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

# Tuesday, March 12, 2019 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency Training Room

#### **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

# **Board Members Present:**

Cheryl Greathouse, Chairperson
Billy Hancock, Vice Chairperson
William Wright, Secretary
Col. Mark McDonough
Greg Whitaker
Ted Wynn
Peter Olson
John McDonough
Kevin Curtin (via conference call)
Billy Grogan
Steve Nichols

#### **Board Members Absent:**

Alex Lee Lynne Riley Michael Wall

The Georgia Emergency Communications Authority held the board meeting on March 12, 2019 at the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) Headquarters. A List of Attendees, an Agenda, and the Amended By-Laws are attached hereto and made official parts of these minutes as Attachments #1, #2, and #3. Cheryl Greathouse the Chairperson of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

All board members are present except Commissioner Lynne Riley from the Department of Revenue, Michael Wall from Comcast, Alex Lee from Lanier County.

Chairperson Greathouse welcomed everyone to the GEMA/HS Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. Also, Chairperson Greathouse thanked all of the Board members for attending the meeting and the Georgia Emergency Communications Conference the previous week. Representative Norma Torres from California introduced the 9-1-1 SAVES Act in Congress. This is an effort to change the standard occupational classification of 9-1-1 telecommunicators. This could eventually cause issues with federal funding initiatives.

#### **Roll Call**

# **Approval of the Minutes:**

Michael Nix presented the minutes of the December 13, 2018 meeting for discussion and approval. Chairperson Greathouse asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes; Chief

Billy Grogan made a motion to approve the minutes. Col. Mark McDonough seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Executive Director's Update**

Michael Nix provided an update on the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority's (GECA) current projects. GECA is currently applying for 911 grants, partnering with the Georgia Public Safety and Training Center (GPSTC) and P.O.S.T., collecting data regarding 911 fees, partnering with the Department of Revenue (DOR), Studying future options for Land Mobile Radio (LMR), and working with local partners to improve ESF-2. Georgia is serving as a pilot state for improved training and use of IPAWS.

Michael Nix gave an update on fee remittance. The July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 prepaid distributions are expected to process on March 6, 2019 and deposited into accounts by March 8, 2019. The GECA January remittances was about \$142.3K. Expect other than prepaid money to increase as more vendors come into compliance. It is too early to create an Annual Operating Budget, but will have AOB prepared for June 2019 Board meeting for FY 2020.

Michael Nix reviewed the Supreme Court ruling on Bellsouth Telecommunications, LLC et al. v. Cobb County et al. The case found that the 911 fee is a tax. Counties could not file suit to collect the tax because the 911 Act did not authorize such action.

Michael Nix provided additional details about the 911 SAVES Act and encouraged Board members to vocalize their support to their representatives. He also informed the Board about vertical location accuracy. On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the FCC will consider a further notice of proposed rulemaking that would do the following: propose to specify a vertical location metric of +/- three meters for 80% of indoor wireless E911 calls.

#### **Board Presentations**

Executive Director Michael Nix opened up the floor for Board Presentations.

Presentation by Chuck Murph, Gerald Risner, and Lee Ballentine providing an update about FirstNet in Georgia. They have increased the LTE coverage area for the AT&T network and FirstNet public safety communications platform by more than 50,000 square miles nationwide. The first seventy-two FirstNet Satellite Deployables (SatCOLTs) assets are ready for emergency incident requests and planned events. In preparation of Super Bowl LIII, AT&T invested \$43 million on new small cell locations and added or upgraded existing DAS.

#### **Old Business**

Director Jason Lawson provided an update on the T-CPR Taskforce and they are working on their formal recommendation for the Board. The taskforce is made up of Jason Lawson, Melissa Alterio, Danny Murray, Anessa Westmoreland, and Paula Whaley. The T-CPR Taskforce has met twice with its members and the American Heart Association. There are implications related

to governance, medical oversight, funding, staffing, and training, which must be addressed before this program can be successfully implemented statewide.

Chairperson Greathouse gave an update on the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) for 9-1-1. GPSTC now has two instructors in the CIT section with 9-1-1 background. The classroom course will mainly be scenario-based and review the online material. The online portion is scheduled to start on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Other agencies will have the ability to host the class. The course will be ready as early as mid-May or early June.

