

**Rock Springs, Green River, Sweetwater County Combined Communications
Joint Powers Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 28, 2025**

The Rock Springs, Green River, Sweetwater County Combined Communications Joint Powers Board held its regular meeting on Monday, April 28, 2025 at 5 Shoshone Avenue, Green River, Wyoming. Board members present included: Jim Wamsley and Mera Souare via teleconference; Bill Erspamer, Jeannie Demas, Shaun Sturlaugson, and Bradley Halter. Board members absent were: John Grossnickle, Cindy Johnson, and Clark Allred. Also in attendance were: George Lemich, attorney; and Sweetwater County Commissioner Mary Thoman via teleconference; David Halter, IT director; Drew Varley, accountant; Becca Thornock; Rock Springs City Councilman David Thompson; and Jen Buller.

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Bill Erspamer called the meeting to order at 2:31p.m.

Agenda for Regular Meeting

The agenda was distributed to those in attendance. Erspamer stated an Executive Session will be needed for personnel matters. Erspamer entertained a motion to approve the agenda as presented. A motion was made by Demas and seconded by Sturlaugson. Motion carried unanimously by board members.

Minutes from Regular Meeting

Erspamer entertained a motion to approve the minutes from regular meeting March 24, 2025. A motion was made by Sturlaugson and seconded by Wamsley. Motion carried unanimously by board members.

Financial Report

Varley stated 75% to 80% of the budget has been expended. 911 revenue is currently \$25,000 away from what was budgeted.

Comments from Floor

Discussion was had regarding the director and financial reports being available to non-board members and moving public comments towards the end of the meeting. No action was taken.

Interim-Executive Director/IT Director Report

A copy of the director/IT director's report was included in the meeting packet and went as follows:

"Milestones: Dispatcher Bailee Pitt had her 1-year work anniversary on April 18, 2025. On April 1, the County Commissioners, Rock Springs City Council, and Green River City Council presented the National Telecommunicator Week proclamations as they have in previous years. Myself, Shift Supervisors Jen Buller and Katie Fryer, and dispatchers Kenzee Mullins, Chantell Bolton, and Carrie Williams attended the various meetings. On April 2, Brey and I traveled to Superior to meet with Mayor Dominic Wolf and their Public Safety Director, Ozzie Knezovich, to discuss their communications needs for patrol and fire response. We are forming a proposal to provide and manage communications equipment for the town's public safety. They are hoping to hire their own law enforcement and get more volunteer fire fighters. On April 3, Becca and I participated in a TestGenius implementation meeting. TestGenius is a software we use for dispatch applicants, as part of our hiring process, to test their ability to multi-task, type, memory recall, and reading comprehension skills. They are moving to an online setup and will no longer be supporting our current software. Later that same day, we held a DRC Group and Shift Supervisor meeting and specifically discussed a procedure for dispatch to auto-launch AirMed. Shift Supervisor Katie Fryer attended FBI-LEEDA's Supervisor Leadership Institute from April 7-11. On April 7, I submitted our preliminary budget to the City of Green River along with their 32% contribution amount of \$1,296,719.65 for FY26. On April 15, I submitted our preliminary budget to Sweetwater County along with their 25% contribution amount of \$1,013,062.23 for FY26. On April 8, Brey and I traveled to Farson to meet with their fire department and discuss a plan to install wire-line control for their repeater. This will allow our dispatch center to directly communicate through the repeater in Farson rather than using a base station radio on Wilkins Peak. It will also allow dispatch to monitor that channel at all times. We programmed 12 portable radios, as well as a mobile radio, in the Rescue 4 fire truck for the Southwest Wyoming Regional Airport for use by their fire fighters and airport personnel. These are their first WyoLink capable radios, and they were able to use them during the airport exercise that was held on April 12. During the airport's mass-casualty exercise on April 12, the communications center received 19 simulated 911 calls within the first 12 minutes of the exercise. Approximately 40 minutes later, the center received an additional 17 911 calls within 6 minutes. While these calls were for the purpose of the airport exercise, the additional calls were not anticipated, and were not a part of the official exercise. Regardless, the crew working that day handled the enormous influx of calls quickly and professionally, all while handling the radio traffic of the exercise and real-world calls. The purpose of the exercise was to stress test our capabilities, and the results exceeded my expectations. Thanks to Ali Murphy, Kolten Wall, Bailee Pitt, and Val Gelinis for their work during this time, and to Katie Fryer's crew for helping write the 911 call scenarios for the volunteers. Dispatchers Bailee Pitt and Cassie Whittaker attended Preparing for Leadership at Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy from April 14-18. Dispatchers Tani Mamalis and Robyn Thompson attended Priority Dispatch's Navigator Conference from

April 14-18. On April 17, Becca and dispatcher Carrie Williams attended the webinar Generations-Myths and Misunderstandings hosted by Equature. Also on April 17, Brey and I attended the VLCM IT Exchange. We met with dozens of vendors and attended several demos of different products. The overall theme this year was AI and cybersecurity. On April 21, Becca and I had an implementation meeting for VSP. Our current health, dental, and vision insurance through WAM-JPIC is up for renewal. We will be canceling the vision coverage and moving to VSP starting July 1, 2025. On April 24, we held a Dispatch Hall of Fame and Years of Service awards ceremony. Thank you to those who attended.

