



Cass County Emergency Services Board

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CASS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD TO ROLL BACK ½-CENT SALES TAX

As promised to voters in 2012, the Cass County Emergency Services Board (ESB) took action to roll back the countywide ½-cent sales tax six months earlier than expected. The sales tax collected through the ESB was approved by voters in April of 2012 to replace the previously collected landline surcharge to pay for 911. The tax also consolidated the county's public safety radio communication system to keep it in compliance with mandated federal regulations by purchasing a 800 MHz system to allow all law enforcement, fire departments, ambulance services and public works departments in Cass County to communicate with each other; a capability they had not previously enjoyed.

"We told voters we would be good stewards of their tax dollars and delivered on what we promised," Chairman Kris Turnbow said. "The fact that we can lower the tax rate even sooner than expected is an additional benefit to all Cass County residents." On Wednesday, the ESB voted unanimously to combine the final two payments of the Master Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement to Motorola Solutions, Inc., which is due April 1 and Oct. 1, 2019 – into one final payment totaling \$2,458,531 on April 1, 2019. This action will allow for the early roll back of the ½-cent sales tax to a ⅛-cent sales tax as promised on the sales tax referendum of April, 2012. This rollback will likely take place on Oct. 1, 2019, rather than April 1, 2020 but is ultimately in the hands of the Missouri Department of Revenue once notified that the rollback can be implemented.

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