

Marion County 911 Board Minutes  
June 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm  
3014 E. Main St., Knoxville, IA

1. Chair Marcia Slycord called the Marion County 911 Board meeting to order at 7:30pm.
2. Secretary Pettyjohn took a verbal roll call and the following members and guests were in attendance:

City of Bussey	Absent
City of Harvey	Dennis Seibert
City of Knoxville	Brian Hatch
City of Melcher	Terry Fisher
City of Pella	Marcia Slycord (Chair)
City of Pleasantville	Bill Moore
Clay Township	Brice Loonan
Indiana Township	Steven Watson
Knoxville Township	Absent
Lake Prairie Township	Doug Van Gorkom
Marion County BOS	Mark Raymie
Marion County EMA Commission	Jason Sandholdt
Pleasant Grove Township	Absent
Red Rock Township	Absent
Washington Township	Absent

Also present

Knoxville Fire Department	Cal Wyman
Marion County EMA/911	Jeff Anderson
Marion County EMA/911	Kim Pettyjohn (Secretary)
Marion County Sheriff's Office	Michelle Kingrey
Pella Community Ambulance	Greg Higginbotham

3. *Approve agenda for regular session of 06/25/19:* There was a motion by Raymie and a second by Sandholdt to approve the agenda as presented. All members were in favor and the 06/25/19 regular session agenda was approved.
4. *Approve minutes of 02/25/19 meeting:* There was a motion by Raymie and a second by Hatch to approve the 02/25/19 meeting minutes. All members were in favor and the minutes were approved.
5. *RFP update:* Anderson advised the RFP just got done. Anderson will be talking with Chief Bokinsky tomorrow and Pettyjohn's duties on the short term will be getting it ready to send out. Anderson asked from staff perspective, what do they want them to do with it once it's ready to go. Slycord asked if there are specific consultants it needs sent to or if there is a list of them somewhere. Anderson advised three have contacted him and have asked to send it to them. He advised Carroll County sent to at least five. He advised he would ask permission to reach out and see who others have sent it to and make sure there isn't someone we are over-looking. Slycord advised ask Mahaska County too. Raymie asked to be updated on what the RFP is about. Anderson advised it's about hiring a consultant to look at our existing communications systems. Raymie asked if this is where the Board and Pella were both working on an RFP simultaneously, and Anderson confirmed it was. Anderson advised there was discussion on if there was

cause for concern that two RFP's were going out. Raymie also confirmed part of the discuss was the Board was supposed to be able to review the RFP before it's sent out. Anderson advised we will confirm this in past meeting minutes and that he would prefer it that anyway. Anders asked to keep it moving if that could be done via email so there would be adequate time for review and comments. Raymie advised Public Health has just purchased new radios and they will utilize the tower at the Sheriff's Office. Raymie advised one of the discussion points is what is the best way to do that and from a public health standpoint they have already approved that interoperability. Raymie advised as they think about the RFP, he encourages the Board to think about it in those terms. Stating is there is a way to leverage the infrastructure we already put in place and not have to build new infrastructure or add additional infrastructure, because from a public health standpoint it sounds like these radios will do just fine on that tower from a variety of emergency situations. Sandholdt asked if they are the dual band 700/800 or VHF. Anderson advised he believes they are the single band 700/800. He advised he voiced a concern that with the radios getting as complex as they are, especially in a multi-band configuration, that in the hands of a public health employee who doesn't mess with the radios every day, they may be overwhelmed. Chances are good when they actually needed to use the radio it would be messed up or on the wrong frequency or band and not function the way they are supposed to. Simpler was better. Sandholdt asked who the contact was for this. Anderson advised it was Kim Dorn. Sandholdt advised they need to have Kim Dorn get in contact with Michelle regarding the talk groups. Anderson advised he agreed that was the right thing to do, but since they are purchasing for the nine-county coalition the plan is to keep them simply programmed to the minimum that would get them on the health alert network. Then there would be future discussions to program to program xyz radio in Lucas County to other talk groups was conversations they could have. He advised to keep in manageable from her point of view and so they didn't rack up extra expenses programing all of these different radios. The approach was simpler is better and the priority was the build access to the Health Network, but she still needs to be involved. Sandholdt asked if they are only going to call somebody at the Health Alert Network in Des Moines or somewhere, because he advised they don't have any of that in the PSAP, so where they missed a big, important part is having her involved. Sandholdt asked what they are going to use them for. Anderson advised what they used the HAN for and it's basically for stuff like the pandemic flu. Raymie advised have that discussion and the bigger issue he is raising and he thinks they've had discussions on radios, just think about leveraging what we already have when looking at the RFP. Hatch asked at a high level what can we expect from this RFP, how many options do we really have. Anderson advised he believes Carroll County sent it to six and got four proposals back. Hatch advised he means options for the system. Anderson advised he's unsure as he hasn't seen the RFP, but the options will be to stay with what we have, go on the State system, go on the SARA/Racom system or build our own that interfaces with all of the places it needs to interface with. Anderson advised Warren County BOS just approved \$6.5 million for radio equipment and then bid out the tower piece separately to save money, as they have Murphy Towers in their county. Anderson stated no matter which option they choose that would be an option to look at as well to save money. Hatch asked if Mahaska County went through this process. Anderson advised they have and they have decided to go with the SARA/Racom system. Slycord advised they did not get a State tower and they are starting from scratch, and they have secured a few sites. She advised they are progressing and moving along. Slycord advised the RFP is for a consultant to come and do the study for us, do the surveying for us and see what the best option is for us. Kingrey asked if it's an unbiased consultant because from what she's

