

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GEORGIA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY**

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2021  
9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM  
CLASSIC CENTER: OCONEE RIVER ROOM  
ATHENS, GEORGIA

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

Billy Hancock, *Chairperson*  
William Wright, *Secretary*  
Angie Bowen (*in place of Cheryl Greathouse*)  
Amy Oneacre  
Greg Whitaker  
Billy Grogan  
Pete Olson  
Ted Wynn  
Steve Nichols  
Brian Screws

**Board Members Absent:**

Alex Lee, *Vice Chairperson*  
Steve Horton  
Michael Wall

The Georgia Emergency Communications Authority held a board meeting on March 1, 2022, at the Classic Center in Athens, Georgia. A List of Attendees, an Agenda, and the Meeting Presentation are attached hereto and made official parts of these minutes as Attachments #1, #2 and #3. Billy Hancock called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

All board members are present except Alex Lee, Steve Horton, and Michael Wall.

Chairperson Hancock welcomed everyone to the meeting and the conference call.

**Roll Call**

**Approval of Minutes**

Hancock made a motion to approve the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Steve Nichols made a motion to approve the minutes. William Wright seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Board Presentations**

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for board presentations. There were no board presentations.

**Executive Director's Update**

Director Michael Nix provided an update on Georgia Emergency Communications Authority's (GECA) current projects. An update on finances were presented to the board. Nix presented the dollar amount that the state has collected in revenues in FY22 – which tracked as a slight increase from the previous year. Thus, GECA brought in about 1.58 million dollars during FY22.

There is a little over 3 million dollars for contingencies in the budget. Next, Nix discussed specific line items in the budget, including 4 new vehicles that will be delivered this year. GECA purchased Expeditions instead of Explorers. IT and equipment costs increased slightly to ensure that the grant cycle went through without discrepancies. Nix went on to discuss the 911 Training Grant, which closed in January.

#### *NG-911 RFP Update*

The RFP Committee is responsible for reviewing RFP specifications and scoring RFP responses. Director Nix expressed his gratitude to the five committee members for the work they have done thus far (Pete Olson, Russ Palmer, Daniel Dunlap, Gus Richmond, John Potrzebowski, and Kevin Garner). They've held had two RFP review calls thus far – one on February 4 and on March 4. During the first call, the committee discussed “where we are and where we came from,” to “where we need to go” regarding the RFP and the grant. The second call was primarily a deep dive into the RFP document itself and discussing some of the non-technical requirements. The committee created a list of what they would like to see in the RFP. They created “standards” with an emphasis with interoperability in and out of the state, as well as an emphasis on cybersecurity. A third call is scheduled for Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Focus on the technical specifications on the RFP. Nix foresees an additional two or three more meetings until the end of the grant (in June 2022). He fully expects to do some additional work through the RFP with another contract with Mission Critical Partners once the grant closes.

#### *Mission Critical Partners (MCP) Update*

Director Nix opened the floor to Natalie Lee, with MCP, who gave an update on the status for GIS data. There are upcoming training and workshops that are available on their website for bard members to keep up with what's new with GIS data tracking. Some workshops are technical in nature, so are more for data people, however they are all open to public. Some are high-level in awareness that tells viewers what data is needed for NG-911 and why it matters. Moreover, boundary reconciliation workshops are underway. The first occurred in Chatham County. Baselineing is underway. They have a current map of how the state is set up now – their goal is to have more coverage by the fall. To do so, they need to validate geospatial datasets statewide. Lastly, Natalie discussed the Geospatial Advisory Council, which is codified by law. However, one has not yet been set up in Georgia. The job of this council is to collect state, local, federal and no n-profit partners to create a coalition that remains on the same page of what each entity is working on as it relates to GIS databases. Finally, upon the grant close-out, MCP plans to publish the GIS Strategy for review by the NG-911 working group. They will be publishing the reconciliation playbook, that describes what it looks like to get together and reconcile boundary lines. They're also seeking new members for the GIS NG-911 Working Group.

#### *Legislation Update*

Director Nix took the floor to discuss 911 related legislation, SB76 (Comprehensive NG-911 Bill) that was introduced last year does not expect to have any movement during this legislative session. SB84 will add communication officers to POAB. The bill passed 52-2 a few weeks ago and is awaiting a hearing in House Retirement Committee. Nix has had a meeting with the House Retirement Committee Chair to discuss the direction on this bill. SB505 (Telephone CPR bill)

that American Heart Association introduced, allows continuing education hours for telecommunicators. They had about 60 participants in the first class.

As for newer bills, HB855 was mentioned in the last board meeting; however, a companion bill to that – SB484 – was introduced that would add PTSD as an eligible injury to be covered under Workers’ Comp for First Responders. Emergency Telecommunicators are listed under the definition of “First Responders.” Moreover, SB542, which is the Broadband Resiliency bill, will allow the Public Service Commission to adopt rules/regulations that include requirements for outage reporting, and to review preparedness plans to ensure a minimum power back-up plan. However, Director Nix doesn’t expect this bill to move this session. Lastly, Director Nix discussed HB1456 – Zadok’s Call Bill, that was introduced yesterday.

### *ARPA Update*

Director Nix announced that GECA is still waiting on an announcement from the Governor’s Office and the Office of Planning and Budget to release the award projects for the Negative Economic Impact category of which our application sits. Broadband awards were released a month ago. Water/Sewage Infrastructure awards were released a week ago. Negative Economic Impact is the only category that is left, where 1,200 applications were submitted. As of today, there is no estimate on an announcement date.

### *2022 Events*

MCV Exercise taking place at Lake Blackshear on March 14-18, 2022. The Spring 911 Directors’ Academy is scheduled for March 28-April 1, 2022. The COML Course is scheduled for May 2-5, 2022 in Forsyth. The Fall 911 Directors’ Academy is scheduled for October 2-7, 2022. Lastly, tentative Board Meetings are scheduled for June 14, September 13 and December 13, however they are subject to change due to calendar updates.

### **Old Business**

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for old business. There was no old business to discuss.

### **New Business**

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for new business. There was no old business to discuss.

### **Public Comment:**

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for public comment. On behalf of the Board, Sheriff Hancock thanked Director Nix for his service to the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority, as this is his last Board Meeting as Executive Director. Nix accepted a position at Chick-Fil-A and will begin his new job in mid-March.

Director Nix thanked the group immensely for the support and provision over the last four years as Executive Director of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Sheriff Hancock called for a motion to adjourn. William Wright seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:56 AM.

These minutes are hereby approved and adopted this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June 2022

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Billy Hancock  
Chairperson

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William Wright  
Secretary

Official Attachments:

1. List of Attendees
2. Agenda
3. Meeting Presentation

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Greg Whitaker  
Billy Grogan  
Pete Olson  
Ted Wynn  
Steve Nichols

**GECA Staff Members:**

Michael Nix  
Aleisha Rucker-Wright  
Bess Larson  
Skylar Whitaker  
LaTonya Turner  
Amy Ramsey  
Jonathan Jones  
Tammy Smith  
Pamela Waters

**9-1-1 Advisory Panel:**

Tamika Kendrick, Emory Police Department  
Daniel Dunlap, Augusta-Richmond County  
Russ Palmer, Chatham County 911  
Barry Woodward, City of Decatur 911  
John Blalock, Floyd County 911  
Jason Lawson, Troup County 911  
Lynn Smith, Habersham County 911

**Others Attending:**

Natalie Lee