



# Tama County 911 Communications

100 North Main Street • PO Box 4 • Toledo, Iowa 52342  
Office – 641-484-3760 • Fax – 641-484-2198



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## **July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 911 Service Board Minutes**

The Tama County 911 Service Board meeting was called to order by 911 Service Board Chair Billie Van Egmond (Dysart) at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Members present in person:** Tyler Sell (Traer), Mary Wankowicz (Emergency Management), Jason Bina (Tama), David Turner (Board of Supervisors), Billie Van Egmond (Dysart), Linda Pearson (Clutier), Bryan Staker (Montour), Joe Boll (Toledo), Kendall Jordan (Toledo), Daryl Bazal (Vining)

**Members present via Microsoft Teams:** Levio 'Lee' Simcox (Meskwaki), Alicia Lidtke (Elberon)

**Others in attendance:** Jacob Reineke (911 Director), Ryan Goodenbour (EMA Coordinator), Gregory Westwater (Gladbrook), Glenn Thorne (Traer), Carrie Holst (Traer)

**Agenda Approval:** A motion was made by Pearson (Clutier) to approve the July 8, 2025, meeting agenda and seconded by Boll (Toledo). All ayes. Motion carried.

**Minutes Approval:** A motion was made by Bina (Tama) to approve the April 8, 2025, and June 11, 2025 (email meeting) minutes and seconded by Pearson (Clutier). All ayes. Motion carried.

**Claims Approval:** Chair Van Egmond (Dysart) made an inquiry regarding charges in the "RACOM Maintenance Agreement" expense line on page 2 of the Account Detail Sheet attached with the agenda packet. Director Reineke explained to the board that each tower site is required to have rectifiers to convert the alternating current (AC) power to direct current (DC) power for the tower to function properly. RACOM advised Reineke that tower sites must have 2 rectifiers working to operate as designed out of the 4. RACOM advised that the Vining Tower Site has 3 currently that are not working. RACOM advised warranty replacements may be able to recoup the costs associated with the rectifiers. Grundy REC was at the site recently to install a meter between the feed into the site and the rectifier to see if the issue is related to intake or something else. Turner (Board of Supervisors) inquired about this taking the site offline. Director Reineke mentioned that RACOM did not specifically mention any concerns with that but would verify. RACOM advised the lead time on these replacements is February 2026. The same company provides power to the Traer Tower Site as well and has not suffered these issues.

A motion was made by Simcox (Meskwaki) to approve claims and seconded by Pearson (Clutier). All aye. Motion carried.



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## Old Business

**Cellsite Tower Locks:** Director Reineke advised the 911 Service Board that the claim had been submitted to the Tama County Auditors Office back in mid-June. The Tama County Auditor's Office advised that they sent CellSite Solutions, LLC. a W9 form to fill out and had not heard back. Director Reineke reached out to CellSite Solutions, LLC. and was able to get a W9 form in hand on Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, which was forwarded to the Tama County Auditor's Office. Once CellSite Solutions, LLC. receives our remittance, they will contact Director Reineke to coordinate the installation. Definitive dates are unknown, but Director Reineke hoped for early fall at the latest. Chair Van Egmond (Dysart) asked if the price would change due to the timeline, and CellSite Solutions, LLC. advised that the pricing is locked in at what was quoted (\$7925.00).

**Eventide Recorder:** Director Reineke advised the 911 Service Board that he reached out to Wahltek (Eventide) and spoke with project manager, Jeff Yates. Yates advised they have placed the order for the Eventide Recording Equipment. Yates quoted Reineke about August 5, 2025, for them to receive the equipment and will contact Reineke after that for implementation. Chair Van Egmond (Dysart) inquired if the installation would take the Communications Center out of service at all. Reineke advised Van Egmond that this piece is external to the radio and phone systems and will not impact operations.

## New Business

**911 Director Introduction & Updates:** Director Reineke introduced himself to the 911 Service Board members in attendance. Reineke stated that he currently lives in Belle Plaine but is no stranger to Tama County 911 Communications. Reineke advised that he has been employed with Tama County as an on-call dispatcher since late 2015 and remained employed with Tama County as he took on full-time roles in Benton County and later with the Iowa Department of Public Safety Interoperability and Communications Bureau. Reineke advised that he has a lot to learn about this position, but takes it one step at a time, learning something new daily. Reineke stated he has big dreams for Tama County 911 Communications and will continue to move onward and upward.

Pearson (Clutier) inquired about Reineke moving to Tama County in the future. Reineke advised Pearson that his plan is to remain in the Belle Plaine area going forward as his child will be attending school in Keystone and attend a program in Cedar Rapids, leaving Belle Plaine as a nice halfway point. Chair Van Egmond (Dysart) advised the board that Reineke lives within the residency restrictions and that was vetted before they interviewed him.



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Peason (Clutier) also inquired about siren testing in Clutier. She advised that the last test was not completed at the right time, leaving citizens concerned and confused about when the tests are. Reineke stated that he was operating off the old 911 Director's calendar and was informing 911 staff based on those. Chair Van Egmond (Dysart) recommended Pearson (Clutier) contact Director Reineke outside of the meeting to find resolve on her inquiry.

Director Reineke provided updates on the following topics:

- 911 signs were located behind a door that need to be distributed to requesting citizens, Reineke is working on this currently and is making new signs as well.
- Meeting with RACOM later soon on the maintenance agreement and get better understanding of the SARA system.
- Reineke created a Code of Conduct policy to protect the agency in addition to the Tama County Employee Handbook and Teamsters 238 Union Contract. Other policies are being written currently.
- Reineke discovered that some 911 trunking bills were supposed to be transferred to IAHSEMD (State 911) back when Shared Services went live in Tama County. Reineke is working with local telephone companies and State to remedy this oversight. This has cost Tama County 911 Communications approximately \$30,203.36 since about June 2021. Turner (Board of Supervisors) inquired if these costs could be recouped, and Director Reineke stated they could not, but Tama County 911 Communications should not have to pay going forward.
- Reineke stated he is trying to make time to go out and meet the responders out in the field as time allows.

