



**Summary**  
**North Carolina 911 Board**  
**Funding Committee**

March 24, 2015

OSC Banner Elk Training Rm  
 3514-A Bush St, Raleigh NC

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/179645757>

To join the call: 888-808-6929 8153047#

1:30 - 4:00 PM

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Staff Present</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Jason Barbour	Tina Bone	Candy Strezenski
Andrew Grant by phone	Richard Bradford	Brenda Womble
Len Hagaman by phone	Ronnie Cashwell	Christy Shearin by phone
Laura Sykora	Dave Corn	
Randy Beeman	David Dodd by phone	
Dave Bone by phone	Marsha Tapler	
Del Hall	Richard Taylor	
Wesley Reid by phone	Jean Thaxton	
Tanya Pierce by phone		
<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Staff Absent</u>	
Tommy Cole		

**Tab 1 Chair's Opening Remarks**

Jason Barbour asked Richard Taylor to take role. He suggested we get right to work.

**Tab 2 Funding Reconsiderations**

**Chowan County**

Request for radio consoles is 10 years old and is no longer supported by XP. Jason asked Staff to confirm that these expenditures are for eligible expenses and Staff confirmed. Jason also noted this

would reduce the Fund Balance down to 20% allowable. Andrew Grant moved and Randy Beeman seconded the motion to approve. Motion approved.

#### **Johnston County**

Request for equipment purchased with their grant and it is reaching end of life cycle should be replaced. All expenses eligible. They are using fund balance. Asking for capital expenditures of \$1.6 million. Jason Barbour recused self. Laura Sykora motioned and Del Hall seconded. Motion approved.

#### **Macon County**

Laura Sykora abstained herself since it involves CenturyLink. They request the Board does not reduce fund balance because they paid for a phone system after the end of the fiscal year which made their fund balance appear inflated when the annual distribution calculations were made. They request to carry forward what was in fund balance on June 30, 2014. Richard Bradford suggested that a correction can be made to the December recommendation as long as Staff has documentation that Macon County paid the invoice. He suggested that the Committee change the distribution previously made. Motion to approve funding acknowledging expenditure that was not made in previous fiscal and instruct staff to take this into consideration. Randy Beeman motioned Del Hall seconded. Motion approved.

#### **Pender County**

The phone system is past obsolescence. Current system breaking down. They are requesting immediate funding because they are having trouble finding parts. Also included costs for a backup plan but the plan is not approved yet. The backup plan costs are not included. Backup plan involves moving to a new facility. Jason asked if they were close to having an approved backup plan. David said they were looking at a command post now with the construction as a new public safety facility in the future. No construction has been undertaken. They are requesting a lump sum now. They stated they do not want to use their fund balance. Marsha recommended we give them time to clean up and possibly receive an approved backup plan. Jason instructed Marsha to table this request until more clarification can be obtained.

#### **Person County**

Person County purchased from Motorola an A-911 system from Intrado. Requesting additional funds for increased selective routing costs. Intrado charges approximately 5 times more than current charges. Also requesting maintenance for quality assurance. Total funding request is for \$538,768. Randy asked when the equipment would be installed since Intrado is running 12 -14 months behind? Jason asked that the record reflect that this is not an Intrado quoted system but a Motorola quoted system. Richard pointed out the original quote was for Rutherford County. Discussion followed that funding was not necessary this fiscal year since system installation was so far in advance. Jason asked Staff to find out when installation would take place. The request was tabled.

#### **Vance County**

Requesting a capital purchase for furniture, mapping, and a recorder for the backup center. Fund balance is not available to be used. Equipment needs to be upgraded. Equipment is at end of life. They have already received a funding reconsideration. This is a request for an additional funding. Laura Sykora motions. Randy Beeman seconded. Motion approved.

#### **Tab 3 911 Fee for FY 2016**

Richard explained that we need to make a recommendation to the Board on what to do with the 911 fee. Marsha made a presentation of 911 Board income and expenses year to date with projections for next year. Marsha explained that income decreased 2% this year. Marsha and Richard also pointed out that the costs for new purchases and operational expenditures is high. Considerable discussion followed. Staff expressed concern over sufficient funding for Grants at a time when backup PSAPs need funding. Richard further pointed out that the 2% income decrease reflects a change in consumer spending and we need to look for a new revenue source. It was also pointed out that many counties and municipalities are sitting on their fund balances. Funding NextGen was discussed and the problem of funding two networks concurrently. The legislature is considering expanding the use of the fund balance. More discussion. The Committee agreed that raising the rate was inevitable but at the present time the Board needs more verifiable information to justify raising the fee. Once potential anticipated expenditures are submitted by the PSAPs the Board will have the justification it needs to raise the rate. Staff recommends that the Board not raise the rate. The current funding model is backward looking and encourages PSAPs not to obtain the best price. Randy Beeman motioned. Len Hegaman Seconded. The motion was to maintain the current rate at .60 cents. Motion approved.

