

Cass County Public Safety Commission

Sheriff Darby McLaren, TAA 911 Director Rob Koppert, TAC
Cass County Courthouse
5 West 7th Street
Atlantic, Iowa 50022
712-243-2204 (Voice) 712-243-3701 (Fax) rkoppert@casscoia.us

Minutes

September 26, 2011
Basement Meeting Room

Members present: Mark Wedemeyer, Julie Adams, Shawn Shouse, and Steve Livengood.
Staff present: Rob Koppert
Citizens present: Mike Kennon, EMA Coordinator

Chairperson Steve Livengood opened the meeting at 5:07pm

MSC Shouse/Wedemeyer to approve the agenda as published. Carried unanimously.

MSC Shouse/Adams to approve the July 2011 Minutes. Carried unanimously.

MSC Adams/Shouse to approve the July and August financial statements and bills. Carried unanimously.

TAC Rob Koppert gave his report on his assistance to the Cass County Fire Association's grant application had been completed and submitted to FEMA's Aid to Firefighter's Grant program. The grant is for a little more than \$230,000.00 for communications infrastructure for communications with the fire apparatus. Koppert reported that he worked with grant writer Steve Meyer on the project for the last 6 months in anticipation of the grant opening, which was thought to be in July. However, according to Meyer, there were many changes in the structure of the grant this year and it has caused an increased burden during the application process. Meyer does feel that the costs and benefits of the grant for the Cass County Fireman's Association were on par with other grants. Meyer told Koppert that it might be up to 6 months before any word is heard about the outcome of the grant. Koppert also reported to the Commission that the CAD to ProQA interface was ready to be installed, and some minor information needed to be forwarded to GeoComm for the mapping software, and that both those installations were on temporary hold as both vendors wanted Koppert to be available during the day when the installation took place. TAC Koppert is currently working overnights, filling in for a dispatcher who is undergoing cancer treatments.

The Commission then spent some time discussing the future of 911 in Cass County, specifically the impacts of Next Generation 911 and how it will impact Cass County. Next Generation 911 (NG911) will allow persons to send text messages, pictures, videos and other types of communications from portable devices.

TAC Koppert informed the Commission that he did not feel the current communications center was adequate for space, and that it would be highly probable that in the future, the communications center would have to staff two dispatchers at a time for at least 66% to 75% of the time. This is largely due to the increased workload brought on by the surge in 911 and administrative calls that are received or made in order to support the operations of law enforcement, fire and EMS agencies; plus the increased demands and duties placed upon the dispatchers now and in the future. Koppert also informed the Commission that the replacement equipment for the 911 would not physically fit in the current location.

Various options were discussed, including re-locating the communications center to another location within the courthouse, building an addition to the courthouse, or moving the communications to an existing building or building an entirely new complex.

The Commission also discussed the possibility of consolidation and regionalization of communication centers in Iowa. There are currently 117 communications centers in Iowa and there is a growing push

to consolidate and regionalize 911 communications as a cost saving measure. The Commission discussed how this movement would affect 911 communications in Cass County and that it would be preferable if Cass County were to host a regional center. TAC Koppert reported to the Commission that he had preliminary discussions with the Iowa Department of Public Safety concerning the sharing of a facility by Cass County and the Iowa State Patrol Communications Center located near Lewis. He reported that officials with the Iowa State Patrol were receptive to discussing the issue.

TAC Koppert emphasized to the Commission the importance of seriously looking at this issue now and not delay it any longer.

There was no Old Business discussed.

There was no New Business discussed.

There were no comments or concerns brought by any citizens.

MSC Shouse/Wedemeyer to adjourn at 5:56pm..

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Koppert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rob Koppert, TAC - Recording Secretary