**Senate File 659:** Director Reineke advised that Senate File 659 was passed through the Iowa Legislature quickly back in May and signed into law by Governor Reynolds back in June. This law enables Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (IAHSEMD) to bill Iowa counties for "reasonable" expenses related the Shared Services instead of splitting wireless surcharge funds in a 60 us, 40 them fashion in the past. IAHSEMD released numbers to agencies in June, and it was discovered that this law will impact the 911 wireless surcharge funds by about \$29,000 over the next year. Director Reineke explained that he is looking over the budget to see if items can be cut back or if a budget amendment is necessary to handle the impact of this bill. IAHSEMD released a form where Iowa counties can sign a Memorandum of Understanding with them to allow them to send Iowa counties a check for whatever portion of money they receive after IAHSEMD removes their portion. Director Reineke was initially interested in this option to alleviate the administrative burden of the new law, however, after speaking with other agencies in the area, the MOU seems less valuable as IAHSEMD should explain what they are pulling the extra funding for. Turner (Board of



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Supervisors) suggested that Tama County 911 avoid the MOU for now to allow funds to generate interest in accounts before having to pay back IAHSMD. Chair Van Egmond (Dysart) advised that the remittance going back to IAHSMD will not need board approval as this is a regular, recurring expense. Sell (Traer) advised that it would be best to see what the administrative costs (for Tama County and IAHSMD) would be compared to the interest generated and then decide on the MOU or not, as the administrative costs may fall back on Tama County 911 regardless. Director Reineke advised Tama County 911 has 30 days from the date the check is received to pay IAHSMD back for what they are owed. Boll (Toledo) inquired about where the surcharge fees were generated, and Reineke advised it is based on population and number of calls.

**Meskwaki Nation Police Department Talkgroup Encryption/Adjustment:** Director Reineke advised that Meskwaki Nation PD approached him about intention to encrypt their MNPD1 talkgroup, which would have resulted in 2 encrypted talkgroups for their agency, when common practice is one encrypted and one unencrypted talkgroup. Reineke approached Chair Van Egmond (Dysart) and Vice Chair Sell (Traer) about this, which they stated that these changes needed to be approved by the 911 Service Board. Director Reineke advised Meskwaki Nation PD of this, which led to another proposal by them where they requested to delete the unencrypted talkgroup for their department, which still would have required 911 Service Board approval. After discussion between Director Reineke and Meskwaki Nation PD Command Staff, it was agreed upon to flip the talkgroups on the console, leaving Meskwaki Nation PD with their primary talkgroup being encrypted and the unencrypted talkgroup service as an event talkgroup. This change was the least impactful for Tama County 911 Communications and the other departments as well. This resolution did not require Tama County 911 Service Board action as the infrastructure did not change, and reprogramming burdens do not fall on other departments.

There was also discussion between Director Reineke and Jordan (Toledo) about some points that were not clear on the RACOM service agreement and who is responsible for management for the system. Director Reineke advised he will meet with RACOM and get further details but stressed the need for written process when changes to the system are requested.

Director Reineke also mentioned that he met with Meskwaki Nation PD Command staff, and they had inquired about if they are included in the RACOM maintenance agreement. Jordan (Toledo) was not sure on this as he believed that Meskwaki Nation PD purchased their equipment up front and was not able to verify if they are included in the maintenance agreement or not. Reineke will verify with RACOM. This led Director Reineke to share with the board that the new contract costs for 2025 fiscal year was sent to Meskwaki Nation PD to discuss with the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi Tribal Council and requested a response by August 1, 2025, if they felt the numbers needed to change.



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**Poweshiek County Communications MOU for Talkgroup Sharing:** Deputy Joe Meyer with Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office reached out to Director Reineke about adding unencrypted law enforcement and fire department talkgroups into their consoles in their dispatch center. Poweshiek County already has an MOU with Tama County to have our talkgroups in their portables, but not in their actual dispatch consoles. Discussions with Deputy Meyer led to a mutual desire for receive only capability to ensure that event talkgroups are not circumvented in instances where mutual aid responses are needed. Chelsea Fire Department has a response area into Poweshiek County, so they request Tama County's Fire Ops. Sheriff Schmidt will be contacted about sharing Law 1 with them as well as they border Tama County to the south. Sell (Traer) asked Director Reineke how he felt about it, and Reineke replied that he thought it was not a bad idea. Simcox (Meskwaki) suggested that the 911 Service Board approve sharing Tama County's Fire Ops talkgroup with Poweshiek County and conditionally approve sharing Law 1 with Poweshiek County based on approval from Sheriff Schmidt. Pearson (Clutier) inquired about why Poweshiek County would want this, and Director Reineke shared that it would give them more of a heads up on incidents that might involve them.

A motion was made by Bina (Tama) to allow Poweshiek County to add Tama County Fire Ops to their consoles and conditionally approve allowing Poweshiek County to add Law 1 to their console with permission from Sheriff Schmidt. Seconded by Wankowicz (EMA). All ayes. Motion carried.

**Chair Van Egmond (Dysart) shared that the next 911 Service Board meeting will be held Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 6:30 PM at the Tama County Engineer's Office Meeting Room.**

A motion for adjournment by Bina (Tama), seconded by Pearson (Clutier). All ayes. Motion carried.

The Tama County 911 Service Board meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacob Reineke, Tama County 911 Communications Director