Committee Reports

None noted.

Bills & Claims

Erspamer entertained a motion to accept the bills and claims. A motion was made by Wamsley and seconded by Demas. Motion carried unanimously by board members.

Correspondence

WY Highway Patrol Commendation

D. Halter stated a letter from Highway Patrol was received expressing their appreciation for how well the dispatch center handled the Green River tunnel incident. A copy of the letter was included in the meeting packet. Erspamer entertained a motion to place the correspondence on file. A motion was made by Wamsley to accept the correspondence and attached it to the minutes. Motion was seconded by B. Halter and carried unanimously by board members.

WAM-JPIC Health Insurance Rates for FY2026

A copy of the fiscal year 2026 health insurance rates was included in the meeting packet. D. Halter stated a 5% increase was included in the preliminary budget and the rates came in at a 5.07% increase. However, with removing vision coverage from Blue Cross Blue Shield, the increase is closer to 4.9%. Erspamer entertained a motion to place the correspondence on file. A motion was made by Demas and seconded by Wamsley. Motion carried unanimously by board members.

New Business

Guardian Alliance-Background Checks

D. Halter stated the Center currently uses Background Solutions for background checks on new hires. Guardian Alliance provides a more intuitive interface and allows for credit and social media checks. The Sheriff's Office, Rock Springs Police Department, and Wyoming Highway Patrol currently use Guardian for their background checks. The minimum cost for using Guardian is \$500 annually and roughly \$125

per full background check that is completed. Wamsley made a motion to approve the agreement with Guarding Alliance regarding background checks and authorize the Board Chair to sign. Motion was seconded by Sturlaugson and carried unanimously by board members.

Telecom Board Purchasing

D. Halter stated the Telecom Board does not purchase equipment often so when they do, a credit application has to be filled out each time. It is being requested that two line items be added to the Communications Board's budget that would allow Halter to purchase equipment on behalf of the Telecom Board from those line items and then bill the Telecom Board for reimbursement. A \$70,000 line item for expenses and \$70,000 line item for revenue would be the ones added. Halter would meet with Lemich to create an MOU between the two boards. Demas made a motion to approve the request. Motion was seconded by Sturlaugson and carried unanimously by board members.

Comments from the Chairman and Board

Wamsley thanked the dispatchers and staff for everything they do to take care of the first responders and public. Erspamer seconded that thanks.

Old Business

None noted.

Executive Session

Erspamer entertained a motion to move into executive session for personnel matters at 2:47p.m. A motion was made by Demas and seconded by Sturlaugson. Motion carried unanimously by board members. The regular meeting was placed back in order at 3:02p.m. During the regular meeting, a motion was made by Demas to approve a salary increase of \$2,250 to compensate D. Halter for doing the role of Interim Executive Director. Motion was seconded by Sturlaugson and carried unanimously by board members.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the board was scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2025 at 5 Shoshone Avenue in Green River, WY.

Adjournment

Erspamer entertained a motion for adjournment. A motion was made by Wamsley and seconded by Sturlaugson. Motion carried unanimously by board members. Meeting was adjourned at 3:05p.m.



COLONEL TIM CAMERON
Administrator

WYOMING **whp** HIGHWAY PATROL

"Guardians of the Cowboy State"



MARK GORDON
Governor
DARIN J. WESTBY, P.E.
Director, WYDOT

March 17, 2025

David Halter, Interim Director
Sweetwater Combined Communications Center
5 Shoshone Ave.
Green River, WY 82935

Mr. Halter,

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation to the Sweetwater Combined Communications Center for the critical work your personnel conducted during the tragic event that occurred in the westbound I-80 Green River tunnel on February 14, 2025. The clear and controlled manner in which your personnel processed the numerous calls and collected and shared information was key to the quick response of the many responders. The magnitude of the investigation of this event was such that it required significant cooperation, coordination, and resources from many agencies. The handling of this call and effort put forth by the Sweetwater Combined Communications Center dispatchers to ensure updated information was communicated were critical to the response and processing of this incident. The skill, dedication, responsiveness, and communication provided by your personnel were vital pieces in ensuring the necessary resources were available and coordinating rescue efforts, traffic control, and follow-up operations. Our thanks to each of your staff for the patience and understanding they exhibited during the processing of this incident.

On behalf of the Wyoming Highway Patrol, District 3, and Troop E, I share our appreciation for the assistance provided by your men and women, and for your continued partnership and support. Please relay our sincere gratitude to all of your personnel who assisted in any way during this event.

Sincerely,

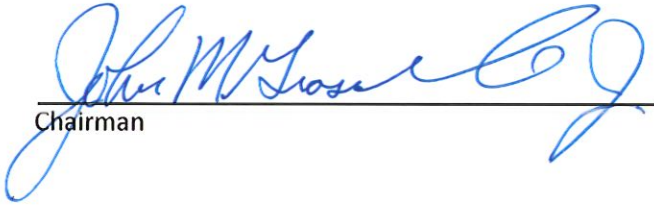
Captain Marc Russell
District 3 Commander

cc: Colonel Tim Cameron
Lt. Colonel Karl Germain
Major James Thomas
Major KC Ramsey



Vice-Chair

Date: 5/19/25



Chairman

Date: 05/19/2025