



**Kitsap 911 Board of Directors Meeting on  
May 4, 2021 Via Virtual Teams Meeting**

**ATTENDING:**

**Board of Directors:**

Ed Wolfe-Kitsap County Commissioner  
Charlotte Garrido, Kitsap County Commissioner  
Robert Gelder- Kitsap County Commissioner  
Sheriff Gary Simpson- Kitsap County  
Joe Deets-City of Bainbridge Island  
Becky Erickson- City of Poulsbo Mayor (Chair)  
Rob Putaansuu- City of Port Orchard Mayor  
Greg Wheeler-City of Bremerton Mayor  
David Ellingson-Fire Commissioner (Vice Chair)  
Dusty Wiley-Fire Commissioner  
Bob Muhleman- Fire Commissioner  
Leslie Daus- City of Bremerton Council Member

**Staff:**

Richard Kirton- Executive Director  
Maria Jameson-Owens-Deputy Director  
Rachael Taylor-Human Resource Manager  
Steve Rogers-Finance Manager  
Brandon Wecker-Technical Services Manager  
Jamie Donley- Assistant Director of Operations  
Stephanie Browning- Administrative Specialist

**Absent:**

Kevin Gorman-City of Bremerton Council Member

**Guests:**

Chief Joe Clark-Chair of SAB and Police Chief of Bainbridge Island  
Chief Jeff Faucett- Vice Chair of SAB and Chief of South Kitsap Fire and Rescue  
Chief John Oliver- Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue  
Chief Hank Teran-Bainbridge Island Fire Department  
Lt John Sprague-Kitsap County Sheriff's Office

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**Call to Order:** Chair David Ellingson called the meeting to order at 2:34 pm.

**Additions:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of Minutes from March 2, 2021:**

**Director Greg Wheeler moved to approve the minutes from March 02, 2021.  
Motion was seconded by Director Leslie Daus. Motion passed.**

**Adoption of Resolution 2021-002- Requesting the Board of County Commissioners Place a Proposition on the November 2, 2021 Ballot to Increase the Sales and Used Tax for Emergency Communications Systems and Facilities to 2/10<sup>th</sup> of 1 percent.**

Kitsap 911 provided a presentation regarding this resolution that will include the radio replacement project and other capital needs for Kitsap 911. The current radio system is at end-of-life and will no longer be supported in 2028. The current system has already started to fail. Much of the remaining infrastructure is at end of life. Kitsap 911 is facing multiple capital requirements in upcoming years. Kitsap 911 is currently funded by a mix of telephone tax, 1/10 of 1% sales tax and user fees. Central Kitsap Fire Chief John Oliver discussed in depth why the radio system needs to be replaced now. The SAB and Fire Chiefs have unanimously moved to replace the radio system. Kitsap 911 presented and identified the needs assessment of the system, showed coverage maps as a general guide of issues, the additional need for revenues and the impact of the radio system. This presentation will be placed on the Kitsap 911 website. Executive Director Kirton said if the resolution is approved today, the election date will be in November, and he provided the timeline of the process. The following was discussed:

*\*Director Sheriff Simpson pointed out from the law enforcement perspective they have 4x as many calls for services and issues. He said this is an emergency; we have done all we can for adding MCT, GPS locators and can no longer wait for this. He supports this and hopes it passes today.*

*\*Chair Becky Erickson stated she has been a critic of this program and has dug in and done homework and supports this resolution. There is key language in bullet 6 with one caveat with*

*this additional 1/10 of 1% should generate about 6 million a year this should help pay for other capital equipment such as MCT and RMS systems. These are huge hits for the county and cities. Supporting this proposition will help handle both.*

*\*Director Leslie Daug's asked if we have done a ballot like this in the past. Director Kirton said yes, the initial was done around 2003. She said it caught her attention that it takes eight years to get the system going and asked what kind of downtime there will be to transition over. Director Kirton expects the system to be on the air in 2026/2027. The reason the old replacement took so long is there was no money and they had to redesign the system several times in order to fit the project into the available funding. She asked in regard to towers, do we have to purchase land for them. Director Kirton said there might be some land acquisition required but there are partnership opportunities for the list of potential sites.*

*\*Director Robert Gelder agree with Mayor Erickson that it should be all inclusive hardware and software. He also said the wording on the resolution that the resources would be "primarily used to fund" should be strengthened to "will be used." Discussion took place and it was decided the revision will say "to be used." Director Putaansuu asked for it to say, "will be used."*

*\*Director Ed Wolfe agrees we need this and takes public safety very seriously. He does not recall a discussion with fellow county commissioners regarding moving forward with a ballot. He asked if the county is considering other initiatives going to the public, are we overloading with too many ballot issues in a short period of time. Director Gelder said the timing ultimately falls to this board to make the request.*

*\*Director Sheriff Gary Simpson said he has had conversations with others and the issue today is we can't communicate. He said this is a major priority and he is ready to make a motion.*

*\*Director David Ellingson said we can give a real time exercise on the equipment and how to multiply the trunk system to Director Wolfe.*

*\*Director Greg Wheeler appreciates the comments and the consideration of this proposition. We have decided after weighing this information we have a system that has rapidly become obsolete and will be nonfunctional in this decade if we don't do something. We are vulnerable to natural disasters such as an earthquake and depend on each other. If we don't have interconnectivity that is sharp and clear it could be an even bigger disaster. For day to day operations, public safety is at the top.*

**Director Gary Simpson made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-002 Requesting the Board of County Commissioners Place a proposal on the November 2, 2021 ballot to increase the sales and use tax for emergency communications systems and facilities to 2/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% with the striking and proposed language discussed. Director Leslie Daug's seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **Executive Committee Report**

Mr. Kirton reported the executive committee has been meeting virtually regularly and have done the following:

- Approved various warrants, payroll, and electronic fund transfers
- Received regular staff reports
- Ratification of contract K911-044 Washington State Traffic Commission
- Washington State Auditor Exit Conference for fiscal year 2019

**Actions taken by Executive Director under Resolution 2020-003 Declaring an Emergency**

- Partial extension of EPSL

### **Staffing Report**

Deputy Director Maria Jameson-Owens reported we have hired 6 new employees. We expect their training to be complete by September. We are now 20 employees short. Looking to hire 6 more for academy in August.

### **Finance Report**

Finance Manager Steve Rogers reported on month end of March 2021 finance report. The revenues and expenditures are right in line. No reserves were used, and risks remain the same.

### **2021 Goals and Tech Project Report**

Technical Systems Manager Brandon Wecker provided the following report:

*\*2019-20 Alerting-* This project would deploy a digital alerting system in all fire stations along with a text to speech component. This project is substantially complete, but Bainbridge Island has some racks to install and some additional components and expect to have it completed shortly.

101-Simocast Tuning- Currently in process of collecting feedback from field users and waiting on some equipment to arrive. Also, in progress of getting quotes and scheduling repairs from drive testing.

### **Good of the Order**

Mrs. Jameson-Owens said Kitsap 911 Chris Law is the 2020 APCO Trainer of the Year and has previously won APCO Telecommunicator of the Year.

Director Greg Wheeler thanked the Kitsap 911 staff for stepping it up more than once for a professional presentation and exceeding every demand the Executive Committee put in front of them.

The meeting was adjourned at 15:49 PM.

***The next scheduled meeting of the Kitsap 911 Board of Directors is July 23, 2021 at 12:00***

*Virtually*