#### **New Business**

Chairperson Cheryl Greathouse opened up the floor for new business.

Michael Nix presented the NG911 Grant Program Plan for discussion. Funds must be spent by March 31, 2022. Phase 1 is NG911 Strategic Plan and Assessment, Phase 2 is NG911 GIS Readiness Assessment, Phase 3 is NG911 Training, and Phase 4 (optional) is NG911 seamless interoperability Call Handling Grants, if supplemental funds are available. The grant application will be turned by April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Michael Nix presented the amendments to the By-Laws for discussion and approval. Chairperson Greathouse motioned for the adoption of the amended By-Laws; Peter Olson made a motion to approve the amendments to Article 4, Section 4 in the second sentence to say "the chairperson may appoint standing, special committee, and working group members". John McDonough seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Michael Nix presented the plan to create working groups for discussion and approval. Chairperson Greathouse motioned for the approval and creation; Ted Wynn made a motion to create the working groups. Greg Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

William Wright suggested the GECA Board host a work session in a few months to discuss these ideas and get to know one another.

# **Adjournment:**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairperson Cheryl Greathouse called for a motion to adjourn. Greg Whitaker made a motion and Ted Wynn seconded the motion. The motion passed and Chairperson Cheryl Greathouse adjourned the meeting at 11:27 AM.

These minutes are hereby approved and adopted this the 11th day of June, 2019.

Cheryl Greathouse

Chairperson

William Wright

Secretary

#### Official Attachments:

- 1. List of Attendees
- 2. Agenda
- 3. Amended By-Laws
- 4. Meeting Presentation

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GEORGIA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY AGENCY TRAINING ROOM

#### **BOARD MEETING ATTENDEES**

### **Board Members:**

Cheryl Greathouse, Chairperson Billy Hancock, Vice Chairperson William Wright, Secretary Col. Mark McDonough

Greg Whitaker Ted Wynn Peter Olson John McDonough

Kevin Curtin (via conference call)

Billy Grogan Steve Nichols

# **GEMA/HS Staff Members:**

Michael Nix Bess Larson Ashley Seay Edwin Whitworth

#### 9-1-1 Advisory Panel:

Joe Barasoain, Fulton County Jonathan Jones, Athens-Clarke Police Department Tamika Kendrick, NENA Jason Lawson, Troup County Lynn Smith, APCO

# **Others Attending:**

Kelly Barnard (via conference call)

Lee Ballentine, FirstNet

Monica Douglas (via conference call)

Kurt Eckertern Chris Faircloth **Chris Flowers** 

William Gaston, DOR

Shirqea Graham

Keith Kelley (via conference call)

Natalie Lee Ginger Lepage

Jean Martin (via conference call)

Susan Miller Jackie Mines

Chuck Murph, FirstNet

Bob Murphy

Danny Murray (via conference call) Kimberly Oglesby (via conference call)

Gerald Risner. FirstNet

BRIAN P. KEMP GOVERNOR



MICHAEL NIX EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# **Board of Directors of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority**

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 10:00 AM-12:30 PM GEMA/HS HQ Training Room

# **WebEx Information:**

gema.webex.com Meeting number (access code): 644 065 418 Meeting password: 3-12GECA911

# Meeting Agenda\*

- I. Call to Order/Opening Remarks—Chairperson Cheryl Greathouse
- II. Roll Call—Secretary William Wright
- III. Approval of December 13, 2018 Minutes—Chairperson Cheryl Greathouse
- IV. Executive Director's Update—Michael Nix
- V. Board Presentations
  - A. FirstNet in Georgia Update—Chuck Murph/Gerald Risner/Lee Ballentine
- VI. Old Business
  - A. T-CPR Taskforce Update—Director Jason Lawson
  - B. CIT for 911 Update—Cheryl Greathouse
- VII. New Business

- A. Discuss National 911 Grant Program Plan
- B. Approve amendments to By-Laws (creates new committees)
- C. Approve creation of working groups

# VIII. Adjourn

\*Meeting Agenda is subject to change

# BY-LAWS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GEORGIA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

#### STATE OF GEORGIA

### ARTICLE I – Office

The office of the Board shall be at the office of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, 935 United Ave. SE, Building 2, Atlanta, Ga 30316, which shall be the mailing address of the Board. Meetings may be held at the office or at such other place as designed by the Chairperson.

