



Tama County Communications

100 N. Main Street • PO Box 4 • Toledo, Iowa 52342

Office – 641-484-3760 • Fax – 641-484-2198

The Tama County 911 Service Board meeting was called to order to order at 6:30 PM on January 10, 2023, by 911 Chair Van Egmond (Dysart).

Members present: Billie Van Egmond (Dysart), Alicia Lidtke – via Zoom (Elberon), Mark Fink – via Zoom (Gladbrook), Lee Simcox (Meskwaki Nation), Bryan Staker (Montour), Brian Hanus (Tama), Joe Boll (Toledo), Bob Vokoun (LeGrand), Mary Wankowicz (EMA).

Others in attendance: Curt Hilmer (Tama Co BOS), Glenn Thorne and Greg Westwater – (Amateur Radio), John Lauer – via Zoom (RACOM), Pete Holden – via Zoom (Traer), Carrie Holtz – via Zoom (Traer)

Motion by Vokoun second by Staker to approve agenda, motion carried.

Motion by Boll, second by Vokoun to approve meeting minutes from December 2022, all aye, motion carried.

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

Old Business:

Radio project update – John was present via zoom to give an update. He let those present know that the project is nearing the end with just some button up and clean up items left. He advised that the Traer paging site will be installed next week. There was a discussion on the legacy equipment removal at the engineer and Vining site being part of the contract whereas the equipment at Gladbrook, Traer, and the Comm Center will be billable. John was estimating the cost to be in the ballpark of \$3500-\$4000 once all is completed.

Greg Westwater and Glenn Thorne were present to give an update. The site is on the air now with the repeater being installed December 21st and getting a lot of use. There is good coverage for Tama County and some of surrounding counties as well.

New Business:

Jeremy presented the service board information regarding dispatch wages. There was an email that went out statewide asking for wage comparisons. There were 20-25 counties that responded, and it appears that Tama County is underpaying the dispatch staff. Jeremy also provided wage information from Marshalltown Communications and Benton County. Jeremy explained that during negotiations last year, the Supervisor approved a 3% increase for the Communications Center when they approved a 6% increase for the nonunion employees. There are wage comparisons brought to the negotiation table by both the Union and the County. Jeremy explained that since he has had some staff retire in the last several months, we have a younger crew and feels that there needs to be a little more competitive pay, or we could lose the staff that have completed training. Jeremy continued by saying that the staff that retired had several years with Tama County and were topped out in pay, receiving longevity, and had

several weeks of vacation making it more difficult for them to leave. The board felt that it is important to pay the staff what they are worth and agreed with the proposal that was distributed in the packet. Jeremy will go to the Supervisors on Monday January 16th to see if they would consider this.

Jeremy also presented information on the same information regarding the Director salary that was in the same statewide email. Jeremy explained that it is hard to judge what his salary should be because there aren't a lot that are in similar situations like Tama County. Some Communications Centers are run by the Sheriff or Emergency Management. Jeremy presented an increase of 18% bringing his salary to \$69,950.40 from \$59,280.00. Jeremy said that he had ran this past Tammy Wise, Tama County HR, and she was supportive of this increase. Jeremy explained that what he had sent Tammy was slightly more than the amount given on the sheet as he wasn't to make sure that the Communications Center receive their fair increase. There was a brief discussion on the Director salary. The consensus of the board was to raise the Director salary to \$72,500.00 effective July 1, 2023.

Boll made a motion to set the 911 Service Board budget hearing for February 14, 2023, at 6:35pm. Vokoun second the motion. There was no objection heard and all voted yes. Motion carried.

Next regular 911 Board meeting will be held Tuesday February 14, 2023, at 6:30PM. Motion for adjournment by Staker, second by Simcox. Meeting adjourned at 7:09pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Jeremy Cremeans, Director