

ALABAMA 9-1-1 BOARD MEETING

Minutes of 9/18/2024

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. Robert Smith, Secretary/Treasurer 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual
Fred Johnson, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" 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,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual
Jeremy Williams, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual

A quorum was established.

Mr. Fred Johnson joined the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Mr. Smith called for the approval of the agenda. Mr. Greg Silas made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Brandon Wallace seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously. He called for the approval of the minutes of the July 27, 2024 Board meeting. Mr. Greg Silas made the motion and Mr. Brandon Broadhead seconded it. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously. Guest introductions were made.

Mr. Scott Barnett, general counsel for the Board, made the recommendation the Board hold an Executive Session per Code of Alabama ,1975, Section 36-25A-7(a)(1) and 36-25A-7(a)(3). Mr. Smith asked for a motion to hold Executive Session per Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 36-25A-7(a)(1) and 36-25A-7(a)(3). Ms. Evelyn Causey made the motion. Mr. Greg Silas seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken by Ms. Peel.

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
Tim Webb	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay <input type="checkbox"/> Nay <input type="checkbox"/> Abstain

Motion passed unanimously at 10:10 a.m. Mr. Smith advised the gallery that the executive session would last approximately 30 minutes or so.

After the executive session and a break, the meeting was called back to order by Mr. Robert Smith at 11:10 a.m.

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

Programmatic Reports

Finance Report

Ms. Missildine started the finance report with a review of the financial statements for the eleven months ending August 31, 2024. She reminded the Board that there was a shortfall in collections in August due to a tax agent submitting six carrier's remittance information in a clearly marked test mode. This happened during planned maintenance of the remittance portal. This resulted in receiving the connections information but not the payment. This was discovered during reconciliation. The carriers were notified, and payment was made after September 1. Ms. Missildine then provided an overview of how the fund was distributed. The majority of the funds were distributed to Districts. There were no questions about the financial statements. She recommended to the Board that they approve the financial statements as presented in the Board packet. Mr. Tim Webb made the motion. Mr. Brandon Wallace seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Missildine continued the financial report with a review of the legacy 9-1-1 cost reimbursement program. She requested the carrier representatives on the Board to continue to engage other carriers to end legacy billing. Mr. Fred Johnson asked for clarification and stated that an association he belongs to intends to address this in the near future.

Mr. Adam Brown, Deputy Director, moved on to an update on multiple grant cycles. There are a few projects still open from Grant Cycles 5, 7, and 8. Funds from Grant Cycle 9 have been awarded. Ms. Missildine reminded the Board that according to the released timetable for Grant Cycle 10, the Board would supposed to make decisions on the awards during this meeting. However, based on the advice from the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts on the funds we typically use for these grants, she recommended that the Board table the decision until more information is available. Ms. Causey made the motion and Mr. Joby Smith seconded it. Mr. Greg Silas opposed the motion. Motion passed.

Ms. Missildine moved on to a discussion of the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. She stated that due to the Sunset Review last fall, she prepared a different view of the budget, showing all monies coming in and going out. She explained that the proposed budget is based on the advice she has received on how money can be spent. She reviewed the budget in detail with the Board. Mr. Brandon Broadhead asked about Board Member travel and requested there be a draft policy provided for discussion. Mr. Scott Barnett stated that those members directly impacted should not participate in the discussion to avoid any ethical issues of direct benefit from service. Ms. Missildine recommended that the Board approve the budget for fiscal year 2025 as presented. Mr. Joby Smith made the motion and Mr. Tim Webb seconded it. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Missildine reminded the Board that there is a Board rule and it has been a priority of the Board, that Districts are made whole on a monthly basis. Due to the Sunset review, it showed that in doing that, we shorted the 1% operating fund and the revenue fund. Also, the administrative rules are under review and have been brought under scrutiny. As such, she has been made aware that making Districts whole monthly does not comply with the Board's statute. Districts are to be made whole annually. In the last twelve months, the Districts have been made whole to their annual baseline.

