Planning

A. Update on Zuercher System. – Previously discussed above

Director's Report

Matney reported he has attended a handful of Zuercher meetings as well as the conference in Texas. Matney was asked by Motorola to host a lunch and learn in the EOC regarding next generation 911. First net has stalled out. Public Service audit will start at some point, some is already done. Dealing with GeoComm on address issues. Met with County Attorney Elston, another round of staff members (identities not known yet) deleting items from the server. Board asked for clarification on what stuff was deleted. Matney responded with "business related stuff". Matney clarified that items are deleted off the f drive that is dedicated to 911. Peters pointed out that this could be criminal activity. Matney stated he just found out earlier this week. Peters and Vance agreed that this should be a criminal investigation. Matney explained how log in's were created in the past. Matney stated he went to look for a folder he had seen in the past and couldn't find it. It was suggested that Sheriff Vance have Investigator Borges follow up on this issue.

Culver asked Matney for update on new APX radios. Matney worked with Gary Peterson to set up in case of an emergency. This was purchased using an emergency grant fund. Discussion regarding the radios.

A. Summary of Monthly Performance. – No discussion

B. Staff Vacation and Comp Time. – No discussion

User Board Report

Deremer reported that page by text isn't 100%. Matney did report that Tango-Tango is another company that could be used. Discussion regarding using a test period for Tango-Tango. Board agreed to move forward with the Tango-Tango test period. End of discussion.

General Discussion/New Business – and – Set Date and Agenda for next Meeting

Ryan, CEO, and founder of South-Central EMS asked to speak to the board. Ryan has made a formal complaint on the 911 Director; copies were sent to the board. Ryan went into detail regarding all the allegations that were listed in the formal complaint. Several departments have contacted Ryan regarding concerns they have, Ryan can provide statements if needed on those. Discussion was held

regarding when A.L.S. should be called. Singleton clarified that the call for A.L.S. should be at the direction of the EMT's squads. Ryan explained that squads are being told that South Central is not answering their phones or pages. Ryan stated that this is not correct, they are just not being contacted, this is slander towards the company. Kolterman suggested that there be more protocols put into place. Ryan explained that there are already protocols in place in the Mutual Aid Agreement. Kolterman reiterated that if a squad is asking for a specific A.L.S. Matney is to follow that direction.

Members of the public present – Cody Rohrig, Pleasant Dale Fire, spoke up and stated he has tried to work on items with Matney and is not getting the feedback he is looking for.

Craig Stava with Midwest Automotive spoke to the board and stated he was at the meeting to understand why so many dispatchers are quitting.

Discussion went back to Ryan. He reiterated that the reason he attended the meeting was because of the untrue things that were being said about South Central EMS. He fears that this could cost someone their life or even a life altering disability. He explained that UNMC and his attorney know about the situation and are requesting the lying to stop. Singleton stated that since there is a formal complaint this should be on the next agenda and an investigation should be started. Kolterman responded that this should be consulted with Seward County Attorney Wendy Elston first. Matney tried to speak up, he was directed not to.

No further discussion.

Next meeting will be Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 7:00 pm and will be held at the Seward Municipal Building in Seward, NE. Regular agenda items apply.

Adjournment

Singleton made a motion for adjournment at 9:05 pm which was second by Peters and carried unanimously by all members present.

Submitted by: _____ Chelsea M. Smith, Board Secretary