

**SALINE COUNTY 911 BOARD MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES**

February 1, 2024

The Saline County 911 Board met at the OEM Building on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 9 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Saline County Judge Matt Brumley
Benton Mayor Tom Farmer
Benton Fire Chief Russ Evans
Bryant Police Chief Carl Minden
Bryant Fire Chief JP Jordan
Bryant Interim Mayor Rhonda Sanders
Saline County Sheriff Rodney Wright
Saline County OEM Director Jerry Cohen
Saline County OEM Fire Service Coordinator Stuart Duke
Pafford Ambulance Operations Manager David Chreene

Board Member Absent:

Benton Police Chief Scotty Hodges

Others attending meeting:

Communications Manager Staci Winberry, Assistant Communications Manager Deanne Owen, Saline County Comptroller Angie Drummond, Bryant Police Asst Chief JW Plouch. Bryant Fire Asst Chief Brandon Futch

The Saline County 911 Board meeting was called to order by Saline County Judge Matt Brumley at 9:01 a.m.

Saline County Judge Matt Brumley presented the Minutes to the board from the last meeting on November 30, 2023. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Benton Mayor Tom Farmer and 2nd by Bryant Fire Chief JP Jordan. Minutes approved.

Consolidation Update: Communications Manager Staci Winberry gave an update on the consolidation of Bryant dispatch with Saline County dispatch. The last update from AT&T is that they are working on the eight new 911 interfaces. They just need a set date and will install the new interface.

Training for Spillman: Assistant Communications Manager Deanne Owen gave an update on the CAD consolidation and training. Dispatchers have been given a packet for them to practice while using it and looking for specific things as well as a CAD test after that can be put in personnel files to ensure all are efficient on the equipment.

Combiner Update: Saline County OEM Director Jerry Cohen gave an update on the combiner. Motorola said the predicted shipment date of the combiner will be February

14th. Saline County OEM Director Jerry Cohen spoke with Motorola about the shipment date and will learn if the date still works for them. Arkansas Valley will likely come to put in the Bryant radios and get them in the system, even though the combiner has not yet arrived. The radio screens will need to be reconfigured for communications with the addition of new radios. There is discussion about adding the VHF fire frequency for Bryant as their backup for communications. The goal is to have a March 3rd turnover. This is liable to change depending upon when the combiner is received.

Policy Change for County Fire Departments: Saline County OEM Fire Service Coordinator Stuart Duke brought forth an issue fire departments were having with communications. It has been brought to the OEM's attention that the volunteer fire departments were having problems when they went to fire calls. The way they were dispatched and the way they were to communicate back with the 911 center did not work for them. Fire departments are dispatched on fire channel 1 and then they go to their assigned fire channel. If the incident commander needs to communicate with dispatch again they have to flip in between fire channel 1 and the channel they are managing the fire on. The issues arise because when something is happening on a fire scene, dispatch may be able to hear it but the IC may not hear it. Another issue is the time it takes for the fire IC to get back on the correct channel. Miscommunications have occurred when the wrong channel is being used. Saline County OEM Director Jerry Cohen, Saline County OEM Fire Service Coordinator Stuart Duke, Communications Manager Staci Winberry, and Assistant Communications Manager Deanne Owen all looked into it and discovered issues with the way the policy was written in the countywide SOG for fire. It was recommended to the Fire Association to pick someone to work on that policy. Those steps were followed and the policy will be brought back to 911 communications at the next month's meeting to ask if this will work for them. We want 911 communications to have a standard and professional policy in place. A solution has been found, it is now in the process of being completed. Communications Manager Staci Winberry is working with them to ensure that policy is in line with what 911 capabilities are. Dispatch will be monitoring the volunteer fire department channels now.

Saline County Judge Matt Brumley brought up the potential for the Pafford contract extension. The EMS Board meeting was supposed to occur two weeks past, but had been canceled. They will be voting on whether or not to extend the preexisting contract. The chair of that meeting was going to recommend going forward with the contract with Pafford. Today is the day to communicate with Pafford to extend the contract and Saline County Judge Matt Brumley has communicated to Jamie Pafford that there is a desire to extend the contract, but that official decision is pending the next EMS Board meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn from Benton Mayor Tom Farmer and 2nd by Saline County Sheriff Rodney Wright. Meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.