#### **ARTICLE II – Members**

**Section 1. Members**. Membership on the Board shall be specified in O.C.G.A. § 38-3-182.

**Section 2. Voting**. Each member, including the Chairperson, shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members. When a quorum is present, voting and official business may be conducted via telephone or video conference.

# **ARTICLE III – Meeting of Members**

- **Section 1. Regular or Special Meetings**. The Board shall meet in regular session quarterly or at such times as the Board may deem appropriate. A written notice of the date, time, and place of any meeting shall be given at least three days in advance by the Secretary to each member. The Board shall meet in special session whenever called by the Chairperson or by nine or more members.
- **Section 2. Place of Meeting.** Meetings may be held at the office of the Board or at such other place as designated by the Chairperson, or, in the event of a special meeting called by nine or more members, as is designated by the Secretary in the notice.
- **Section 3. Quorum**. Nine or more members shall constitute a quorum for the discharge of any business.
- **Section 4. Proxies and Mail**. No member may vote by proxy and no member may vote by mail.
- **Section 5. Appointment and Removal of Administrative Officers**. Any appointments required to be made by the Board shall be by an affirmative vote of a majority of the membership present at a regular or called meeting of the Board.

# **ARTICLE IV – Officers**

- **Section 1. Officers**. The officers of the Board shall be the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and the Secretary.
- **Section 2. Election and Term of Office**. The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and the Secretary shall be elected annually by the Board at its regular meeting in

September, or as soon thereafter as convenient. Each officer shall hold office until his or her successor is duly elected. Officers may succeed themselves.

**Section 3. Vacancy**. The offices of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary may be removed by a majority of the Board whenever in its judgement the best interest of the Board would be served thereby, or by death, resignation, or disqualification of the incumbent. Any vacancy may be filled by the Board for the unexpired portion of the term.

**Section 4. Chairperson**. The Chairperson shall be the principal officer of the Board and shall generally supervise and control all of its business and affairs. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the members. The Chairperson may appoint all standing committee, working group, and special committee members and the Chairperson may delegate specific duties to all Board members, except where expressly provided otherwise herein. The Chairperson shall perform all duties incident to the office of Chairperson and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board, by executive order, or by law.

**Section 5. Vice-Chairperson**. In the absence of the Chairperson or in the event of the Chairperson's inability or refusal to act, the Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of Chairperson, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson shall perform other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the Chairperson or by the Board.

**Section 6. Secretary**. The Secretary shall ensure the minutes of the Board meetings are kept in a book provided for that purpose. The Secretary shall see that all Notices are duly given in conformity with the provisions of the By-Laws or as required by law. The Secretary shall be the custodian of the Board records, which shall be kept in a location designed by the Secretary.

The Secretary shall keep a register of the addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, and other methods of contact for each member of the board, and shall perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as may be assigned to the Secretary.

# **ARTICLE V – Committees**

**Section 1. Standing Committees**. There shall be standing committees for 911, Land Mobile Radio (LMR), ESF-2, and Public Safety Broadband. Each committee shall consist of a Chairperson and a minimum of two other members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Chairperson. The committees shall be responsible for: (1) providing oversight and guidance to the Authority and the Authority's Executive Director with regard to all matters as provided for by law or by executive order; (2) keeping the Board Chairperson and the Board apprised of the activities of the respective committee; (3) bringing committee recommendations to the Board for discussion and official action. The responsibilities herein imposed on standing committees shall in no way deprive the Board

or any member from exercising its or his or her full power and authority to participate in the policy-making functions of the Board.

**Section 1.1. Working Groups**. Under each standing committee, there may be working groups created to lead and execute particular projects or activities requiring subject matter expertise and significant stakeholder input over an extended period. Membership on the working groups is open to participants outside of the GECA Board.

**Section 1.2. Task Forces**. Task forces are ad hoc and established at the direction of the Executive Director of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority or the Board Chairperson, and may include GECA Board members from multiple committees as well as outside participants charged with creating a defined product over a short period and will report directly to the GECA Board.