#### **Tab 4 Implemental Functions**

Jason Barbour began by explaining that there may be a way to simplify the process. Richard Taylor explained that there are 3 functions that fall into an eligible expense: addressing, hardware maintenance, database maintenance. These reimbursements are not salaries. Many people are confused with this issue. Much staff time and energy has been lost trying to accommodate PSAPs on this issue. Staff has struggled with the managing Implemental function concept.

Richard Taylor is recommending that with some PSAPs receive an invoice from third party vendors that are sent to the Board for payment. Some PSAPs are supported by City or County technical staff. Richard Taylor recommended that the Board treat in-house service like service provided the out of house with an invoice. Let the county bill the 911 board and it will be accepted just like it was done by a private contractor. If a charge looks out of line the costs will still be questioned. Richard Taylor requests that this become the policy of the board. Tanya Pierce thinks we are making it easier to perpetuate the problem rather than solve the problem. Jason Barbour said if a county financial person signs an invoice they will execute their fiduciary responsibility. Andrew Grant thinks it is a good idea. Laura Sykora asked if this rule goes into affect on July 1 and Jason Barbour replied yes. Jason Barbour requested that at the next Funding Committee meeting that the Committee look at those PSAPs that may be abusing use of the Fund. Laura Sykora moved that implemental functions be reimbursed by interagency invoicing. Randy seconded the motion. Motion approved.

#### **Tab 5 PSAware Software App**

Richard Taylor explained in August that Donna Wright brought a request before the Committee of an application that was developed by Southern Software. It sends CAD and other information to a wireless device. At the time the application just transmitted e-mail. And at the time Mr. Bradford expressed concerns about network security and some technical issues. Since that time the application has been fully developed. It is one way only transmission to the field units. There is no access to the CAD. After reviewing it Richard Bradford does not think there is a security issue and Richard sees no problem no

problem with it. Essentially it allows fire responders to map the call. The request is to add PSAware to the list of approved expenditures. This technology is already approved (Page Gate) and the request to just add this to the list. Staff recommendation is to approve this product and is bringing this back to the Committee as information only.

### **Tab 6 Discussion**

Jason Barbour referenced the Chair's easy button concept. Richard Taylor explained that currently if a piece of equipment or software has multiple uses that we only pay a portion of the cost. Using CAD as an example if a piece of software is being used for something outside the PSAP that a percentage of the CAD and the software will be reimbursed by the 911 Board.

Jason Barbour suggested that it is inconsistent to fully fund aerial photography to be used by any public or private agency that wants to without charging them a percentage. Richard Bradford suggested that this analogy is not germane to this conversation, mixing apples with oranges. Jason Barbour using a work station as an example suggested that PSAP were using older equipment because the PSAP puts other functions on it. Richard Taylor explained that no PSAPs is going without appropriate work station and other equipment and explained it is the decision of the PSAP to install on and/or use that equipment for non-911 functionality. That is a PSAP decision. Jason Barbour reiterated that the percentage payment issue is a problem.

Tanya asked if the 911 Board funds could pay for a server regardless of what goes on a work station? Jason Barbour would like to put a cap on equipment regardless of what software goes on the equipment. He suggested that Marsha has the data to show what different pieces of equipment cost.

Richard Taylor asked Richard Bradford what can we legally do? Richard Bradford replied that as a funding model approach the Board can certainly take this direction. The problem up to now has been that the data has not been available to determine what the values should be for each piece of hardware and software on the eligible expenditures list. Now that we have sufficient data he urged staff to analyze the data to come up with the appropriate values. It will not be an easy task. But, it would not require a statutory change if the data is properly analyzed. He set the expectation that separating PSAPs by operational characteristics will be necessary such as number of calls, population served, etc. Anything we do to set a value will have to include a way to move forward, change, reconcile, and quickly resolve disputes. For example the change in licensing over the years has changed how PSAPs request funding.

Jason Barbour asked Staff to see what hardware and software we could apply the easy button concept to. Laura Sykora said if there was a significant variation in the allowable cost and the actual cost they could request a funding reconsideration. Randy Beeman asked if this is a language line process where we use economies of scale? Randy Beeman wanted to go out to bid for language line to provide quantity cost savings. Laura Sykora agreed and suggested that the state contract price is about as low as prices will be for PSAPs and we should encourage PSAPs to use it.

Jason Barbour requested that Marsha Tapler put together a list of the low hanging fruit of items to gather information on, analyze data and determine simplified pricing. Also was asked what items are recurringly purchased? Jason Barbour asked if can we do this data mining with the staff we have on hand? Staff and

Richard Bradford discussed how detailed the data analysis model needs to be. Jason Barbour suggested we start with workstations and admin lines because those appear to be easier.

**Set Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be April 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 PM

**Meeting Adjourned**