



The Iowa Chapter of NENA held their annual spring conference at Prairie Meadows, Altoona on Wednesday, March 11, 2015. Chapter President Cara Sorrells called the meeting to order at 12:37 p.m. Introductions were made.

Motion to approve the agenda, Lora Phillips – Johnson County. Motion seconded, Tim Malott – Cedar County. Called for a vote. All votes in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

The minutes of the fall conference November 5 meeting were published and available on the web site. Cara provided extra copies for those interested. Motion to approve the minutes, Ken Rasing – Chickasaw County. Motion seconded, Marilyn Stayner – Worth County. Called for a vote. All votes in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

The financial report was given by Treasurer, Pam Freshwater. We currently have \$40,944.53 as cash in the bank. After conference expenses and splitting the vendor receipts with APCO the final expenses will leave around a \$20,000 balance. The report will be printed on the web site after final expenses are recorded.

In Committee reports, Bob Seivert gave the Legislative update. Both the House File and Senate File bill have passed out of committee. The Senate bill reduced the surcharge distribution to 76% back to the locals, does not fund the 700 MHz, allows \$50,000 for public education and E911 Council travel and expenses and opens the language to the receipt and disposition of 911 calls. The House File bill sponsored by Sen. Worthan is different; it reduces the percentage to 53%, funds are provided for the 700 MHz state radio system with a \$2 million per year match from the Department of Transportation, \$100,000 for public education and E911 Council travel and expenses and changes the wording to the receipt and disposition of 911 calls. The grant funds do not go away. Emergency Management has discussed with their Lobbyist we do not want the grant; we want to fund the PSAP directly. Governor Branstad's Justice bill will pay the cost of the land mobile radio system for 10 years with no cap. April 1<sup>st</sup> is the next funnel date, the bills have to pass though to get them into full committee to get them worked on. The Justice bill is not subject to funnels. So, where do we go from here? We use the art of compromise, but how much compromise? It is difficult when we have fought for the surcharge for local 911 and now it's going to fund the State 700 MHz system. We need to become more engaged with the media, talk to your local Board of Supervisors and right down the hall is the AFSCME union conference. Our strength and success will be by getting the word out and getting the public talking. The partnerships forged over the last 5 years are being threatened by this legislation. We have come a long way, but this initiative threatens that. Tim Malott thanked Bob Seivert for going to the Capital and attending the subcommittees. He stressed the PSAP data collection budgets can be used to let your Representatives know what it cost to run a PSAP. Let them know if they take \$68 million the local citizens will have to make up the difference between what the surcharge funds and what is funded by local dollars. Don't give up, keep the bills alive. Show them the facts and stop the justice bill. Judy Flores – Black Hawk County advised we need support and going to the media will get the local citizens involved. The

taxpayers want the money to go the local level. We need to get the Governor's contact information to the public, we need Dispatchers and every single person to bombard the Governor's office that this is not the way to do this. Joe McCarthy – Cedar Rapids made a motion to have Bob Seivert draft a letter to the media on behalf of APCO/NENA. Seconded by Doug McCarland – Warren County. Kent Hartwig is a lobbyist, we could hire a lobbyist to negotiate to find common ground and a solution. Eric Dau – Clinton County stated he is not necessarily in favor of hiring a lobbyist who supports another agency. What if there is a conflict of interest down the line. Cara Sorrells - their interests would trump ours if they differ. Tim Malott – if there was a conflict then Kent would not represent, but another person in his agency would. I would suggest you talk to the lobbyist before you go to the press. Ken Rasing – we ask the lobbyist for his guidance, he will give us a perspective on what do we want out of this. Do what the lobbyist recommends. Tim Malott – what positive things do you want out of this? Give him a list; what are the positives? Judy Flores – if we don't go to the media, how do we get our citizens involved? How do we get them to understand? Cara Sorrells – hiring a lobbyist is a 10 year commitment. Ken Rasing – we meet with our lobbyist once a month, hiring a lobbyist is a big commitment of time to get involved. Jason Hoffman – Carroll County, we could do phone meetings with a lobbyist. How are we going to get movement if we don't get involved? We may need to compromise, but it's not impossible with the constituency. Cara Sorrell – do we think if we get the media involved it would go badly? Bob Seivert – timing is key. We don't want the media message too soon or it gets forgotten. Too late and it doesn't get out in time. Tim Malott – we do need to move forward with the media but a lobbyist is right there in front of the legislators for our support, without a lobbyist we don't have a strong voice. Waiting isn't going to help, we need to push, go to the Capital, talk to the Representatives and be right in front of them. Many of you have sent letters because it is important, we can't wait. Cara Sorrells – the \$10,000 will be split with APCO, they will vote on it tomorrow. But, it will be an annual cost of \$5,000 per year. Motion by Eric Dau to hire a lobbyist and not share with another Agency. Ken Rasing asked for comments. President Sorrells opened for discussion. Ken – there are all kinds of Lobbyists, but who will we get if we can't share one? Bob Seivert – not every Lobbyist will be up to speed. Kent Hartwig and Susan [Sheriff's and Deputies Association Lobbyist] are up to speed. Hiring Kent is a good selection. Tim Malott – if not Kent, then maybe someone from his office? Eric Dau – I am not opposed to that, I just want to know it's in our best interest. Judy Flores – if we go forward with this lobbyist for this session we can research and find a lobbyist who is not a lobbyist for another agency down the line, but we need one now. This is our option and he is very knowledgeable. Eric Dau – I would like to amend my motion and erase the caveat of not being associated with another agency. Seconded by Jason Hoffman – Carroll County. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn, Judy Flores. Seconded by Marilyn Stayner. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Brenda Vande Voorde*

IANENA Secretary