heard they are one way or the other. Sandholdt advised he's always been against the consultant and doesn't feel they have given the half million-dollar free tower a chance. It's good enough for every trooper, DNR and game warden in the state, so why not give the locals a chance to utilize it and see if it works. He advised it's very frustrating they have not given it a shot. Sandholdt asked for those that are so set on going with a consultant if they have given the State tower that's free a shot. Hatch advised he doesn't think anyone has and they don't have the equipment to do it. Raymie asked what the cost of a consultant was going to be. Sandholdt stated he has heard \$25-30,000 Anderson advised there are essentially three phases; one phase is coming in and doing a study of our existing system, second would be recommendations and presenting your options and the third is if you build out anything they can become the construction project manager. Raymie advised there is no way the BOS is going to support a levy or bond like Warren County. From a BOS stand point there would have to be overwhelming evidence that the existing structures we have don't work. He stated Sandholdt raises a fair point that if we have a State tower that didn't cost us anything and taxpayers have already paid for it through other means and we haven't tested that, he can tell you what the BOS will say. Sandholdt stated it has been tested through the Sheriff's office for a year and half with no issues. He continued saying they have been utilizing it, but he wants everyone to have a chance to utilize it. Van Gorkom stated he has radios that have the 700/800 in them and he would like to get with the Sheriff's Office and go clear in to Mahaska County and make sure his mobile can get all the way to the State Tower. Sandholdt advised Troopers are on this system, so the same Troopers that work the New Sharon area he has not heard an issue from them because they are utilizing the same equipment off of the same tower. Van Gorkom stated he doesn't know that much about radio communication and he doesn't think there is anyone sitting at that table that knows squat about radio communications that we need to know with the kind of money we are going to have to spend. He believes they need an outsider that does this all the time to explain to them what they need. He advised he has followed Mahaska County and read all the articles that came out of BOS and 911 meetings. They had two different consultants that came in and both came back with the same answer. They save a bunch of money. Raymie asked what they did. Van Gorkom advised they went with the SARA system. Sandholdt asked how did they save money. Van Gorkom stated he doesn't know and Anderson advised it was because they competitively bid the process. Sandholdt asked what the total dollar amount of the Mahaska County project was. Slycord advised she doesn't know, but it was considerably lower than what Motorola quoted. Sandholdt stated that was the same for him, Motorola told him it would be \$3.2 million and when you start buying the infrastructure and everything that comes behind it and all of the updates you don't need, you will spend that. Sandholdt stated what we are doing right now is the price of piece equipment is what you pay to get on the system, you don't have to do all of those updates. His argument is if you buy the equipment and you hate the State system then you go somewhere else. Slycord asked if we are out anything if we proceed with getting an RFP ready to be sent out other than employee's time. Anderson advised he feels the decision to send out an RFP was already made a few years back and there was a date on a calendar that we set with the Sheriff to get the state system up and running and we've gone a year past that. Raymie advised he thinks the Board continues with the RFP, we are out no money, but Sandholdt has a good point that we need to test what we already have. Seibert asked if the downside to testing is the time a consultant can be onboard. Sandholdt advised he's not against sending out an RFP, but is against a consultant. He stated they need to give this a fair shot and see what it has to offer. There was additional discussion on Pella Fire going and testing the system with their radios and Sandholdt

stating all agencies need the equipment for everyone to be able to do it. Hatch continue with the RFP process and see what they come back with. Anderson advised first we'll get our eyes on it and send it out via email. Anderson advised it's clear what the Board wants is to get RFP in front of them and go from there.

6. *Annual evaluation of the 911 Coordinator:* Slycord asked if there is a merit increase tied to the number of points he receives or if the evaluation is not associated with pay increase. Raymie advised the points are not directly related to pay increase, but if a performance review is bad then it's indirectly tied to that.

Slycord advised she ranked Anderson the following on each:

*Quality* – Outstanding - With all of his duties assigned, Slycord advised she is not sure how he gets it all done, but when he does the quality of work is good.

*Productivity* – Very good – She stated he manages projects with proper authority, skill and resources.

*Job knowledge* - Outstanding – She stated Anderson seems to have all the knowledge he needs to perform the duties of the job.

*Reliability* – Outstanding – She advised he is very reliant and always answers her in a timely manner. Higginbotham advised they were never without radios at the Vermeer tornado when their radios were dying.

*Attendance* – Outstanding – She advised she doesn't know how he gets it all done and even when he is out of town he answers calls.

*Independence* - Outstanding – Slycord stated Anderson performs independently, doesn't require supervision, accepts responsibility and works well through situations.

*Creativity* - Outstanding – Slycord advised he pursued a 3M grant for 911 signage and saved a lot of money for 911. He manages Randy that signs aren't wasted. We used to have issues that have been resolved.

*Initiative* – Very good – Anderson takes on additional duties, such as the Standard Response Protocol.

*Adherence to policy* – Very good – Anderson knows code and adheres to it. She advised he is on other Boards, Commissions and sub-committees.

*Interpersonal relationships* - Outstanding – Anderson works very well with others. He is transparent and shares opinions respectfully. He is currently working through some major addressing issues and Anderson has remained professional in a tough situation with another person that is not.

