



# MANITOWOC COUNTY

## JOINT DISPATCH BOARD

### Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** January 6, 2025  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.  
**PLACE:** Manitowoc County Communications & Technology Building  
1024 S. 9<sup>th</sup> St., Manitowoc, WI 54220  
Room 111/112

**Committee Members Present:** Paul Granger, Dan Hartwig, Joe Jeanty, Mark Knier, John Musial, and James Falkowski. Non-Committee members in attendance were Bill Jones, Angela Obry, Rhonda Green, Luke Kalista, Connie Bashaw, Todd Olig, Jason Orth, Ashley Smits, Kevin Haese, Todd Cummings.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Granger at 09:00 am.

**Roll Call/Introductions:** Roll call was completed at 09:04 am.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approve Minutes of April's Meeting:** Dan Hartwig approved June's meeting minutes and seconded by James Falkowski.

#### **Old Business:**

- a. EMABAS – Nothing to report.
- b. Automatic Crash Notifications Discussion – Angela shared there were 56 phone/device crash alerts. 30 of those were accidental, 26 were actual crashes. Of those 26, 19 other calls were received from other callers informing JD of a crash, 7 of those alerts were strictly iPhone crash alerts.

#### **New Business:**

##### Updates from IT

- a. Upgrades
  - Bill Jones that all radios have been read and should be programmed before the beginning of April for the switch-over.
  - Consoles in dispatch have been upgraded and are working without issues.
- b. New Password Policy
  - Ashley stated that the new password requirement started 1/1/26. Passwords are 20-60 characters long, and will have to be changed annually.
- c. Department Changes
  - IT and DPW departments are now stand-alone departments. Bill Jones is communications and will be working under the IT department. Luke is now the director of the IT department.
  - Luke stated that the county will be moving to the cloud in 2027.
- d. Communications
  - Bill was asked if DSC will still continue to program the radios. Bill will follow up.

#### Update from Emergency Services Department:

- a. Rhonda Green announced that the lawsuit regarding the FY25 EMPG Grant program is over, the counties won. We will be getting our FY25 EMPG grant monies in FY26 along with our FY 26 grant monies.
- b. Emergency Management will be participating in a multiple county table top exercise in Calumet County in April. The exercise is Hazardous Materials related focusing on a large-scale chlorine leak.
- c. Rhonda advised the group that SWS (Sheboygan Warning Systems) is under new management. Tom was killed in a car accident a few weeks ago. Rhonda stated that all the municipalities have been given the names and phone numbers of the two men who took over the company.

#### Update from Joint Dispatch

- a. Residential Alerts – Members of the s/o feel the database should be built up again from scratch. There are address/owners whose owners have been deceased for years. Concern from the group is who will be responsible for maintaining the database. Discussion was tabled around each department having an "admin" appointed to do all the entering and changing of information in the database.
- b. Pre-Alerts started January 1<sup>st</sup>. Senior dispatchers occasionally trip during the pre-alert giving too much information. It will take them a while to get used to the new procedure after decades of doing it the way they are used to. Everyone agrees after the tones are set, the message should stay short and sweet, example: Attention XYZ department for a call at 123 Main St. The rest of the information should be given during the second page.
- c. JDC has two in training, one on maternity leave, and one just started on her own today. One position is vacant but will not be advertised until the two in training are on their own.
- d. Connie Bashaw introduced the What Three Words App to the group. This app integrates with their system and can accurately pinpoint where the caller is within 10 feet. The app is free and can be downloaded any smart phone. When a caller calls 911, the responder can open their app, type in the three words that populate from the app with directions to the caller's location. Locally, Brown and Fond-du-Lac County 911 center's use it as well as Wisconsin Emergency Management in addition to many fire/EMS and Sheriff Departments across the state.

#### Update from EMS

Mark Knier announced he is stepping down as the EMS Association Chair, the JD Board, and EMD Committee. Todd Olig will be his replacement in all three.

Next Meeting Date: April 7, 2026, 9:00 AM at the EOC

Adjournment: A motion was made by James Falkowski and seconded by Dan Hartwig to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 09:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rhonda Green*

Rhonda Green  
Director  
Manitowoc County Emergency Services Department