

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

THURSDAY JUNE 29, 2023

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/HOMELAND SECURITY AGENCY HEADQUARTERS

(GEMA/HS HQ)

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

Billy Hancock, *Chairman*

Alex Lee, *Vice Chairman*

Rhonda Chatham

Barry Woodward

Brian Screws

Billy Grogan

Ted Wynn

Steve Nichols

Vernica Crockett

Amy Oneacre

**Board Members Absent:**

Cheryl Greathouse

Douglas Jamieson

Scott Wood

Rich Johnson

The Georgia Emergency Communications Authority held a board meeting on June 29, 2023, at the GEMA/HS Headquarters in Atlanta, 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. Chairperson Sheriff Billy Hancock called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

All board members are present except Cheryl Greathouse, Douglas Jamieson, Scott Wood and Rich Johnson.

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

**Roll Call**

**Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson Sheriff Billy Hancock made a motion to approve the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Barry Woodward made a motion to approve the minutes. Brian Screws seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for Old Business. Following order on the agenda, GECA's Executive Director, Greg Whitaker, gave an update on the Internal Financial Audit.

*Internal Financial Audit Update*

Rushton Accounting and Business Advisors conducted an internal audit for GECA starting in 2022. GECA has paid Rushton for their services and their scope of work has been completed.

Prior to this board meeting, Greg Whitaker provided the board with a packet including the most recent report that Rushton generated. Greg Whitaker opened the floor for questions. Chairman Billy Hancock made a comment that the board found nothing of concern and opened the floor for questions. No member had questions.

### **New Business**

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for new business. Following order on the agenda, the following presentations were made:

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

Given that several new board members were sworn-in prior to this meeting, GECA Deputy Director, Aleisha Rucker-Wright, offered a brief explanation to the history of the relationship between GECA and MCP. MCP was brought on by grant-funding in 2018.

GECA is currently requesting approval of \$50,000 in the budget to reinstate the partnership with MCP. In short – since the commencement of the grant, MCP has helped GECA with allocating pertinent information and workgroups to determine where the State of Georgia is in readiness for Next Generation 911. With the contract end-date approaching, Aleisha informs the board of the importance of GECA’s relationship with MCP as it pertains to the State of Georgia getting closer to obtaining NG-911.

Chris Faircloth and Robert Horne, MCP employees, took the floor and introduced themselves. Robert informed that he will be the Project Manager if their contract with GECA is renewed. His presentation focused on the detailed scope of work that they have equipped for GECA since 2018. He emphasized how each individual project has assisted GECA’s operations and efforts towards preparing the state of Georgia for NG-911.

Robert continued his presentation with how they would like to move forward. Based on all the knowledge collected over the course of 5 years, they would like to create a NG-911 Strategic Roadmap. The intent of a roadmap is to be a resource. GECA and Georgia PSAPs can use it as a tool or checklist, as the state gets closer to obtaining a statewide, IP-operating 911 service. He described their proposed-approach, including specific tactics that must take place to generate additional information before creating the Strategic Roadmap. He then opened the floor for questions. Several questions were asked and promptly answered.

#### *Georgia Geospatial Information Office (GIO) Presentation*

Deputy Director, Aleisha Rucker-Wright, introduced Natalie Lee and Susan Miller, with the GIO office to give an overview of their main focus: Is the state of Georgia ready for NG-911? Susan described the work they do towards GIS planning, roadmap creation, baselining, strategy development on next steps, sustainability plans, and more. Susan requested the continuation of partnership with GECA. The remainder of her presentation summarized how far the state of Georgia has come in their readiness for GIS planning since 2021. For instance, Georgia received a *D+* in the 2021 National Test on Geospatial Maturity Assessment. However, with the partnership with GIO, Georgia’s grade is going up. The 2023 National Test on Geospatial Maturity Assessment grade will likely be higher because, so far, Road Sidelines and Addresses have both gone from an *F* grade to a *C*. Susan then gave the floor to Natalie, discussed next steps

for GIO in Georgia, including details on how the state can obtain GIS data starting from a local level. Natalie described the various statewide GIS data program options that the state can choose from, including accompanying expenditures. Susan opened the floor for questions. Several questions were asked and promptly answered. Chairperson Billy Hancock asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, the board moved on to the next agenda item.

