

# INSIGHTS

Connecting to the future of public safety communications  
Volume 6 / Issue 6

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 911 Service System Plan Gets Legislative Green Light
- Director's Desk
- PSC NG911 Funding Mechanism Workshop
- Governor's Proclamation Honors Public Safety Telecommunicators
- McCook Fire Proves Benefits of Regionalization
- Grand Island/Hall County Emergency Management Center Groundbreaking
- Lincoln 911 Center Holds Open House
- E911 Advisory Board
- Eo-1-1 Notes

## LEGISLATURE GREEN LIGHTS LB993; PAVES WAY FOR NG911 IMPLEMENTATION IN NEBRASKA

LB993, which paves the way for the Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) to begin implementation of Next Generation 911 Services in Nebraska, has been signed into law.

Introduced by District 34 Senator Curt Friesen and prioritize by District 25 Senator Suzanne Geist the bill drew little debate in the legislature as it made it ways to the Governor's desk for his signature.

Early discussion centered on proposed changes in the negligence standard. The issue was resolved when an amendment initiating the change was stricken and replaced with language from the original bill.

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*"This was a cooperative process on every level," said State 9-1-1 Director Dave Sankey "We want to thank everyone involved in this effort to bring state of the art 911 services to our citizens."*

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A Publication of the Nebraska Public Service Commission State 9-1-1 Dept.



## LEGISLATURE GREEN LIGHTS LB993 CONTINUED....

The bill then sailed through the next round of debate and final reading. On April 4, Governor Pete Ricketts signed LB993e into law. With the emergency clause, the bill took effect immediately upon signing paving the way for the future of NG911 services in Nebraska.

### Director's Desk



The State 911 Department is excited to be talking about next steps as LB993- which allows for the development of the 911 Service System Act was approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

Among the first items, will be the formation of the 911 Service System Advisory Committee, a workshop on funding, and the issuing of RFP's for vender hosted solutions to create the Nebraska ESInet, provide NG911 Core Services and purchase 911 related equipment.

As laid out in the 911 Service System Act- NG911 Master Plan, the 911 Service System Advisory Committee will provide for a comprehensive and manageable means of transitioning our 911 systems. Through statewide coordination, the Advisory Committee will provide the PSC with input on technical training, quality assurance, funding, operation and maintenance of the statewide 911 system. An application process for interested Nebraskans was opened on May 1, with a closing date of June 1. Applications received will be reviewed by the State 911 Department. The 14 members of the 911 Service System Advisory Committee will then be appointed by the Commission.

As with any new project, funding is key. Through careful and thoughtful stewardship of the E911 Wireless Fund by the E911 Advisory Board and the PSC, analysis of the anticipated cost show the fund can sustain the initial stages of transition to Next Generation 911 without an increase in the monthly surcharge fee. What exactly will those funds pay for? A [funding workshop](#) will be held by the Commission on June 13, to explore the issue.

We will also begin the processes of issuing RFP's for essential services needed to begin the process of implementing Next Generation 911 in Nebraska. The 911 Service system Advisory Committee will play a key role in the RFP process and in making recommendations to the Commission

Again, I would like to thank everyone for their time, hard work and expertise in helping get us to this point. While we have done a lot of work already, we are really just getting started. The State 911 Department is eager to continue our relationships with all of you as we move forward on the implementation of Next Generation 911 in Nebraska.



# PSC NG911 FUNDING MECAHNISM WORKSHOP

On June 13, at 10:00 a.m., in the PSC Hearing Room, the Commission will hold a workshop to seek input on the establishment of a funding mechanism for Next Generation 911 (NG911) services.

The passage of LB993, directs the Commission among other things, to determine how to allocate the 911 Service System Fund in order to facilitate the implementation, coordination, operation, management and maintenance of the 911 Service System.

Interested parties including PSAPs, emergency managers, law enforcement, fire departments, county and municipal officials, telecommunications industry, equipment vendors, GIS vendors and others who may have an interest, should make plans to attend.

Nebraska Public Service Commission

## WORKSHOP TO ESTABLISH A FUNDING MECHANISM FOR NG911



10:00 a.m.



Nebraska Public Service Commission  
300 The Atrium,  
1200 N Street  
Lincoln, NE

# Governor’s Proclamation Honors Public Safety telecommunicators

On Monday, April 2, representatives from the Nebraska Public Service Commission, public safety agencies and telecommunicators, joined Governor Pete Ricketts for the signing of a Proclamation declaring April 8-14 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators (Dispatcher Appreciation) Week.

Every year during the second week of April, telecommunications personnel are honored for their sacrifices and dedication. Known as “Heroes with Headsets,” these hardworking public safety communicators help to save lives by aiding people in need.

Though rarely seen these communication professionals are the unsung heroes on the other end of the line providing a calming presence during the most difficult of times.

We thank you for your commitment to your profession and for helping to create a safer world for our citizens.



## McCook Fire Proves Benefits of Regionalization

They say timing is everything and the McCook Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) can attest to that. Just four days after flipping the switch, officially becoming a part of the South-Central Region a wind whipped wildfire put the PSAPs new equipment and partnership to the test.