*Judgement* – Outstanding – Anderson uses his professional knowledge and common sense to solve problems. He does not hold a grudge with anyone, has huge shoulders and holds a lot of burden.

Slycord advised she doesn't see any specific area that needs improvement and Anderson goes to his training required and attends 911 Council Meetings every month and participates in sub-committees when requested or assigned to do so. Sandholdt stated he would like him to go to ISICSB's board meetings. Some 911 Service Board members did not know what ISICSB's was. Sandholdt explained what the ISICSB's board does and advised why he feels Anderson should be going to those meetings. Anderson advised ISICSB stands for Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications Systems Board. Slycord advised she can put that as a goal.

7. *Discussion regarding the purchase of radios with 911 funds:* Sandholdt advised at last meeting they talked about \$700-800,000 in the fund balance. Anderson advised as of the 21<sup>st</sup> of June the fund balance is \$786,822.25. Sandholdt stated he would like to make a motion, he would like to have discussion at first and would like to getting that equipment

in to the hands of the people who will be able to utilize the State tower or if the decision is made to go to the SARA system they would have the equipment they need. He stated he thinks the only fair way he thinks there is to do it is a rank system or a cost share system, so you would have to have an entity to have the buy in, but they would also receive funding from the 911 Board to supplement that. If the City of Harvey says they would like 4 new radios to operate on the State or SARA system there would be money to put towards that. Sandholdt advised he and Anderson had a discussion the first part of May and he is frustrated in the aspect that he doesn't believe they have utilized or people have had the chance to utilize it because they can't afford the equipment. They can't afford the handheld radio or the mobile radio to do it and give it a fair shot. He stated sooner or later they are going to have buy the equipment anyway. We'll have to come up with money even if the SARA system is decided to go with they are going to have to buy 700/800 band radios to talk off of it, so why not buy that money now and have that equipment purchased so you can utilize it. Hatch stated they keep talking about testing this and seeing if it works. It has been mentioned that everyone has a 700/800 mhz radio now, so to clarify testing are they thinking they'll go around to every portion of their coverage area and test to see if it does or does not work. He asks Sandholdt if he's thinking of something different, is he wanting this to be in operation. Sandholdt confirmed he wants it in operation. Hatch continues by stating if he isn't talking about a one day test, but putting them in operations is it feasible for the agencies to have three radios, how do they test that. Van Gorkom advised they can't, they need to test it one or two radios at a time, but to use it for their everyday use, they can't because the rest of the walkies they have and the truck radios they have are not 700/800. He stated they can't go to a fire scene any place in the county and use the State system, the 700/800, they can't do it, it won't work. Anderson advised the conversation he and the Sheriff had he asked him to do a department head count and Anderson displayed what the county currently has. Anderson advised Pleasantville Fire mostly carries pagers and has radios at the station available for calls. He advised he told the Sheriff in his opinion they can't have a conversation about any radio system without paging being a part of the system. Anderson advised Fire Chief Jordan Van Ness advised his biggest concern is that when he's at his own home and his pager doesn't even go off. Anderson advised while he was polling the agencies on this other information and trying to figure out what their paging need is, he advised what that amounts to is the total times an average of \$500 per pager and that doesn't cover any infrastructure. It simply is pagers and if you are going to buy everyone a 700/800 mhz radio you are going to have to replace or supply them with some sort of pager. He advised the next number is the number of radios that were already purchased when the City of Pella received a PSAP consolidation grant in 2016. He advised there were 44 radios and the Board spent a couple hundred thousand dollars towards the purchase of these radios. He advised you can do the math, the multi-band portables needed is 186 at \$5,000 a piece, representing a cost of \$930,000. He continued you can't switch one without switching the other, you can't have your people on portables and not have access in your trucks to the same, so the mobile radios need to be changed. He advised he plugged in a number of \$6,000 and thinks that is pretty close. He advised the cost is approximately \$1.433 million to outfit all radios. Anderson advised another thing he thought of in regards to specific department and costs they are going to have, they are going to have to pay somebody to remove your existing and replace them with the new ones, he figured that as \$500 each cost, so that's another \$34,000 on top of the \$1.433 million. Wyman stated the last radio they had coded for their new engine with Racom that \$6,000 included installation. Anderson advised that some of that cost would probably go away. Anderson advised when he and Sandholdt had their meeting he did