### *Budget*

GECA Deputy Director, Aleisha Rucker-Wright, took the floor with the budget presentation. She discussed revenue allocations, reserve collections, year-to-date expenditures through April of 2023. GECA has come under budget due to several personnel line items that were placed on a hiring hold. However, GECA still anticipates the need to fill those positions. Aleisha proceeded with a presentation for FY 2024. GECA is requesting the same \$1.9 million for the budget next year with a majority of the expenses being personnel. She gave several details regarding specific line items. Aleisha then opened the floor for questions. Chairperson Billy Hancock made a comment regarding the budget and commending GECA on spending well. He then made a motion to approve the budget. Billy Grogan moved to approve the budget. Ted Wynn seconded the motion. Chairman Billy Hancock asked if there was any further discussion. No questions or comments were asked. The 2024 Budget was passed unanimously.

### *Election of Board Officers*

Chairman Billy Hancock opened the floor for Election of Board Officers. As Chairman, he decided to step back for Vice Chair, Alex Lee, to speak up for the proceeding vote for Chairperson.

### Chairperson

Vice Chair, Alex Lee, opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson. Barry Woodward nominated Sherrif Billy Hancock as Chairman. Alex Lee asked the board for any opposing thoughts or discussion. Hearing none, he asked for a vote. The vote for Chairperson passed unanimously. Sheriff Billy Hancock was voted Chairman for another term.

### Vice Chairman

Chairman Billy Hancock opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Ted Wynn nominated Alex Lee as Vice Chairman. Chairman Billy Hancock asked the board for any opposing thoughts or discussion. Hearing none, he asked for a vote. The vote for Chairperson passed unanimously. Alex Lee was voted Vice Chairman for another term.

### Secretary

Chairman Billy Hancock opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. No nominations were made at the time, so the board decided to table a vote until the end of the meeting. The board moved on to the next agenda item.

### *Website Update*

GECA Legislative Liaison and Special Projects Coordinator, Skylar Whitaker, gave an update on the creation of a GECA website. With funding approved during the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, staff has vetted several third-party companies with intentions of settling with one that best suits their needs. To date, GECA has narrowed options down to two - they are in the throes of planning and

logistics. Once chosen, they will begin the process of construction. She mentioned the necessity of creating a website now because of GECA's list of initiatives, remittance information and regular updates that staffers have been working on. They will be able to regularly update information. A website will create a streamline, resource where constituents and people in the 911 community can access information about the authority.

### *Georgia One Fund*

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for the Georgia One Fund presentation. GECA Executive Director, Greg Whitaker took the floor. In 2022, the board decided to open an interest-bearing account for GECA reserves. The Georgia One Fund is a legislatively created fund that many local governments in Georgia utilize. Greg informed that a Georgia One Fund representative was not able to attend this board meeting and requested to table this topic until the next board meeting.

### *Continuation - Election of Board Officers*

Chairman Billy Hancock re-opened the floor for a vote for Secretary.

#### Secretary

Chairman Billy Hancock opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. Brian Screws nominated Barry Woodward as Secretary. Chairman Billy Hancock asked the board for any opposing thoughts or discussion. Hearing none, he asked for a vote. The vote for Secretary passed unanimously. Barry Woodward was voted Secretary.

### **Public Comment:**

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for public comment. No public comments were made.

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Sheriff Hancock called for a motion to adjourn. Brian Screws made a motion. Rhonda Chatham seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

These minutes are hereby approved and adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023

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Billy Hancock  
Chairperson

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Barry Woodward  
Secretary

### Official Attachments:

1. List of Attendees

2. Agenda
3. Meeting Presentation

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Billy Grogan  
Ted Wynn  
Steve Nichols  
Vernica Crockett  
Amy Oneacre

**GECA Staff Members:**

Greg Whitaker  
Aleisha Rucker-Wright  
Skylar Whitaker  
Amy Ramsey  
Bess Larson  
Jason Lawson

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

Daniel Dunlap, Augusta-Richmond County

**Others Attending:**

Natalie Lee  
Susan Miller  
Chris Faircloth  
Robert Horne  
Bob Saban  
William Wright  
Deborah Gore  
Amelia Baxter  
Barbara Adams  
Angela Tharpe  
Jason Eckenstein  
Jen Poole  
Kelly Barnard  
Kevin Gardner  
Mike Smith  
Nijia Robinson  
Paula Whaley  
Whitney Hopkins  
Yolanda Chandler  
Russ Palmer  
Brian Burgamy