Fueled by 40-50 mph wind gusts the wildfire, which started in a canyon on the northwest edge of town, injured one person, destroyed one home and forced evacuations as it scorched more than 200 acres.

In one hour during event, the McCook PSAP took 129 calls as 11 fire departments from around the area responded to assist in fighting the fire.

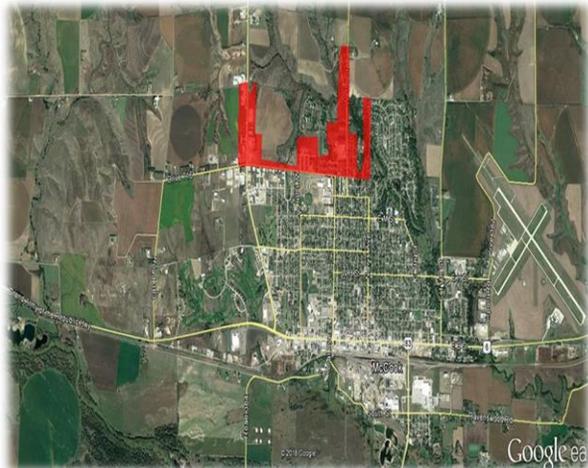
McCook Police Chief Ike Brown, a member of the E911 Advisory Board said his staff was aided by new call handling equipment installed as part of the city's move to join the South-Central Region.

"I don't think we dropped a single call," Chief Brown said, "Our dispatchers were able to work the emergency, knowing the redundancy of a region had their backs if needed."

*\*\*\*The South-Central Region is currently made of up nine PSAPS in 11 counties. \*\*\**



Photos Courtesy McCook Gazette, Nebraska State Patrol & NEMA



## Ground Breaking Held for New Emergency Management & Communications Center in Grand Island/Hall County

Congratulations to our friends in Grand Island/Hall County as they broke ground on a new Emergency Management & Communications Center. The new facility will be built on the southwest corner of 13<sup>th</sup> Street and North Road in Grand Island. It will replace the current 911 center located in the basement of the Grand Island City Hall, which will be retained as a backup location.

Designed by CMBA Architects, the new facility will be built by Chief Construction of Grand Island at a cost of 3.4-million-dollars.

Commission Chair Mary Ridder and State 911 Field Coordinator Troy Cordle were among those attending the event.

According to Grand Island/Hall County Emergency Management Director Jon Roselund, the new center will allow the city and county to meet future needs and growing public expectations.

The new 10,664 square foot facility is scheduled for completion in February 2019.



## Lincoln 911 Communication Center on Display at Open House

The City of Lincoln held an Open House to showcase its newly renovated 911 Communications Center. Family, friends and user agencies were given the opportunity to explore the new state of the art facility.

PSC Commission Chair Mary Ridder joined Commissioner Tim Schram, State 911 Director Dave Sankey and State 911 Department staff for a tour.

The Center opened at the end of May with seats for 18 Public Safety Telecommunication specialists.



## E911 Advisory Board Holds May Meeting at PSC in Lincoln



More than a dozen funding requests were on the table as the Wireless 911 Advisory Board met in Lincoln. The May gathering marked the second meeting for the board in 2018. Buffalo County Sheriff Neil Miller led a discussion on Carrier Services in relation to regional connectivity and State 911 Director Dave Sankey provided an update on NG911. All funding requests before the board were approved. The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 23, at 10:00 a.m., in the PSC Hearing Room in Lincoln.

### E9-1-1 NOTES

#### E9-1-1 Funding Applications Received

Funding applications for 2018-2019 have been received and processed by the State 911 Department. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to get their information to us. We appreciate your effort and questions.

#### Looking Ahead....

Now that the funding applications have been processed, keep your eye out for a letter in the mail containing your funding allocation and wireless ratio for July 1, 2018- June 30, 2019. Please make sure you share the information in the letter with your County Clerk or Treasurer.

In addition to the letter, you will also receive an email containing a packet of Audit information for July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018. The Audit packet must be returned to the PSC State 911 department by Oct 1, 2018.

Once you receive the information, if you have questions about your funding allocation, wireless ratio or audit, please email us @ < [psc.psap@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.psap@nebraska.gov) >.

In addition, if you need reimbursement for Text to 911 be sure to email us your documentation. Without the proper paperwork, we will not be able to provide compensation.

#### E9-1-1 General Questions or Comments

Have a question or comment regarding E9-1-1? Email us @ < [psc.psap@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.psap@nebraska.gov) > our knowledgeable and experienced staff will work to answer your question or provide you information in a timely manner.

#### Helping to Keep You Informed by Sharing Information

From outages to workshops, the PSC is working to share information with PSAPs across Nebraska. Watch for emails from State 911 Dir. Dave Sankey on important and useful information. We also invite you to connect with us on social media. Like us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter@NEPSCNG911/ Twitter@NEB\\_PSC](#) or visit the PSC website @ < [www.psc.nebraska.gov](http://www.psc.nebraska.gov) >.





## Contact Us

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**CALL** if you can.

**911** nebraska

**TEXT** if you can't.