not have these numbers, but he would get them knowing that if they proceed to ran RFP they've actually done some of the consultants work for them and shouldn't have to pay for that. Sandholdt advised he totally disagrees with the dollar amounts on the pricing on the mobile side of it, because they are getting them a lot cheaper than that and he doesn't know where Anderson is getting his quotes. Anderson asked Wyman if he just said \$6,000. Wyman stated he has a quote from Racom on a radio and it was \$1,500. Anderson advised this is also what Chief Mitchell had told him. Sandholdt states he doesn't know, but the side of it is, let's say as an example they go with a consultant the \$1.433 will be there no matter what you do. Kingrey advised no matter what system or if you use the SARA tower or the State tower everybody has to have new equipment. Anderson advised he will point out one thing they discussed and the mayor asked a question about what the possibilities were. Anderson advised one of those has to be making the existing VHF system more robust to pick up the coverage areas they lack now and making a patch to the 700 and that would be far less and would not require purchase of the new radios. Sandholdt asked if that is what Anderson recommends. Anderson stated he is not saying he would recommend that. Sandholdt if people don't want to buy new radio's and want to utilize the state system then he is done fighting. Sandholdt we can continue to buy the radios we buy. He stated the big scheme of things is, if you put a big scary dollar tag on it we aren't going to go anywhere or do anything. He said it's the all honest truth of it, however it is, they can try and say it's going to cost \$1.4 million, he would like people to get started in the right direction on however it is. The argument is he has a bunch of reserves too, he could say he has 30 reserves, plus all his guys and the jailers need radios, he needs 55 radios at the Sheriff's Office. In all reality, all 55 of his staff are not going to use a radio at the same time so he doesn't know numbers and he can't tell any of them what they need. Sandholdt continued stating he has asked a lot of Chief's when they show up on a scene and then asks Wyman how many people showed up at his last scene in Knoxville. Wyman advised they had 22 people at their last fire call. Sandholdt then asked him how many people showed up at their last ambulance call. Wyman advised you can't justify it saying it like that because he has four people on every day and that is their job to respond, so four radios could do his day to day operation, but if he's going to follow the NFPA guidelines he needs one radio per fire fighter. Sandholdt advised he's with him on that and he wants to get people started in the right direction, so when you talk about having four people on, in their office he could still utilize the old P25 digital radios. He could have one car with one mobile and one repeater and 15 people talk on it with 15 VHF radios, utilizing the Statewide system. The brand-new half a million-dollar tower for one mobile, one repeater and 15 VHF radios. So if people don't want to do that or if everybody is against moving forward with buying new radios for the system, then he is done fighting the fight. He stated he is trying to move us forward in regards to what can be utilized with a half a million-dollar tower and 88 towers across the state to get us moving in the right direction to try it. Sandholdt continued stating if nobody wants to do it, he'll through his hands up in the air and say he's done trying to pitch how we can do it, because he can throw out all different scenarios and if people don't want to do it, they aren't going to do it. He stated he is trying to come up with a solution that we can utilize and move forward. If it's just Knoxville PD they have 15-16 guys, that would be a step in the right direction. Melcher Dallas were moving forward on radios with the PD or different things that are there, that's moving in the right direction. He stated, like he said down the road, if Melcher Dallas PD bought three radios for the PD and if they had a grant to do that they'd would then be able to talk to his guys and move forward with it and if all the sudden the RFP comes back and they decide to go with SARA then those radios are still

good. He stated they are just so scared to spend any money or utilize new technology that it's a price tag of \$1.4 million, so they are at a deadlock. They don't move forward and they don't do things. Sandholdt continued saying whether you get four new towers built and you go to the SARA system, you're still going to have to buy radios. Wyman stated he doesn't think anyone here is against upgrading to a new system because their VHF system has issues and they no need to upgrade. He advised he has no problem with switching Knoxville Fire over to the 800 system, his problem is that even if they do a grant he doesn't have \$60,000 to do it and he doesn't think the City of Knoxville should be taxed three times in the process. He advised they pay their E911 tax, the City of Knoxville pays a pretty good chunk of money for dispatching and then you come back and they have to pay another \$60,000 for a radios. Sandholdt advised you don't have to that's the benefit and from the dispatching side of things it used to cost a quarter million or \$200,000 and it was a cost savings to the City of Knoxville. He stated whether or not somebody else should pay dispatch fees they've already had the discussion, but if you can dispatch cheaper somewhere else you can't combine the two, you can't say you'r taxing us three times. Wyman advised when he's looking at the taxpayer dollar he's looking at the Knoxville taxpayer dollar and it only goes so far. Sandholdt stated correct and that's the solution to try and help you do that with \$700,000 that's in the E911 fund, do a 75% cost share that's E911 money, then you only have to come up with 25%. If it's 100%, he thinks it's really hard to vote at 100% to buy all new radios, because then the small towns may only get like three radios and they'd get like 28, he advised you have to have that buy in. He stated if there is a way to help cost share that. He continued stating if you're the Mayor of Knoxville and you can get 75% we have to move forward somehow, he stated this is the way to do it and asked the Board to tell him why they are against it. Wymand stated he's not saying anyone is against it, but when he looks at it from his perspective as Knoxville, the radio system is a county system, it's a countywide system, it's not a Knoxville system. Sandholdt states it's a Pella system and a county system because it's two systems and E911 is why we have this, he advised it's the money that's the pool to use. Wyman advised the E911 issue is not a Knoxville issue, it's a county issue because it's our county, it's not a Knoxville problem, it's not a Pella problem, it's a county problem, which is why he thinks they need to come up with a countywide solution. He advised he is all for taking Knoxville Fire to the 700/800 system. He thinks it's a better system with all around capabilities and trying it with Michelle the other day it worked great. Once he figured out how to get it on his radio, they had a call 10 seconds later and he couldn't hear the dispatch information so he went around the corner of his house. He's unsure if that was the dispatch system or if it was his house, but he knows the 700/800 system is a heck of a lot better just from past personal experiences of working with the 700/800 system. Wyman continued what he does not know and the Iowa Professional Fire Chief's brought in Michelle (NAME) to give them a whole class on the ISICS system. Sandholdt stated he doesn't know her. Anderson advised she's the Des Moines Fire Departments radio guru and represents the Iowa Professional Fire Fighters on the ISICS Board. Wyman continued by stating up north he could have told them all this information, but down here he is new enough and doesn't know enough and he can't give an educated recommendation, he can't give them an educated conclusion on where they need to be. Wyman stated is that why they should look at a consultant, absolutely, because he doesn't know enough down here to even fathom giving an educated recommendation. He stated if he and Sandholdt want to go and try Knoxville Fire on the 700/800 system he's all for it, but he needs equipment to do it. Sandholdt states that's why they are here. He stated it seems like the approach or the way to get there is by doing this. He advised Wyman talks like the 800 system is