Ms. Missildine moved on to Excess Cost Recovery declaration. She explained that based on advice from the Examiner's office, the declaration must be made per capita. She provided three scenarios for Excess Cost Recovery declaration. She explained each scenario in detail. Mr. Fred Johnson asked some questions for clarification on the shortfall in receipts in August and distribution of those funds. Mr. Greg Silas asked for clarification on scenario one. Several of the Board members discuss the shortfall of the September distribution. Mr. Johnson asked counsel that since the late remittances are attributable to August, could the Board formally a finding of such, and make the Districts whole for the shortfall. Mr. Barnett responded that under the intent of the statute, yes but with the recent strict interpretation of the statute by other entities, you cannot do that. Mr. Jeff Sherrer, counsel for the Board, reminded the Board that that interpretation is counter to the Attorney General's opinion. Mr. Johnny Burnson, counsel for the Board, said that with any motion of such a declaration, there would need to be reference to the Attorney General's opinion as well as a declaration of the hardship brought by the shortfall. More discussion ensued. Concern over shortchanging rural Districts is expressed. Mr. Fred Johnson made a motion to postpone further discussion on this topic until such time during the meeting that counsel has language for a motion prepared. Mr. Joby Smith seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fred Johnson left the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Education and Outreach Report

Mr. Brown turned the meeting over to Ms. Ehrhart for the Education and Outreach Report. Ms. Ehrhart began her report with a highlight to all of the in-person training hosted by the Board since the last meeting. She informed the Board that she and Mr. Daniel Hipps have attended every class, introducing attendees to the Board and what we do. There have been classes in 17 different locations across the state.

Mr. Fred Johnson returned at 12:12 p.m.

Ms. Ehrhart provided information to the Board about the new Alabama 9-1-1 Board Central App. It has been released to ECD and PSAP leadership for all PST reporting. It will be released to PSTs at the Gulf Coast Conference. She presented a map of PST certification compliance rate.

Technology Report

Mr. Caleb Branch provided the report for INdigital. He began with a synopsis of the projects ongoing in Alabama. There are 21 projects. One project is upgrading MEVO functionality. This project has provided Ms. Melissa Carpenter an opportunity to go to PSAPs to make those upgrades and talk to PSTs. The second project he highlighted was the move from Texty to Prepared Live for text-to-911.

Mr. Branch reported that INdigital has been working with Madison 911 on Next Generation Call Handling. The project is testing cloud-based call-taking that is truly i3 compliant. He provided information on the testing and how their results will be released. He expressed that no other entities are doing this kind of testing before an RFP.

Mr. Branch concluded his report by informing the Board that INdigital is going through testing with Northern 911, based in Canada, to connect to the Alabama ESInet for transfers with location information.

Mr. Fred Johnson left the meeting at 12:24 p.m.

Mr. Brooms started his report with a map showing the PSAPs he has visited. He provided an update on the status of statewide data remediation project. He continued with a comparison of gaps and overlaps in

PSAP boundaries. He expressed again how important it is to upload, validate, and aggregate updated data to the State VEP.

Mr. Fred Johnson returned to the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

Mr. Brooms showed the progress many Districts have made since the last Board meeting in uploading data. He provided an update on the progress of the RapidSOS implementation. The outstanding Districts have a long lead time due to outside entities. He showed the updates to MSAG to RCL, ALI to RCL, and ALI to AP comparisons. He concluded his report with PSAP visits made by Ms. Nida Jackson.

Governance Report

Ms. Missildine moved on to the Governance Report. She informed the Board there had been a bill pre-filed by Representative Oliver. It is the same as the bill filed last year that did not make it through the legislature during the session. It allows Districts to contract together to provide services in their performance of 911. She moved on to the review of the Administrative Rules. She reminded the Board that draft language had been presented at the July meeting. She told the Board that staff had been informed that much of the language highlighted in your Board packet does not comply with the statute. In the public hearing scheduled for November, change to this language will be included in that hearing. Ms. Missildine presented legislative remedy with the intent of the highlight rule that does not comply with the statute. It only impacts how the fund flows between accounts. She provided an in-depth explanation of the proposed language.

Mr. Fred Johnson asked to speak on the matter previously tabled. He moved for the adoption of the resolution: the Board finds that the September 2024 distribution shortfall attributable to a delay in August receipts in the amount of \$2,366,896.96 to the Districts creates a hardship for those Districts. The Board therefore directs the staff to consider the said amount a delayed deposit of August receipts and to distribute immediately said shortfall thus remediating the impacts caused by the delay. Mr. Joby Smith seconded the motion.

Mr. Johnson asked to provide some commentary prior to the vote. He said the basis for the introduction of the motion to adopt this resolution is based upon an earlier opinion of the Attorney General shared with us by counsel. He stated he believed the practical impact of this resolution will be to send to the Districts the exact amount of money they would have received had there not been an unfortunate delay in collections.

Mr. Robert Smith asked for a vote on the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the excess cost recovery declaration. Mr. Greg Silas made a motion to declare \$8,172,803.17 overage and distribute it to the Districts per the law. Mr. Brandon Broadhead seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comments

Ms. Aislinn Campbell told the Board they are “doing a great job.”

