

ALABAMA 9-1-1 BOARD MEETING

Minutes of 3/20/2024

Prior notice of this regularly scheduled meeting of the Alabama 9-1-1 Board was given in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act. The minutes were recorded by Ms. Michelle Peel, Program Coordinator for the Board.

Mr. Jeremy Williams, Chair for the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The roll was called as follows by Ms. Peel:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Brandon Broadhead | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual |
| Evelyn Causey | <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual |
| Fred Johnson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual |
| John Nettles | <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual |
| Greg Silas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual |
| Joby Smith | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual |
| Robert Smith, Secretary/Treasurer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual |
| Brandon Wallace | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual |
| Tim Webb, Vice Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual |
| Jeremy Williams, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual |

A quorum was established.

Mr. Williams called for unanimous consent for the approval of the agenda. It was unanimously approved with no objections. He called for the approval of the minutes of the January 17, 2024 Board meeting. Mr. Greg Silas made the motion and Mr. Robert Smith seconded the motion. There were no changes or objections, and the approval of the minutes was ordered. Guest introductions were made.

Mr. Williams turned the meeting over to Ms. Leah Missildine, Executive Director for the Board, for programmatic reports.

Programmatic Reports

Finance Report

Ms. Missildine started the programmatic reports by informing the Board that MST, the Board's accounting firm, had been acquired by JacksonThornton, a regional CPA firm. There would be no change in services provided or personnel assigned to the Board accounting. She continued with the year-to-date financial statements for the five months ending February 29, 2024. She asked if there were any questions about the statements. There were none. Ms. Missildine recommended the Board accept the financial statements as presented. Mr. Robert Smith made the motion and Mr. Greg Silas seconded it. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Missildine continued the finance report with a review of the legacy 9-1-1 costs reimbursement program. Legacy reimbursements are trending lower since some districts

have received final bills for legacy charges from BrightSpeed. Ms. Missildine informed the Board that BrightSpeed was directly billing the Board for 32 Districts for legacy costs. She informed the Board that payments made for carrier cost recovery for fiscal year 2023 had increased slightly since her report at the previous meeting due to a payment to one of the carriers for fiscal year 2023; however, the FY2023 cost recovery payments were less than what was approved and had now been closed out.

Ms. Missildine continued the financial reports with an update on the CPI increase. She provided a graph that highlighted the change from month to month from the \$1.86 fee to the \$2.23 fee. She explained that each month the baseline will change until all carriers are remitting \$2.23.

Ms. Missildine continued the finance report with an update on the Board's grant cycles. Grant Cycle 9 would be discussed later in the meeting. The previous grant cycles were being closed out as projects are concluded. Ms. Missildine reported that the final bill from the Examiners for the ECD examinations had been received. It was down \$20,000 from the previous year. Three cycles of all ECD examinations have been completed.

Ms. Evelyn Causey joined the meeting virtually at 10:28 am.

Education and Outreach Report

Ms. Missildine informed the Board that the Legislative Training Report was compiled and completed by Ms. Laura Ehrhart, Education and Outreach Program Manager, and Mr. Daniel Hipps, Education and Outreach Specialist; with proofreading conducted by Ms. Missildine. She prepared the cover letters, and the report was delivered to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House on February 1, 2024.

Ms. Missildine then turned the meeting over to Ms. Ehrhart. Ms. Ehrhart began her report on the Alabama Public Safety Telecommunicator Certification Program. She stated that 93.2% of the 1,561 telecommunicators in the state were certified or enrolled in a Board-approved certification program. She continued her report with an update on the Alabama Emergency Medical Dispatch Program (ALEMD). The revision of the book and guide cards has been completed. The next step is to develop new training materials.

She reported that Mr. Hipps has been working on a database for the Board that would house ECD, PSAP, certification, and ALEMD information. She also outlined her outreach efforts. She has been visiting PSAPs and talking with the telecommunicators about what the Board does and what training they need.

She continued with an update on the 2024 User Conference. The venue and schedule had been finalized with 43 speakers engaged. Ms. Missildine stated there was a lot to look forward to at the User Conference and encouraged the Board members to come. The goal is networking with the end users – the public safety telecommunicators.

Technology Report

Mr. Caleb Branch provided the report for INdigital. He began with a synopsis of network improvements, MEVO updates, and new features. He presented MEVO call volume numbers

and Texty statistics. He provided the Board with a comparison of Texty and Prepared Live text-for-911. Prepared Live can accept live video and pictures.

Ms. Missildine reported that T-Mobile had contacted the Board office about implementing location-based routing in Alabama. INdigital is aware of this implementation and is monitoring the network for any changes that may be related to it. Mr. Branch stated that T-Mobile was making this move based on an FCC order requiring location-based routing and he expects other carriers to implement it soon.

Mr. Branch continued INdigital's report with an announcement that INdigital has been acquired by NOVACAP, a leading private equity firm that specializes in telecommunications. He assured the Board that management and employees will remain the same. This acquisition will enable INdigital to continue to refine their products with the belief that what is good today can be even better tomorrow.

