

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: STORY COUNTY 911 SERVICE BOARD REPRESENTATION

BACKGROUND:

The Story County 911 Service Board supports 911 emergency communications services in Ames and throughout Story County. The Board receives, administers, and disperses the 911 surcharge that is levied on all wireline and wireless phones. The Board provides support to Ames by subsidizing a variety of emergency response costs including telephone trunk lines, radio tower fees, and the purchase of emergency communications equipment in the Communications Center.

Historically the Board's members included a representative for each political subdivision in the County that operated an emergency response service. The City has been a member of the Board since it was first established in 1989. The City's current representative is the Chief of Police, Charles Cychosz.

In the last legislative session, the law governing the membership of 911 boards statewide (Chapter 34A, Code of Iowa) was changed to allow all county sheriff's and the police chief of any municipal police agency that operates a Public Safety Answering Point (a PSAP is a 911 call answering and dispatch center) to be directly represented on a 911 board in addition to their political subdivision representative. **The change allows the City to have two members on the Story County 911 Service Board – the Chief of Police and a representative for the City.**

The new law, and the Story County 911 Service Board bylaws, indicate there should be a designated representative and an alternate for that representative. The City Council designates the officials who will serve in these positions. Because of the role they play in emergency response, the following individuals are recommended for appointment to the Story County 911 Service Board:

For the City of Ames:

Member – Tom Hackett, Fire Department Deputy Chief
Alternate – Doug Allen, Fire Department Deputy Chief

For the Chief of Police:

Member – Charles Cychosz, Chief of Police
Alternate – Doug Houghton, Police Department Support Services Manager

The new members will assume duties as soon as they are appointed.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the appointment the following people to the Story County 911 Service Board:

For the City of Ames:

Member – Tom Hackett, Fire Department Deputy Chief

Alternate – Doug Allen, Fire Department Deputy Chief

For the Chief of Police:

Member – Charles Cychosz, Chief of Police

Alternate – Doug Houghton, Police Department Support Services Manager

2. Do not approve the appointment of the proposed representatives to the Story County 911 Service Board and direct staff to recommend other appointees.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Story County 911 Service Board continues to provide professional and financial resources to the City to support emergency response activities. Funds paid by City residents through telephone 911 service charges are returned to fund City services through the Board processes. Continued participation on the Board, including expanding the City's membership, benefits the City.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative # 1, thereby approving the appointment of the proposed representatives to the Story County 911 Service Board.