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Approved this 13th day of November, 2024.



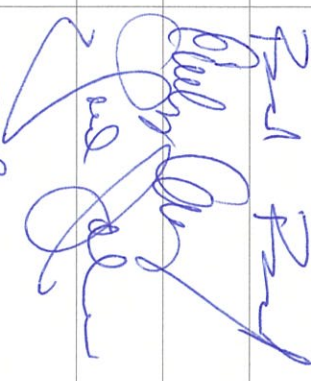
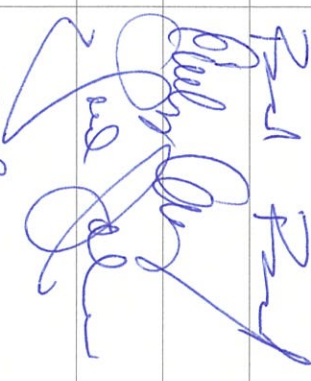
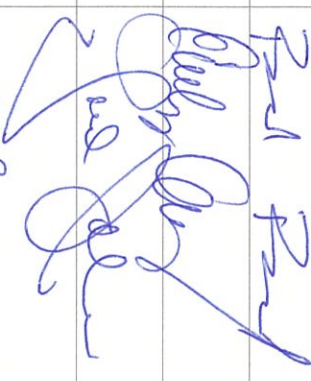
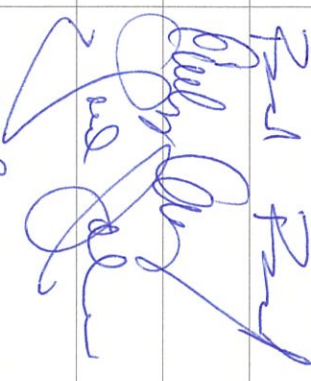






Signature



Title







MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Agency:	<i>Alabama 9-1-1 Board</i>	Date/Time:	<i>September 18, 2024 @ 10:00am</i>
Chair:	<i>Jeremy Williams</i>	Location:	<i>1 Commerce Street, Suite 620 Montgomery, AL 36104</i>
Type:	<i>Regular</i>	Purpose:	<i>Board Meeting</i>

Name	Title	Agency/Company	E-Mail	Signature
Broadhead, Brandon	Director	Homewood 9-1-1	brandon.broadhead@homewoodal.org	
Causey, Evelyn	President/ COO	Hayneville Telephone	ecausey@htcnet.net	
Johnson, Fred	CEO	Farmers Telecommunications	fjohnson@staff.farmerstel.com	
Nettles, John	President	Pine Belt Telephone	john@pinebelt.net	
Silas, Greg	Board Representative	Congressional District 7	gregvsilas@gmail.com	
Smith, Joby	Board Representative	Congressional District 1	jbsmith4@yahoo.com	
Smith, Robert	Sr. Manager	Charter Communications	Robert.smith9@charter.com	
Wallace, Brandon	Director	Limestone County 9-1-1	brandon@alc911.org	
Webb, Tim	Board Representative	Congressional District 4	timwebb@duttonwebb.com	
Williams, Jeremy	Director	Geneva County 9-1-1	jwilliams@34entral.com	

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Name	Title	Agency/Company	E-Mail	Signature
Anderson, Michael	Senior Project Manager	DATAMARK	manderson@mkbakertnl.com	
Barnett, Scott	Partner	Brunson, Barnett, & Sherrer, P.C.	sbarnett@bbslawoffices.com	
Branch, Caleb	VP of Market Management	Indigital	cbranch@indigital.net	
Brunson, Johnny	Partner	Brunson, Barnett, & Sherrer, P.C.	jbrunson@bbslawoffices.com	
Carpenter, Melissa	Market Manager	Indigital	Mcarpenter@indigital.net	
Moreland, Jeremy	Partner	MST	jmoreland@mstcpa.com	
Murphree, Andi	Inside Sales and Support Manager	Indigital	amurphree@indigital.net	
Murphy, Robert	Associate VP & Dir. of Business Development	DATAMARK	Robert.Murphy@mbakerintl.com	
Sherrer, Jeff	Partner	Brunson, Barnett, & Sherrer, P.C.	jsherrer@bbslawoffices.com	
Michelle Smith	Project Manager Indigital	Indigital	msmith@indigital.net	
Jim Strahan	DIRECTOR	TSI International Inc	jim.stjohn@birmingham1.gov	
Jessi McKinley	Intern	911 Board	Jessi@911board.com jessi@911board.com	

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