where they want to go, but how are they going to do that as the City of Knoxville without any help. Wyman advised they will slowly but surely chip away and start buying radios. Sandholdt stated here is a way to jump off a big chunk of that and big chip to get them moved in that right direction whether it be the State system or the SARA system, here's a funding source that's available. Wyman stated his question is do they want to tap this fund out completely in case they ever need it for a rainy day. Sandholdt stated when you talk about E911 and communication whether it be the SARA system or the State system that direction of going that way is vital and he's not saying spend all \$784,000 maybe the motion is to spend \$400,000 and you don't tap it all out, but you allow those opportunities. He continued by stating maybe as the Fire Chief of Indiana Township they might want to try that. They might want to do that and have an opportunity; it gives them a funding source, or Clay Township or Knoxville PD or Pleasantville, he stated he believes Pleasantville PD is pretty set on radios, but Pleasantville Fire could say here's an opportunity for us to get a cost share to get that, so whether we go with the State system or the SARA system we are positioned. Sandholdt stated if you don't do it now Raymie already said on the BOS won't do a bond issue so this is his approach to say here is a funding source were we can all get moving in the right direction. He stated it's not going to solve all of the problems overnight. He advised if you look at the price tag we don't have \$1.4 million, but if you look at the four guys who are on on a daily basis and you throw in a mobile in those vehicles and you throw in a repeater and you give those four a handheld and they have a program to that everyone that shows up is talking off the 700 system and that's the instance where you have 22 show up. Sandholdt stated how often does that really happen and you are penalizing the four who work on a daily basis of having the best technology because of the chance you might need 22, he stated that is his frustration. Wyman stated he totally gets it and he knows the 800 system is the better system, but it's how do we get there and he's totally for trying it. He advised he thinks a lot of the problems they have with the surrounding departments and the radio communications, if they got Knoxville Fire off of the VHF system, he thinks they would have a lot better communication because for the county they tie up around 80% of the radio traffic. Watson advised if they come to Indiana Township they have to make sure they have a second crew and all of their ducks in a row, so when they come down to them a lot of time it's 3-4 minutes before they even know if someone is responding because they are out there doing their duties and we are trying to do ours and dispatch is paging for a second crew. Kingrey advised it's way too much radio traffic. Watson advised it makes for a headache for Kingrey and a headache for a lot of people. Kingrey advised sometimes someone answers and they don't even know that they answered because there is other radio traffic. Hatch stated he's he wants to understand, so they need to have ten radios to operate the fire department, they're going to get a grant to buy five of those, can they do that, how does that work. He stated he's asking because he doesn't understand and just needs an aerial view, they have five radios that are 7/800 and five radios that are VHF. Sandholdt stated a vast majority of the calls that go out the crews that you have or who is there is not the 22 people, so when you go and you move those five radios you have to have a way for the time when the 22 show up. You can't really afford at this point to buy 22 \$6,000, even \$4,000 at 22 is pretty hard to do, but 90% of the time when you have those four or six people in Knoxville that are responding or the three or four city officers that are going they are using the best of the best technology. He continued by saying you have to have a repeater in your vehicle to switch over if there is a fire or different things that are there until you can afford it for all 22 people. He stated he feels like they are holding back those four ambulance people who are continually running on numerous calls, were



