

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. 911-042.23
Public Service Commission, on)
its own motion, seeking to)
administer funding for public) ORDER SETTING HEARING
safety answering points for the)
implementation and provision of)
Enhanced Wireless 911 service:) Entered: November 4, 2020
Perkins County

BY THE COMMISSION:

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

On or about March 30, 2010, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (Commission) opened this docket on its own motion¹, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service pursuant to the funding mechanism approved under Docket No. 911-019/PI-118 on February 23, 2010.² Until October 1, 2015, the Commission provided funding via this docket to a public safety answering point (PSAP) located in and serving Perkins County.³

On October 1, 2015, Perkins County officially closed its PSAP and consolidated 911 services with Keith County.⁴ Commencing on that date, all wireless and wireline 911 calls originating in Perkins County were answered and dispatched by the Keith County PSAP. As a result, on October 27, 2015, the Commission entered an

¹ *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service, Application No. 911-042, ORDER OPENING DOCKET (Mar. 30, 2020).*

² *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to implement provisions of LB 1222 [2006] and to establish a permanent funding mechanism for wireless enhanced 911 service, Application No. 911-019/PI-118, FINAL ORDER ADOPTING MODEL AND APPLICATION PROCESS (Feb. 23, 2010).*

³ See, e.g., *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service: Perkins County, Application No. 911-042.23, ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (June 29, 2010).*

⁴ *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service: Perkins County, Application No. 911-042.23, ORDER TO CEASE FUNDING (October 27, 2015).*

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Order ceasing wireless 911 funding to Perkins County and transferring the net amount of Perkins County's remaining funding allocation for the 2015-2016 fiscal year and any Perkins County set-aside fund balance to Keith County.⁵

Since October 2015, the Commission has provided no further 911 funding to Perkins County. A final audit review of enhanced wireless 911 funding provided to Perkins County was completed on July 1, 2016.⁶

On or about June 29, 2020, Perkins County Sheriff James D. Brueggeman filed a "PSAP Application for Annual Funding" with the State 911 Department, seeking an allocation of wireless 911 funding for a new PSAP that will provide 911 service to Perkins County. The application states that Perkins County is purchasing new call handling equipment and connectivity from CenturyLink, and geographic information services from GeoComm. The application also states that Perkins County expects to employ five full-time call takers and one part-time call taker.

It appears that the question of whether and under what circumstances 911 funding should be resumed to a county that has previously consolidated its PSAP out of existence has not previously been addressed by the Commission. Although several PSAPs have ceased operation since the Commission began the process of allocating wireless surcharge funding for 911 services in 2001⁷, we have not identified any other new PSAP that has been established during that time, nor have we identified any other county that has resumed providing 911 service from a formerly closed PSAP.

Based on the foregoing, the Commission finds that a hearing should be held to address the question of resuming wireless 911 funding to Perkins County. Topics to be addressed at the hearing should include the following:

1. Whether the new Perkins County PSAP should receive wireless 911 funding.
2. The method of determining the amount of wireless 911 funding that may be provided to the new PSAP in Perkins County.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Memo to File from Joan Rafferty, Re: Perkins County 2015-2016 Audit Review (July 1, 2016).

⁷ See, *In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, seeking to establish guidelines for the administration of the Enhanced Wireless 911 Fund*, Application 911-001/PI-52, ORDER OPENING DOCKET (September 19, 2001).

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3. Perkins County's reasons for starting a new PSAP rather than continuing to use the consolidated PSAP in Keith County.
4. A description of the sources and amounts of funding available to support the new Perkins County PSAP, other than wireless 911 funding, such as wireline surcharge funds and local general funds.
5. A description the staffing plan for the new Perkins County PSAP.
6. An estimate of the expected annual call volume for the new Perkins County PSAP.

A hearing on this matter will be held on **December 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** in the in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska and via videoconference. The link to the videoconference is as follows: <https://nvcn-cio.webex.com/meet/State911DepartmentWebex>. The telephone bridge for the audio connection is: 415-655-0003, Access Code 929 828 733.

If auxiliary aids or reasonable accommodations are needed for attendance at a Commission meeting, please call the Commission at 402-471-3101. For people with hearing/speech impairments, please call the Nebraska Relay System at 800-833-7352 (TDD) or 800-833-0920 (Voice). Advance notice of at least seven days is needed when requesting an interpreter.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that a hearing is set in the above-captioned matter for **December 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska and via videoconference as provided herein.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 4th day of November, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Rock Johnson
Crystal Handley
Tim Schram
Don Watson

Chair

ATTEST:

Michael S. Hyatt
Executive Director