

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska	)	Application No. 911-068/PI-215
Public Service Commission, on	)	
its own motion, seeking to	)	
implement provisions of LB 993	)	HEARING OFFICER ORDER
[2018] and establish a funding	)	REGARDING WRITTEN COMMENTS
mechanism for next generation	)	
911 service pursuant to the 911	)	
Service System Act.	)	Entered: June 15, 2018

BY THE HEARING OFFICER:

On May 1, 2018, the Nebraska Public Service Commission (the "Commission") opened the above-captioned docket, on its own motion, to implement provisions of LB 993 [2018] and to establish a funding mechanism for next generation 911 service pursuant to the 911 Service System Act.<sup>1</sup>

On June 13, 2018, the Commission held a workshop to obtain input from stakeholders including but not limited to public safety answering points, emergency managers, law enforcement agencies, fire departments, county and municipal officials, the telecommunications industry, equipment vendors, geographic information systems vendors, and others having an interest in the Nebraska 911 service system. In order to provide a framework for discussion, a series of written questions were presented at the workshop and addressed by those in attendance. A copy of the questions discussed at the workshop are attached hereto as Appendix A.

As stated at the workshop, the Commission invites written comments on the questions presented in Appendix A from those who were unable to attend the workshop and from any participants who may wish to memorialize or expand their remarks. Interested parties are also invited to address topics germane to this Docket that they feel have been overlooked on Appendix A. Written comments will be accepted on or before July 13, 2018.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Hearing Officer that written comments in this matter shall be filed no later than **July 13, 2018**. Those commenting shall file five (5) paper

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<sup>1</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1001 to 86-1030.

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copies and one (1) electronic copy via email to matt.effken@nebraska.gov and brandy.zierott@nebraska.gov.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this  
15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018.

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tim Schram", written over a horizontal line.

Tim Schram  
Hearing Officer

Appendix A

1. Historically, Nebraska's public safety answering points (PSAPs) have operated with financial support from local general funds, wireline surcharge funds and wireless surcharge funds. Since 2010, wireless surcharge funds have been paid directly to PSAPs through a formula that allocates payments to PSAPs based on statistical inputs, such as population, call volume, and cell tower location. This model requires individual PSAPs to account for these dollars and submit to an annual audit.

LB 938 and LB 993 create the 911 Service System Act, which establishes the Commission as the statewide authority for coordinating and providing funding assistance for the implementation Next Generation 911 Services in Nebraska. NG9-1-1 services include a statewide ESInet, Next Gen Core Services and GIS services to name a few. What funding mechanism would you recommend the Commission adopt in order to fund statewide Next Generation 911 service:

- a. Identify a model where funds are allocated in advance?
- b. Pay vendors directly for costs of a statewide NG9-1-1 system that PSAPs can connect to?
- c. Establish a process to reimburse PSAPs for costs incurred for NG9-1-1 services?

2. The Commission is considering fully funding the cost of statewide GIS data creation and maintenance for 9-1-1 purposes. What do you think is the most effective approach to fund GIS data creation and maintenance statewide?

3. A number of Nebraska PSAPs have begun to combine themselves into regions to share equipment and expenses and provide mutual failover support. Other PSAPs have considered consolidating with neighboring counties. , however, the current funding allocation model does not accommodate regionalization or consolidation, and may provide financial disincentives that discourage this process.

- a. Should the Commission encourage regionalization and/or consolidation?
- b. What kind of incentives would encourage PSAPs to regionalize and/or consolidate?

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4. The current funding model allows PSAPs to set-aside funds intended to be used for future equipment purchases. Some PSAPs have no money in their set-side account, while others have substantial set-aside balances. How can the Commission ensure that set-side fund balance are utilized efficiently in a new funding process?

- a. Should set-aside funds be available to pay for costs of regionalization or consolidation without being subject to the wireless/wireline ratio?
- b. What about regionalizing existing funds - i.e., combining the set-side of PSAPs within a region into a single account controlled by the region?

5. LB 993 requires the Commission to establish statewide training standards and a certification process. How would you propose that the 911 Service System Fund allocate money for training?

6. During the transition to NG911, there will likely be an overlap in service for a period of time, what do you feel is the best approach for the Commission to adopt to ensure that both legacy 911 and NG911 services are adequately funded during this period of time.