holding them back because we can't afford 22 radios. He stated the way to do that is move forward and buy the ones that are necessary on an average basis. He stated he didn't buy them all for his reserves, because he can't afford it, but he wasn't going to say that his deputies can't use it on a daily basis because he can't afford 50 of them for his office. His goal is to try to at least move forward and get the minimum number they would need for the vast majority of calls and try to move forward and get the process rolling so they can give their employees the best that is there right now. Hatch stated he wanted to clarify that he continues to stay try it or test it and he thinks they are meaning different things, their testing is not what he is saying by testing. Sandholdt confirmed his testing is not whether the radio works, but the interoperability amongst agencies. Wyman stated if they want to test the system and see how it works he's willing to try that if they can give him four and he doesn't care if they are new or used, they will create a 700 group and they will try it. Sandholdt and Kingrey both stated it's already there. Wyman stated they will test their system with their on duty crews and see how well it works. He stated he thinks it will work well for them because the tower is in their back yard, he stated they will get to the surrounding areas with the EMS calls. They will give it four to five weeks and he'll put every duty crew on a 700 frequency knowing that they have the VHF through the repeater if they have a fire and they can still talk to Pella or Indiana. Kingrey advised she could patch them with the 700/800 channel. Wyman advised they would have to do simultaneous paging since they would have people on both frequencies. Sandholdt stated he appreciates that and that is the step he is wanting. The reason he didn't want just one is because maybe Clay Township, maybe Indiana, maybe somebody else, the reason he put it as a proposal for everyone is to give them the opportunity. Hatch stated he doesn't think they are necessarily the best test target, he's not worried about them, he's worried about everyone else in the county. Sandholdt stated with that being said, let's say they are having the discussion in reverse and are talking about just the SARA system. There is a tower right outside of Pella they can utilize, they go off or, it's the same type of thing, so Melcher for example, can look and say can we hit the tower. What he's talking about, whether Pella does the SARA system and Knoxville does the State system you're always going to have those different areas that are there, what he is saying is if the tower right now and he doesn't know what SARA or Miller would even charge to do it, he thinks they'd let them test it for free, but the problem is they don't have the dispatch side of it that goes along with it. Anderson advised sure you do, both PSAP's have the same test channels set up on that tower site. Sandholdt means for when you are scanning, so when he is in his car, he has SARA and the State system in his car he can't scan on both of them. Anderson advised correct, you can only be on one system at a time. Sandholdt stated for the test side of it you have to choose one or the other and which you're going to test. He stated he can't keep operating off of his normal operations and test the SARA system, it's not feasibly possible because you're going to miss traffic on one or the other, so you have to either test the SARA or you have to test the Motorola. Sandholdt continued saying if that is the motion he feels like he's beating a dead horse and he's trying hard to make it easy and he knows it may sound like he's not. He's really trying to make it easy for the Melcher Dallas's if they need some extra money to get equipment for their stuff this is the way to do it, if Indiana needs to do it, if Pella needs to do it, if Pella Ambulance, if City of Harvey, who ever it is, here is the source to do it because you're going to buy it sooner or later anyway. Sandholdt stated if people don't like that idea then he is done presenting, he is done beating a dead horse and figure it out down the road on your own, however you're going to do it and whatever it is. Hatch asked how the Board feels on a whole, does everyone feel like they want to go to the 700/800 radios, is that the direction they want to go.

Higginbotham stated he thinks Sandholdt makes a lot of good points, but do they spend this money on something that's not tested yet. Sandholdt stated it has been tested. Higginbotham stated they haven't tested it, his thing is they test this system with the radios they have and if they have no problems he doesn't see why they don't. If they do have problems maybe that's when they look for a consultant. Sandholdt stated that is what he is saying, how do they do that test fairly. Higginbotham advised they have two portables and a mobile and that covers his first and second crews. He advised they can in their response area and check things out. Van Gorkom stated he has three portables and three multi-band mobiles. Sandholdt stated let's figure out how to get them programmed. Van Gorkom stated he believes he just needs to talk with Duane. Slycord asked if 911 could assist with that transition rather than purchasing additional radios. Van Gorkom advised that's on the SARA tower and he wants it on the State tower. Siebert stated their department was taken over by another department, but he hates to pass up the opportunity to save \$3.1 million when you are going to have to spend money for the equipment anyway. Loonan asked how much the mobile repeaters cost. Sandholdt stated approximately \$1500-2500. Anderson advised \$6,000 for a digital that is supposed to work with the trunking system. Sandholdt stated they have them all in their radios now that they utilize on every single squad car that they didn't pay near \$6,000 for, \$1,500, his car right now he's going from a VHF signal out to his car through a 700 system back to that tower and he's on a VHF that was \$1,500. Loonan advised to do a fair test you'd have to do that. Kingrey asked if anyone is concerned with VHF going away because when she talked to Doug the other day he said it's a possibility, if they narrowband again the VHF will be gone. Anderson advised it's a concern. Sandholdt stated he was really big on making them use the VHF from their handheld to their three or five watt to a 50 or 100 watt mobile through that repeater system to go out to the state system because he thought he wants it to work, he wants it to be coverage, he wants that 550 watt or 100 watt to work. He advised all of this guys now very seldom switch back to the vehicular repeater they are going straight off of the three watt or five watt directly back to the tower. Van Gorkom advised they have that in their walkie he advised they are talking about the people that don't have that 700 in their walkie. Sandholdt stated that's his point, it's even better then when they walk to a car the vehicular repeater side of it, instead of having a \$4,000 radio his old Kenwood that's P25 digital does the same exact thing as what his radio does through that repeater. He continued by saying he goes right from the VHF and talk on in it and that side of it is how they would do it at the fire department. You would have the repeater that takes the 10 or 15 whatever is coming in to it and you would ship it right back out on the fire side. He stated the regular guys on a four or six person on a route at a time would go directly from this radio, they aren't going to utilize a repeater. Sandholdt stated it's up to them and they have spent enough time on it tonight. Sandholdt made a motion for any agency that would like to be able to utilize some of the E911 funds in a grant process to be able to buy equipment that they would utilize. He stated whether it be Pella, whether it be a small agency, like the mayor said if you have a chance to buy a new radio and you want to upgrade, Knoxville PD if you go back and talk to Losada and he says he wants to get enough for their squad cars here's a way for us to do it then you can do it. If nobody wants to utilize it then they don't. Sandholdt restated that his motion is to allow agencies 75% cost share from the E911 fund for the locals to be able to buy the equipment that they feel that could help benefit whether it is the SARA system or the State system down the road. Van Gorkom asked if there is no ceiling on how much they can take out of the fund. Anderson advised this is where he's going to jump up and down now and they need to think about the commitments they have already made. They are moving to a brand new 911 call taking

