

Clayton County 911 Service Board

Minutes

July 1st, 2025

Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 1830 hrs by Chair Joe Zittergruen.

Members Present

Samantha Rumph (911 Coordinator), Nioka Schroeder (Garber), Darren Nading (Volga), Marcus Kahrs (St. Olaf), Joe Zittergruen (Guttenberg), Ken Hoeger (Elkader), Dean Courtnage (Strawberry Point), Robert Millin (McGregor), Ray Peterson (Board of Supervisors), Preston Landt (Monona), & Jeremy Schmelzer (Garnavillo).

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Ken. Second by Jeremy. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Marcus. Second by Nioka. Motion carried unanimously.

911 Updates

The command van is getting close to completion. 10-33 Vehicle Services will come to Iowa to install the high idle switch for power needs once it arrives (4-6 weeks) and RACOM has some additional programming to do for the EMS repeater once Sam and Sarah take possession of the van from 10-33. Sam attended RAGBRAI meetings in April and June. E911's role in RAGBRAI is limited. Twelve Motorola two way radios were purchased for volunteer use for use in instances where they do not need to use our public safety communication system, but still need a way to communicate among themselves. The radios cost \$787.00 for twelve. These can be used for other events such as Blues Fest & when County Conservation does their controlled burns. Guttenberg Ambulance will be utilizing their new multiband portables and their current radios to monitor both IATAC5 and legacy VHF channels. Sam is meeting with EMA and CCSO July 9th to discuss additional planning items regarding RAGBRAI. Sam sent an email out to the cities requesting the brand and number of outdoor warning sirens each city has. Elkader is looking to replace theirs and when inquiring with RACOM about replacement options, the Rapidwarn system was discussed. This system would allow for dispatch to see if sirens were completed when they set them off. Currently, there is no way to know if they're functioning without having someone physically standing near each siren and reporting back to dispatch. The email is for information gathering purposes only to see if the current sirens each city has would be compatible with the system. If compatibility is established, Sam will work on a quote with RACOM for the system and present to the 911 Board. Sam also shared contact information with each city if they are looking to upgrade their sirens or need any repairs done as Comelec is no longer the vendor the County is working with. Sam continues to work on ongoing addressing issues across the county. There seems to be numerous addresses that are not consistent with addressing standards and this is causing residents to have trouble with deliveries and GPS directions to their properties. There are also discrepancies between addressing standards, addresses that were assigned prior to Sam's employment, Geocomm's database, and the Shieldware database. Sam is working to unify all of them. The Sheriff's Office is hosting a National

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Night Out event August 5th at the Sheriff's Office. E911 will be present with EMA in the command van and have 911 coloring activity books to hand out to children in attendance. After the business meeting concludes, a tour of the dispatch renovation and the new tower site at the Sheriff's Office will take place.

Legislative Updates - Implementation of SF659

In June, public safety agencies and associations across Iowa requested Division XII of SF659 be line item vetoed by the Governor. She declined to do so and the 911 program manager held two meetings in June discussing how implementation of this bill will be carried out. The state will begin billing 911 service boards for what they deem reasonable reimbursement to continue to fund the state's 911 program which is responsible for delivery of 911 calls to the local PSAPs, shared services, some training, among other items. The billing will begin in February 2026 and the program manager stated at this time they will only be billing for what is needed to keep the bills paid. There will be no new projects started or improvements being made to the 911 network at this time. DPS dispatch centers do not have to contribute to the additional funding the state is requiring, only joint 911 service boards as that is how the legislation was written. The bill that was passed does not increase 911 surcharge, it takes a larger percentage from the local 911 service board to cover the costs incurred at the state level. Currently, the 911 service board keeps 100% of the \$1.00 surcharge on wireline phones and 60% of the \$1.00 surcharge on wireless phones. The other 40% goes to the state to fund the delivery of calls to the local PSAP and other services. The 40% they are currently receiving is not enough to keep them operating as of early 2026. Projections were sent out to all counties, Clayton County is projected to have to pay an additional \$31,000 between February and August of 2026 (three quarters) in addition to the 40% the state already withholds. The state has offered to either invoice counties for what they owe or withhold what they owe from the wireless surcharge check the state cuts to us each quarter. Clayton County will be requesting an invoice be sent for tracking and documentation purposes. Numerous 911 coordinators across the state feel this is another push towards regionalization of PSAPs by reducing funding at the local level forcing consolidation. DPS also just paid for a large map upgrade/integration and asked for all counties to contribute our street span/addressing database to them. Clayton County has declined to participate.

