



Mark Gordon
Governor

Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission

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Darin J. Westby, P.E.
Director

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

The Public Safety Communications Commission (PSCC) met on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, via videoconference. Chairman Monte McClain presided, calling the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call

The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Monte McClain, Chairman	Mike Choma, Commissioner
Phillip Franklin, Vice Chairman	Karl Germain, Commissioner
Matt Waldock, Commissioner	Josh Van Vlack, Commissioner
Paul Bertoglio, Commissioner	Darin Westby, WYDOT Director, Ex Officio
Matt Carr, Commissioner	

Commissioners Brian Browne, Rick Kaysen, Cindi Shank, and John Wetzel were absent.

III. Introductions

The following attendees participated in the meeting:

Nathan Smolinski, Chief Technology Officer, WYDOT; Mark Kelly, Emergency Communications Program Manager, WYDOT; MacKenzie Sewell, Assistant Attorney General, Wyoming Attorney General; and Kimberly Chapman, Commission Secretary, WYDOT.

Susan Elliott and Caitlin Casner assisted with virtual meeting management.

IV. Agenda Adjustments

Ms. Chapman reported no changes to the agenda.

V. Action Items

1. Consideration of the Expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for the WyoLink System

Mr. Smolinski provided an update on the progress of the eight sub-projects under the ARPA initiative. He reviewed a detailed spreadsheet that tracks contracted amounts, expenditures, encumbrances, and, critically, remaining funds for reallocation.

Mr. Smolinski outlined the proposed reallocations, stating the team would like to transfer approximately \$2 million from the Dynamic System Resilience project and

\$524.11 from the equipment upgrades project. These funds will be directed to the microwave project and the new WyoLink towers in Sheridan and Saratoga.

A significant hurdle in the microwave project is the issue of "legacy towers"—existing infrastructure from older state systems. Many of these towers are not passing structural analysis because the equipment load has increased substantially over the years. This has led to change orders for remediation work, including foundation drilling, as some foundations were found to lack rebar. These change orders amount to approximately \$1.185 million, increasing the overall contract by about 9.25 percent.

Additionally, quotes for the complete replacement of several towers—including Jade Mountain, Divide Hill, Sherman Hill, Strauss Hill, Shirley Mountain, First Divide, and Cheyenne Bishop—total approximately \$3.2 million. Mount Pisgah will undergo steel reinforcement instead of full replacement. These quotes, provided by Motorola, are currently being vetted with another vendor.

The total increase to the microwave project's obligation, including these quotes and reallocated funds, will be just under \$17.5 million, representing a nearly 13 percent increase from the original obligation.

Mr. Smolinski requested that the commission approve the reallocation of funds to facilitate the necessary tower replacements and remediation. He underscored the criticality of this request, as ARPA funds must be expended by the end of 2026. The strategic plan involves prioritizing the replacement of critical towers located centrally within the system to maintain project momentum, with removals of old towers to follow.

In response to Commissioner Waldock's inquiry, Mr. Smolinski clarified that the dynamic system resilience project cannot yet be completed. This project, designed to establish a secondary connection to the Casper Master Site utilizing new and existing infrastructure, is contingent upon the prior build-out of the microwave system to support the necessary technology. Essentially, this project's completion is dependent on the ongoing microwave system work.

In response to Commissioner Choma's inquiry, Mr. Smolinski clarified the ongoing process of validating bids for the tower replacements. He confirmed that the team is actively engaging with a local Wyoming company to explore alternatives to the Motorola quotes, particularly for the civil construction aspects of the \$3.2 million projects. WYDOT will pursue this different vendor if they can meet the project's needs and offer cost savings.

Commissioner Choma sought clarification regarding the approval request. Mr. Smolinski confirmed that the team has been in discussions with the alternative vendor for several weeks, with a follow-up meeting scheduled soon. He stressed that the current request is exclusively for approval to reallocate funds, not for immediate expenditure or a commitment to a specific vendor. Mr. Smolinski confirmed that the team will adhere to agency policy by attempting to secure three bids through a formal quote process.

It was recommended by Mr. Smolinski, moved by Commissioner Choma, seconded by Commissioner Bertoglio, and unanimously carried to approve the reallocation of ARPA funds as presented.

VI. Updates

1. 911 Working Group

Mr. Smolinski announced that Senate File 57, concerning 911 outage reporting, has successfully passed its final reading in the House and is anticipated to be enacted into law shortly. As reported at the February meeting, the collaborative effort between the Public Service Commission, WYDOT, and the telecommunications companies to develop new rules will begin soon.

Efforts to secure ongoing 911 funding are moving forward, and Mr. Smolinski hopes this will be an interim topic for the Joint Corporations Committee. Matt Johnson, Torrington's Chief of Police, has volunteered to be the bill's requester.

Mr. Smolinski plans to establish a working group to develop a presentation for the Joint Corporations Committee regarding the funding initiative. This group will include local officials, (PSCC) commissioners, and telecommunications providers. While no immediate action is required, individuals familiar with 911 systems in their communities are encouraged to consider participating. Mr. Smolinski will contact interested parties to assess their availability and willingness to contribute.

X. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Bertoglio, seconded by Commissioner Waldock, and unanimously carried to adjourn the March 4, 2025, special meeting at 1:20 p.m.