**Section 2. Committee Membership Terms**. Board members appointed to a standing committee shall serve for a one-year term, and may be reappointed at the discretion of the Board Chairperson. The Chairperson may appoint non-Board members to standing committees in an advisory, nonvoting capacity.

**Section 3. Special Committees**. The Board may create such special committees as are deemed necessary or desirable. The membership, functions, and duties of each such committee shall be specified by the Chairperson.

#### **ARTICLE VI – Seal**

The Board may have its own seal or use the seal of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority as the seal of the Board.

# **ARTICLE VII – Amendments to By-Laws**

The By-Laws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new By-Laws may be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the Board members, at any regular or special meeting, if at least a three-day written notice is given of intention to alter, amend or repeal, or to adopt new By-Laws at such meeting. The By-Laws, and any change there in, shall be kept by the Secretary at the front of the minute book and shall be available at each meeting.



# Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

March 12, 2019 Board Meeting



# **GECA's current projects**

#### • 911

- · Applying for federal 911 grants
  - Georgia is eligible for \$3,994,283 (60%) in federal money with state match of \$2,662,855 (40%) for a total of \$6,657,138.
- Partnering with GPSTC and P.O.S.T. Council to increase and improve training for 911 personnel
  - State Communications Officer training
  - Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) for 911 training (pilot course – early April)
- Collecting data regarding the operation of PSAPs
- Centralizing the 911 fee collection and disbursement process by partnering with DOR



# **GECA's current projects (cont.)**

#### · LMR

- Studying future options for land mobile radio (LMR) in the state
- ESF 2
  - Working with our local partners to improve the response process for communications leaders and technicians in areas affected by a disaster (COML, COMT, TERT)
  - Coordinating with other states to improve outof-state resource requests



# GECA's current projects (cont.)

#### Public Safety Broadband

- Working with the FirstNet Authority, FirstNet/AT&T, and other carriers to ensure public safety communications needs are met
- Transitioning our backup communications (SouthernLinc) from iDEN to LTE

#### · Alerts and Warning

- Updating the state's emergency alert system (EAS) and Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System (IPAWS) plans to create an operational plan
- Serving as a pilot state for improved training and use of IPAWS



# New 911 fee process update

- Prepaid and other than prepaid distributions
  - Scheduled to be processed on the 10<sup>th</sup> business day of the month and local governments should have in account by the 12<sup>th</sup> business day
  - Process on March 14, 2019 and deposited by March 18, 2019
- July 1, 2018-Dec. 31, 2018 prepaid distribution
  - Expected to process on March 6, 2019 and deposited into accounts by March 8, 2019



# **GECA January remittances**

- Other than prepaid distribution (1%)
  - \$9.63 million ≈\$**96.3K**
- Prepaid distribution (1%)
  - \$4.60 million ≈**\$46K**
- Total
  - · ≈\$142.3K
- Expect "other than prepaid money" to increase as more vendors come into compliance.
- Too early to create an Annual Operating Budget, but will have AOB prepared for June 2019 Board meeting for FY2020.



#### **Supreme Court ruling**

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, LLC et al. v. COBB COUNTY et al.

#### **Background:**

- Cobb and Gwinnett Counties filed suit against telephone companies for the failure to collect and remit to the counties certain charges for 911 services
- Additionally, lawsuits have been filed by 20 local governments seeking more than \$110 million in 911 charges from more than 50 telephone companies.
- The Counties alleged that the telephone companies did not bill customers the proper amount for VoIP.



# **Supreme Court ruling**

#### **Key Findings:**

- 911 fee is a tax.
- Counties could not file suit to collect the tax because the 911 Act did not authorize such action.

