

**Rock Springs, Green River, Sweetwater County Combined Communications
Joint Powers Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 26, 2021**

The Rock Springs, Green River, Sweetwater County Combined Communications Joint Powers Board held its regular meeting on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 5 Shoshone Avenue, Green River, Wyoming. Board members present included: Mera Souare via teleconference; Clark Allred, Jim Wamsley, Bill Erspamer, Alex Visser, and John Grossnickle. Board members absent were: Tom Jarvie, Shaun Sturlaugson, and Dwane Pacheco. Also in attendance were: Attorney George Lemich via teleconference; Rick Hawkins, executive director; David Halter, IT director; Drew Varley, accountant; Commissioner Roy Lloyd; Becca Thornock; and Cheryl Johnson.

Call to Order

Vice-Chairman John Grossnickle called the meeting to order at 2:31p.m.

Agenda for Regular Meeting

Grossnickle entertained a motion to approve the agenda as presented. A motion was made by Wamsley and seconded by Visser. Motion carried unanimously by board members.

Minutes from Regular Meeting

Grossnickle entertained a motion to approve the minutes from regular meeting March 29, 2021. A motion was made by Allred and seconded by Wamsley. Motion carried unanimously by board members.

Financial Report

Varley stated the interest income will be coming in short which was anticipated due to rate cuts. 911 funding is currently at 77.5% of the anticipated amount. The budget worksheet from Wyoming Department of Audit for fiscal year 2022 will be due by June 1, 2021. The preliminary budget will be submitted based off the Financial Committee's budget request and the cash carryover amount will be updated as they become more fine-tuned. Grossnickle entertained a motion to accept the March financial report. A motion was made by Allred and seconded by Wamsley. Motion carried unanimously by board members.

Comments from Floor

Commissioner Lloyd stated the commission has been meeting with other organizations independently to discuss budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. The Commission will set the schedule of when they'll be hearing from agencies for their budget requests at the May 18, 2021 meeting with those meeting starting in June 2021.

Executive Director Report

Hawkins stated budget submittals were made to County and City of Green River for fiscal year 2022. Hawkins attended Rock Springs' budget meeting for outside entities and presented the Board's budget request on April 21, 2021. A peer support training is scheduled for May 14, 2021 and employees of the Center will be attending. The two dispatch trainees are continuing to progress through the in-house training program. Their probation period has been extended from May 2021 to August 2021 to allow them both more time to work on their own during the training program. Hawkins will be presenting a proposal to the Board to change the probationary period for all future hires from a 6-month period to a 9- or 12-month period to allow for more time in training. Commissioner Lloyd asked what the turnover is like for dispatch. Hawkins stated typically there is one position open most times.

IT Director Report

Halter stated site visits with WYDOT and WyoLink were conducted for the proposed WyoLink sites at 14 Mile and Blairtown. It is anticipated that mid-May 2021 is when ground breaks will happen for both sites and Center equipment will be installed at the Blairtown site tentatively in July 2021. Halter requested that when programming radios, get with him first to make sure all of the correct channels are programmed in. The RSLE repeater at Rock Spring's hospital has been repaired and reinstalled.

Committee Reports

None reported.

Bills & Claims

Grossnickle entertained a motion to approve the bills and claims as presented. A motion was made by Wamsley and seconded by Allred. Motion carried unanimously by board members.

Correspondence

Union Telephone Right-of-Way Application

Notice was received from BLM stating that Union Telephone submitted a right-of-way application. The right-of-way would be in close proximity to the Aspen right-of-way that the Board voted on relinquishing at March's meeting. Therefore, no action needs to be taken.

BLM Right-of-Way: Cost Recovery Exemption

Another notice was received from BLM regarding the Latham Point right-of-way application that was submitted for renewal. The notice states there will not be a charge for BLM to inspect the site.

Wamsley made a motion to place both pieces of correspondence on file for reference for the minutes. Motion was seconded by Allred and carried unanimously by board members.

New Business

Hawkins stated a quote was received from Equature. Equature is a logging company for recording radio and phone traffic. Currently the Center uses NICE for recordings and the support for the system is set to expire soon. When the support is no longer there, it requires a complete replacement of servers, modules, software, etc., whatever is no longer supported, at a high cost. The current operating system that runs on the server and the browser being used to access the recorder is no longer supported and would need to be replaced. Hawkins and Halter met with Equature approximately a year ago and have now received the quote to replace the operating system. Moving to the Equature system would require the purchase of an interface to allow that system to work with Motorola radios and the current phone system. This would normally be an up-front cost of approximately \$50,000. That is not something the Center has to pay with NICE because NICE is partnered with Motorola and the State paid that cost on the Center's behalf with the Center first went online with Motorola. The current contract with NICE will be up for renewal and that is why the quote is now being presented to the Board for consideration. The quote from Equature shows the cost of the interface being spread out over 6 years. Currently approximately \$37,000 a year is paid towards NICE for maintenance and \$37,000 a year would be paid towards Equature which will include the Center receiving a new system. The Equature system is a managed solution so there would be hardware onsite that the Center will patrol for access but if a piece of the system breaks, Equature will pay for the replacement under the maintenance agreement at no additional fee to the Board. The \$37,000 annual cost includes maintenance. When the NICE contract ends, Equature would then take its place. At the end of the 6-year contract, if the Board chooses to continue with Equature, the annual fee would decrease and would include a hardware swap at that time. The recordings currently on the NICE system will stay on that system and will be kept running for 2 years. The \$37,000 has already been budgeted for since it is the same amount normally paid towards NICE. Allred made a motion to approve the contract and authorize the Vice-Chairman to sign. Motion was seconded by Wamsley and carried unanimously by board members.

Comments from the Chairman and Board

Wamsley thanked the dispatchers for the hard work they do on the responder's behalf.

Hawkins stated during Telecommunicator Appreciation week, dispatch crews decided to have individual celebrations. Vendors were sent thank you cards for all of the goodies they provided dispatch.

Grossnickle echoed Wamsley's sentiments and asked that dispatch be informed that the Board has their best interest in mind and will do the best that they can on the Center's behalf during these tough times.

Old Business

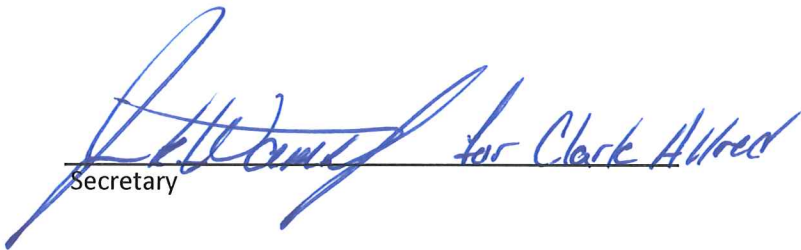
None noted.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the board was scheduled for Monday, May 24, 2021 at 5 Shoshone Avenue in Green River, WY.

Adjournment

Grossnickle entertained a motion for adjournment. A motion was made by Wamsley and seconded by Allred. Motion carried unanimously by board members. Meeting was adjourned at 3:07p.m.


Secretary

Date: 5/24/21


Chairman

Date: 5/24/21