

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska                    ) Application No. 911-032  
Public Service Commission, on                    )  
its own motion, seeking to                    )  
investigate reimbursement of                    ) ORDER OPENING DOCKET AND  
costs from the Enhanced Wireless                ) SEEKING COMMENT  
911 Fund related to the                         )  
consolidation of Public Safety                 )  
Answering Points.                                )  
  ) Entered: July 3, 2007

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N       A N D       F I N D I N G S

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) hereby opens this proceeding, on its own motion, to investigate reimbursement of costs from the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund, related to consolidation of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs).

Pursuant to the Enhanced Wireless 911 Services Act<sup>1</sup>, the Commission is charged with the responsibility of allocating funding to PSAPs and wireless carriers for the implementation of enhanced wireless 911 services (Wireless E911) statewide. The Commission must make the most efficient use of the limited funds available to ensure that Wireless E911 is available statewide.

On or about April 20, 2007, representatives from the City of Gothenburg inquired as to the possibility of receiving funding for costs incurred in the consolidation of its PSAP with the North Platte Police Department PSAP. The costs requested totaled \$4,200.00 of the approximately \$100,000.00 spent and included those related to moving the enhanced 911 trunk lines and database changes.

The Commission does not have any jurisdiction to require consolidation of PSAPs and it remains a decision to be made by local governments. However, "...the commission is not required to provide compensation for costs to more than one public safety

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<sup>1</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-442 et. seq. (2006 Cum. Supp.) as amended by Neb. Laws LB 661 [2007].

answering point in any county... ." <sup>2</sup> Consolidation of PSAPs may be the most efficient and cost effective approach to the delivery of both wireless and landline E911 services in some circumstances.

To the extent that funds are available, the Commission believes that providing incentives to encourage efficiency and cost savings through its enhanced wireless 911 policies is appropriate. To that end, the Commission requests comment from interested parties including, but not limited to, the Enhanced Wireless 911 Advisory Board and PSAPs on the following, with respect to costs associated with consolidation:

1. Should the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund be available to compensate for costs associated with the consolidation of PSAPs? If so, please explain the nature of the costs that should be eligible for reimbursement.
2. How should the Commission account for any funds already paid to a PSAP which will no longer be providing wireless E911 service?
3. What priority should be given to the funding of consolidation costs as compared to the reimbursement of other costs?
4. Should the Commission consider other steps to encourage PSAP consolidation?

Comments responsive to this inquiry shall be filed on or before **August 10, 2007**. Interested parties must file five (5) paper copies along with one (1) electronic copy with the Commission. Electronic copies may be emailed to [brandy.zierott@psc.ne.gov](mailto:brandy.zierott@psc.ne.gov).

#### O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above-captioned docket, be and it is hereby open for public comment.

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<sup>2</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-466(1) (2006 Cum. Supp.) as amended by Neb. Laws LB 661 [2007].

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that comments responsive to this Order, be filed on or before **August 10, 2007**, in the manner prescribed herein.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska this 3rd day of July, 2007.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director