#### HB 751

- Clarified the definition of VoIP and what constitutes a separate phone line
- · Clarified that the 911 fee "shall" be \$1.50
- Gave GECA the ability to audit service suppliers and right to bring collection actions
- GECA is authorized to bring an administrative action for a civil penalty against telephone companies that fails to bill the monthly 911 charge



# 911 SAVES Act

- Introduced by Rep. Torres (CA-35) and Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-1) on March 7, 2019.
- Would direct the Office and Management and Budget (OMB) to update their classification for public safety telecommunicators (PST) as a protective service within the SOC catalog.
- Federal agencies rely on the SOC, a vast catalog of occupations, for statistical purposes.
- · Would better align the role of the PST
  - Move from "Office and Administrative Support Occupations" to "Protective Service Occupations"
- Assigned to House Committee on Education and Labor

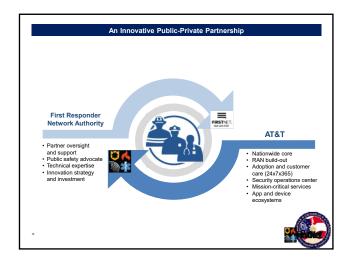


# **Vertical Location Accuracy**

- On March 19th, the FCC will consider a further notice of proposed rulemaking that would:
  - Propose to specify a vertical location metric of +/- 3 meters for 80% of indoor wireless E911 calls
  - · Tentatively find that 3-meter metric would be:
    - Sufficiently accurate to identify the caller's floor level in most cases, and
    - Technically feasible within the timeframes specified in the rules
  - Tentatively find that the 5-meter metric proposed by the nationwide wireless providers would not be precise enough to meet public safety needs











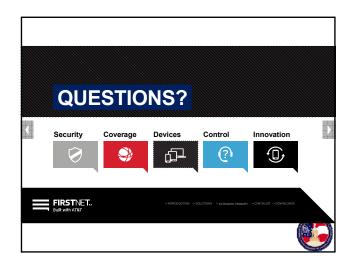














#### THANKS TO TASKFORCE MEMBERS

- Melissa Alterio—Director, City of Roswell 911
- Danny Murray—Training Coordinator, Forsyth County 911
- \* Anessa Westmoreland—Instructor Trainer, GPSTC
- Paula Whaley—Director, Seminole County 911

Special Thanks to Michael Cortes—American Heart Association

#### T-CPR TASKFORCE MEETINGS

- February 6, 2019: T-CPR Taskforce met with the American Heart Association at GPSTC.
- March 6, 2019: T-CPR Taskforce held a meeting/conference call with its members to discuss next steps.

#### HB 1016 (FROM 2018)

"(e) On and after July 1, 2018, the basic training course for communications officers shall include training in the delivery of <a href="https://high-quality\_telephone\_cardiopulmonary\_resuscitation\_(T-CPR)">high-quality\_telephone\_cardiopulmonary\_resuscitation\_(T-CPR)</a>,

and no person shall on or after that date be certified by the council under this

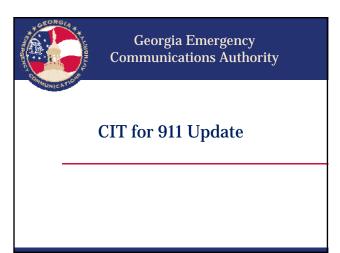
Code section unless such person has satisfactorily completed such training. The training
shall follow the most current evidence based nationally recognized guidelines for
high-quality telephone cardiopulmonary resuscitation which incorporate recognition
protocols for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, compression only cardiopulmonary
resuscitation, and continuing education. The council shall conduct administrative
compliance reviews with respect to the requirements of this subsection, including
adherence by communications officers and local governmental agencies, and may adjust
state assistance grants under Code Section 46-5-134.2 based on failure to comply with the
requirements of this subsection."

#### T-CPR TASKFORCE RECOMMENDATION

While the Taskforce agrees that T-CPR can be a life-saving intervention, we recognize the many challenges this functions presents to PSAPs across the state, regardless of size or area.

There are implications related to governance, medical oversight, funding, staffing, and training which must be addressed before this program can be successfully implemented statewide. While we have had spirited and in-depth discussions, there is much more work that needs to be done before formal recommendations can be submitted to the GECA Board.







# National 911 Grant Program

- Georgia is eligible for \$3,994,283 (60%) in federal money with state match of \$2,662,855 (40%) for a total of \$6,657,138.
- The funds must be used for NG911 planning and implementation.
- Funds must be spent by March 31, 2022.
  - Revised NOFO reduced period of performance from four years to three years.
  - Request denied from NTIA to extend period of performance back to four years.