system that they approved expenses at the last meeting for both PSAP's to manage their phone systems. They have already obligated to expenses that could be as much as \$100,000 and wants to point out a few things for them. He advised the fund balance of around \$700,000 for this department did not get there overnight. He stated 7/1/2009 fund balance of \$123,000, 7/3/2012 \$184,000, 7/2/2015 \$344,000, 7/2/18 \$492,000; his point being they drain that account and if they don't have money to cash in on the grant right now he doesn't know how many years it will be before the Board has enough money for them to do it. Anderson advised there has to be some equity in this. Sandholdt agreed and said he's not saying there is a cap on that, if he has the money a year from now he can still do the 75%. Anderson is stating he's not sure the Board will have the money to pay the 75%. Sandholdt stated then those people that want to take advantage of it on the early side of it. Anderson stated whatever motion they make there has to be some maximum expenditure tied to it, so it doesn't just runaway, administratively they have to manage the fund. Van Gorkom stated a small department and we say 75% and Lake Prairie Township and he can go to the trustees and they give us 75%, let's just get it all, that means he has to get 15 radios and the rural trucks to get multi-band radios they have six trucks. Lake Prairie Township would take a big chunk of that, another community isn't going to use that much money, that's not fair. Sandholdt stated how do you make it fair. Van Gorkom advised what the Board did when giving the walkies to everyone, they gave every department, no matter how many people they had on their department, we gave them so many radios. They got two multi-bands and seven P25's. Slycord stated it depended on what they needed and what they requested when they went through the grant process. She advised the grant paid, and the City of Pella and the Pella PD did not get any radios from that grant, but it was shared countywide to hopefully make it equitable that every department was represented with that equipment. Van Gorkom stated that he thinks the the motion Sandholdt made is a sticky motion. Sandholdt stated looking at it he sees what they are saying, but how do they make it fair that they still have enough on that operational side of it to be able to do it. Raymie interjected and stated he his right and they have to be careful not to exhaust the funds from a couple of townships. He advised he is not the radio expert and is just trying to listen, but he believes there are three steps they need to take. The first step is they need to test the system. He stated he doesn't think they'll be able to decide that in this meeting so Sandholdt and those that want to test need to decide what is a fair test of the system and if they need a more advanced radio to test it that is up to them. He advised to make that objective one, so everyone here can say that yes, it works or no, it doesn't. Step two then is if it turns out that it works and they have consensus from the people who need this system, then the next step is how do they fairly access these funds. He heard some of them say they don't need radios for everyone and they might not, so maybe they say they need six or whatever that number is. Van Gorkom stated if the vehicle repeater thing works like Sandholdt states it will then that will cut down on the number of radios needed because they have several of the P25's and they aren't as expensive if they need to buy more. Raymie stated you quantify that to know what you need for both advance equipment, repeaters, etc. and you come up with a different number. Hatch asked if everyone can work together while the RFP is being established and reach out to the Sheriff's Office to try to test with whatever is accurate and worthwhile testing to come to test all areas to see if they can move forward. That may make the decision a lot easier, if that system doesn't work for you. Van Gorkom advised what he hopes to get to happen because all of the radio's they've ever bought they've bought through Racom, so for them to test the State system he would hope they could get a repeater hooked up in one of their vehicles. Van Gorkom states that Sandholdt is saying it works, but if he is clear

over in Peoria he wants to make sure he hits that tower. Sandholdt stated what he failed to realize, and is a mistake on his part, and not fair for them, when they keep talking about testing he looked at it that his deputies have tested it for a year and a half. When they say they need to test it, Kingrey is the Communication Director and she can tell you on the number of deputies who have been north of Pella or east of Pella, Bussey, etc. Van Gorkom stated he can tell him that, but he still wants to do it. Sandholdt stated he understands and that is what he failed to realize. Hatch advised they have to have their hand and he would want the same thing. Wyman advised he has a repeater in his car, so maybe they can get Duane to program one of P25's to his repeater and then they can go around and drive around and see how it works. Hatch stated it seems like this testing can be done at minimal cost. Anderson confirmed that. Sandholdt stated where he was looking at it differently is that it's baby steps and he was hoping tonight that they could move forward quicker and he has realized that the for what his thoughts on it aren't their thoughts on it. Van Gorkom advised they have a big dollar figure they are talking about, so he thinks they need to crawl before they stand up and walk. Siebert asked if Pella would be the most difficult. It was stated that all departments have dead spots. Van Gorkom stated he knows they have dead spots and he wants to go to those dead spots and if he can get communication there then maybe he will say that the State tower isn't so bad after all, but he isn't going to do that until Sandholdt lets him go through dispatch. Sandholdt stated you have to take in to consideration that it's different then the old side of things. Sandholdt advised when you are north of Pella you could be hitting the Newton tower so you have to make sure your radio is programmed to be recognized on all of those different towers, so when your just north of the river bottoms that you can hit the Marion County tower because you might be hitting the Newton DOT tower. Hatch asked if everyone is comfortable in that direction of getting a hold of the Sherriff. Van Gorkom advised he has to get a hold of Duane first and see if they can get what they need. Sandholdt stated to make it easier, whether it be the mobile in his car or someone else's car, without going through a lot of programming costs or changes, whoever wants to go, if they don't like riding with him ride with one of the deputies and it will be the same spot, so you don't have to do all the reprogramming, just go and test the radio and if the radio works it will work in theirs. He stated it's the same thing, it's the same principle and you won't have to pay the additional cost of programming and moving. Van Gorkom asks Sandholdt if he is he saying that his walkie like he has and they could get in the car with them, take that radio and go, what about his P25 that says Sheriff on it. Sandholdt states have them grab his old P25 radio and say let's pretend you have a P25 VHF and it's the same principle. Wyman stated all of their P25's are programmed to his repeater as well. Sandholdt asks on that right now with the repeater, the 300, their VHF handhelds are on there, has he tried to go from that VHF through the repeater through the 700 system yet. Wymand advised he has not as he didn't know it was possible. Hatch and Raymied advised they need to work that out. Anderson stated to take the testing offline and figure it out behind the scenes. Slycord stated with the testing don't forget to go in to homes. Van Gorkom advised he intends to. Slycord stated Mahaska County is finding that it cost so much is to get the in building coverage as well. She stated don't forget to test inside and be specific with if you are testing with Michelle, or Pella PD, be specific where you are, inside or outside. Sandholdt stated if you are in a basement there are going to be times you aren't going to get out, regardless of what tower you are on. He stated if you want 99.9% coverage it's millions and millions and millions to get there. Slycord stated, but it's millions and millions if a responder gets shot in a house and we didn't do our due diligence. Sandholdt stated the troopers said the exact same thing when they decided to utilize it. The State Patrol is not