I Am Responding Discussion

The county's I Am Responding contract is up for renewal in October 2026. There are a few departments still expressing complaints about the system and also inquired if there would be any changes now that RapidSOS bought both I Am Responding and Edispatches. Sam has advised any department that is not happy with the program that's provided at no cost is not obligated to use it

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and can pay for whatever program they choose if they want to utilize something else. Discussion took place regarding keeping this contract renewal in mind over the next year so an informed decision can be made at that time.

Radio Project Updates

A stie by site overview was completed. All shelters at all three P25 sites are energized and final punch lists are being created this week.

Guttenberg – the corral has been painted so the site is ready for L&A installation.

- Still addressing sourcing bolts for the anchor bolt mods. This does not delay L&A installation.
- DNR did a water inspection and listed distance between the generator and well head need to be verified and possibly do not have enough separation. Measurements will be taken and a plan of action decided after that.

Eagle Drive – lighting issues have been corrected from our last meeting.

- Fiber is installed.
- Eagle Dr/CCSO microwave link equipment from Aviat is supposed to arrive today. Dishes arrived, but the rack equipment did not and that's what's supposed to arrive today. RACOM can't complete P25 staging without it.

NEIT – this is the last DC plant install for the P25 sites and is being completed this week.

CCSO – the tower is up and shelter is set. Concrete pads are poured for the generator and LP tank. RACOM is getting a completion schedule sometime next week. The fencing around the new tower most likely will not be completed until the old tower is decommissioned due to space and needing to move large equipment around in the area to do the decommissioning.

Chicken Ridge – Sam received the final break test on the concrete and that passed. The anchors were poured the week of June 23rd and work should be wrapping up soon.

Paging Sites –

- Garber/Volga sites have been remediated, the total cost was \$7,950.
- Monona WT and Strawberry WT need ice bridges, they currently do not have them. Estimate from Finish came in at \$11,000.
- Monona WT has a tripod mount on top that we thought may need to be addressed. Its been determined it does not need anything done to it.
- Sam is waiting for generator quotes for paging sites that don't have one.

P25 equipment is in staging and paging staging has begun. The in band filters discussed at our last meeting will be installed by RACOM at no additional charge for any units that already had their mobiles installed. This was discussed with 10-33 Vehicle Services for the Sheriff's Office fleet and Bill Flood was in agreement RACOM could do the installation. Subscriber equipment installs are tentatively going to take place in August. Sam and RACOM will coordinate with Fire Chiefs, EMS

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directors, and Police chiefs when a more definitive timeline is established. Subscriber installs cannot take place until Sam receives and approves the fleet map document from the RACOM engineering team.

Microwave Path Ordinance

Reviewed draft of ordinance that was sent out to board members prior to the meeting. Patti Ruff (Health and Zoning) and Zach Hermann (County Attorney) have both reviewed and given their approval and comments. It has been sent to MCM and RACOM for review as well, but comments have not been returned at this time. After those are received, Sam plans to go through the process to get the ordinance adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

Robert Millin noted the ordinance will not apply to municipalities and to review the microwave paths to determine if anything additional needs to be done to cover areas that fall within any city limits. Sam noted she will be exploring notification to any property owners in the path as agricultural is exempt from building permits so they would not have to report to the zoning department and would potentially be unaware of the rules of the ordinance.

Motion by Dean, second by Jeremy for Sam to proceed with the ordinance passage process. If any significant changes are made to the ordinance after MCM reviews it, Sam will call a special meeting. If no changes are made or only small alterations to the draft ordinance are made, Sam can proceed. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Session/New Business

Nioka requested Sam check on how/if power at the fire station is tied to the tower located there. They are getting a surge protector installed and need to know how the tower ties in or if it does at all.

Dean requested Sam review a call on June 28th near Starmont at the roundabout and look at how the address is entered into the call sheet.

Motion to adjourn by Brent, second by Marcus. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1925.