Mr. Greg Silas commended INdigital on enabling Birmingham 911 to use MEVO for administrative calls when there was trouble with their main administrative lines earlier in March.

Ms. Missildine asked Mr. Branch to provide a quick update on the Tallapoosa County 911 deployment of hosted Vesta via AT&T. He provided that update. There was discussion among the Board members, general counsel, and INdigital about risks, responsibilities, and statutory authority.

Mr. Anderson Brooms presented the GIS report. He started his report with a map of all the PSAPs he has visited. He then stated that because of PSAP participation, geo-routing anomalies had been reduced by 900. Mr. Brooms then presented the aggregation status of each district. Reporting from DATAMARK provides him with the ability to see how often districts are aggregating their data. He stated that if PSAP data has not been aggregated in more than three months, the data is old and outdated. He stressed that the local aggregated data directly affects a PSAP's RapidSOS account. He continued with an update on the RapidSOS Premium rollout. Twenty-six new PSAPs had been onboarded. He then highlighted the work Ms. Nida Jackson, Senior GIS Specialist for the Board, had completed to help PSAPs and Districts with their GIS data. He provided maps showing the comparison for MSAG to RCL, ALI to RCL, and ALI to AP with statewide compliance for each. He finished his report showing Alabama's grade in the Geospatial Maturity Assessment 2023 from the National States Geospatial Information Council. He announced that Alabama received a B+ overall and received an A in NG9-1-1.

Mr. Jeremy Williams called for a ten-minute recess at 11:24 a.m.

The meeting was called back to order by Mr. Williams at 11:34 a.m.

Governance Report

Ms. Missildine moved on to the Governance Report. She started with an update on House Bill 307. This bill provides for Emergency Communications Districts to be able to work together for contracting services. It was in committee during the Board meeting. Mr. Brandon Broadhead reported that there were no expected amendments and it had passed the second reading.

Ms. Missildine reminded the Board that Statement of Economic Interests forms were due to the Alabama Ethics Commission by April 30. The Board staff has completed the required entity upload.

Old Business

Mr. Adam Brown reported on Grant Cycle 9. This grant cycle is out of the normal timing based on events from the Sunset Review. The key focus was addressing hardships and maximizing efficiencies within a District. There were 43 submissions for a little more than \$7.2 million. The applications were submitted to the Finance Committee during a work session. There was concern by the committee members that the Board is granting monies to some of the same districts over and over. The discussion was taken seriously by Board staff and the applications were reviewed again. The process confirmed that there is a larger scale issue of funding but there is only one likely solution to that. It also showed that each District needs to make different decisions locally. Many do not get local funding for the work they do. Many of those that do receive local funding have not reviewed that funding for increases. They will also need to pool resources.

Ms. Missildine advised that the outreach for Grant Cycle 9 stressed that Districts need to tell the Board their hardship. These 43 Districts told the Board their need. She stated that for Districts to remain solvent or become solvent, everyone in 9-1-1 will all need to think of 9-1-1 differently.

Mr. Brown continued by informing the Board that while applications totaled \$7.2 million, the recommendation for awards is \$4.2 million from the fund. Any of the GIS projects that came from the grant cycle are recommended to be awarded as Board staff projects instead of direct funding. The amount estimated for these projects is \$456,577. Completing these projects in-house and with our contract with DATAMARK, would be the most efficient path forward. Mr. Brown continued by explaining the process for coming to the recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Robert Smith stated that the Finance Committee work session was over three hours. He said he went through and read each of those and he agrees with the staff assessment. He expressed that he supported the recommendation of Board staff.

Ms. Evelyn Causey agreed with Mr. Smith that there was a thorough assessment of the applications during the work session with the understanding that every District is different. She stated she is comfortable with the recommendation.

Mr. Brown informed the Board that grant cycles going forward will look different than they have in the past. There was discussion on funding for the future for those that applied for grants for salaries and personnel. Mr. Greg Silas and Ms. Causey expressed that the Board should be funding projects.

Mr. Williams requested a motion to approve the recommendation for Grant Cycle 9 awards as presented in the amount not to exceed \$4,727,904.07. Mr. Brandon Broadhead made the motion and Mr. Greg Silas seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Brandon Broadhead | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay | <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain |
| Evelyn Causey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay | <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain |
| Fred Johnson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay | <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain |
| Greg Silas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay | <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain |
| Joby Smith | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay | <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain |
| Robert Smith | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay | <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain |
| Brandon Wallace | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay | <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain |
| Jeremy Williams | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay | <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain |

There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Jeremy Williams questioned the timing of the next grant cycle. Ms. Missildine explained that grant cycles typically are in early summer. He requested at the next Board meeting that Board staff bring recommendations to the Board on how the grant cycles should operate going forward. He also requested details on a one-time consolidation grant to make that more attractive to those Districts that need to consolidate.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comments

Ms. Aislinn Campbell pointed out that St. Clair County as no longer red on the GIS map. Mr. Brooms explained the problem that was solved to change St. Clair County's status.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Approved this 15th day of May, 2024.



 Signature



 Title