going to put a trooper in danger in a basement, so you can use that argument all day long, but by saying that you are saying the Iowa State Patrol, the Iowa DNR and the Iowa DOT don't care about their guys because they didn't get 99.8% and that's his point. Slycord didn't say they didn't care about their people she just wants them to know to go in to buildings and don't just drive around.

8. *Establish next meeting date:* Anderson advised before a meeting date is set he recommends they do not have the next 911 meeting on the same night as EMA because the agenda could be long. He advised he has been working through some serious addressing issues in the Pella area that have risen to a political point that Chairmen Raymie has gotten involved. Anderson advised all he will mention is that Raymie made the comment to him when he gave him an update was that it may be time for the readdressing of the county to come back as a conversation on the agenda. Raymie has experienced firsthand now the difficulties this staff has in taking care of our requirements. Raymie advised they have looked at the 28E with the City of Pella. Pella and Marion County at Pella's request have been looking at recrafting that 28E. He advised there used to be specific zones of influence, there was an A, B and C zone and Pella no longer wants to have any say over B and C and just want A. He advised the zone closes to the city limits of Pella would still fall under this agreement. Raymie stated that 28E's of this nature are unusual anyway and Pella's own city attorney confirmed that. It's not usually how it is done. Raymie has agreed with the City Manager Nardini to go a head and there is a group from Marion County and a group from Pella meeting to recraft that 28E. He stated what is coming up in the course of this discussion is that as Pella grows there is a lot of adhoc readdressing going on and although he understands sometimes you have to make some expedient decisions, but because of the growth it's becoming problematic for 911. In other words we aren't able to have maybe two Idaho Drives or two pick your street name, that's not going to work because you guys are going to get an address and it's going to be the wrong house. That's a problem and Raymie has asked Anderson to address that with them. Raymie advised the NENA Standards are going to control in this discussion. He advised they are not going to have one addressing system for a city and one for the county, it's not going to work anymore. Raymie advised that is part of the discussion Anderson is talking about and they need to have this discussion at the next meeting. There will be a cost if they need to add addresses to alleviate the situation going on in Pella with this growth, which is good, but they can't just fix these the way it used to be done, which was hey just call the sign guy and he'll come up with a street name. Hatch asked when they say countywide do they mean everyone in the City of Knoxville also. Anderson advised unincorporated areas. Anderson advised they are back to the conversation from a couple years ago where they go from the four digit maximum address to five. Hatch asked what does that impact if they have talked about that before, if Anderson can give them that number. He knows there are issues out there, but does it impact 4% of the population, is it worth changing everyone in the county because of 4%, is it 35% because then you have a number that's got something. Anderson stated he probably didn't do a good enough job the first time at articulating the need, but Raymie saw it in about ten minutes with him the other day, where Anderson literally has like three vacant addresses period. Sandholdt asked if these are addresses are out in the county. Anderson confirmed. Sandholdt asked if they as the Sherriff's office can be a part of the conversation since they are the ones that dispatch for it, they are the ones who respond to it, they are the ones who go to it and he knows nothing about what Anderson is talking about. As the Sherriff of Marion County he has no clue that there are these addressing issues, so can he be a part of these conversations.

Raymie advised sure and that it just came up as they were working on the 28E. That discussion is going to be brought before the Board eventually and again they need to evaluate how much they are dealing with, but with the growth of Pella, especially with the 28E and that non-incorporated zone the potential is we could have a lot of addresses impacted. Unless, we can come to an agreement with Pella that they can't just call us up and say they want Idaho drive extended as far as they can and they don't care what the numbering system is. That's not good, so that is the issue that we'll eventually address. Anderson stated they are going to let the RFP drive the next meeting date. If they all get the RFP and say we need to have a face-to-face to hammer this out, then it will be sooner than later. If it can be later then we'll wait until after the nationals and start looking at fall and they can incorporate an early snapshot of the budget.

9. *Adjourn meeting:* There was a motion by Van Gorkom and a second by Loonan to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kim Pettyjohn