

911 COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
July 15, 2009

Chief Larry Grorud called the meeting of the 911 Commission to order at 2:11 p.m. on July 15, 2009.

Members present. Deputy Chief Norm Jacobs, Beloit Police Department; Chief Tim Huffman, Town of Turtle Fire Department; Chief Larry Grorud, Janesville Fire Department; Chief Dave Moore (Janesville Police Department); Chief Brad Liggett, Beloit Fire Department; Chief John Wilson, Town of Beloit Police Department

Members Not Present: Sheriff Bob Spoden, Rock County Sheriff's Department; Chief Tom Klubertanz, Edgerton Police Department; Chief Dan Jacobs, Footville Fire & EMS

Others present. David Sleeter/Kathy Sukus, Rock County Communications Center; Dara Mosley/Mickey Crittenden, Rock County Information Technology; Rick Felger, Town of Beloit Police Department

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda
2. Minutes – March 18, 2009
Motion to accept as written made by Liggett, Second by Huffman; approved
3. Comments from the Public – No public present
4. Recommendations from Work Groups Regarding Future Voice Communications – At the last Commission meeting, Huffman had questioned what Illinois was doing in regard to narrowband compliance. Sleeter followed up on this. Rockford will be going to the Illinois State trunking system (STARCOM) by July 2009. They will not have a VHF system. Winnebago County, on the other hand, will not be going to the State system and will maintain VHF operations. Winnebago County has no narrowband timeframe. Boone County is already on the State system (STARCOM) and will also be maintaining their VHF for outside contact.

Huffman stated what Illinois agencies do will greatly affect the Town of Turtle because of location. Liggett instructed Huffman to speak with Steve Hansen, Chief of Racine and MABAS guy.

Sleeter stated the FCC probably will not budge on the narrowband compliance date of 2013. The FCC stated that agencies were given notice eight years prior to the 2013 date. Sleeter suggested a countywide regional proposal be created (who pays for what, etc.) and be distributed to agencies. Interested agencies could then begin looking at grants and discussing a Plan B if funding fell through.

Sleeter asked the Commission whether they wanted to proceed with a County Proposal. Grorud stated he thinks that's what we need to do. Sleeter stated he would talk to the County Administrator. The Work Groups agreed with the Commission's recommendation of Option #4 ("Plan B" being Option #2) as being the best choice. Grorud noted that Motorola feels they have solved the problem of background noise on digital radios for firefighters.

Sleeter will approach the County Administrator about a regional proposal.

5. Public Safety System Support Personnel

Mickey Crittenden, Rock County IT Director, noted that it is IT's number one priority to support public safety. He outlined the increases in devices and systems needing support. It was noted that agencies are now having to wait to receive support on these items. Mosley said the level of service is not up to what it was two years ago. The addition of a public safety system support position is being suggested. This position would be committed to public safety system support and would be supervised by Dara Mosley.

Wilson noted this addition would be expensive, but he supports it. Grorud stated this absolutely has to be done, but the question is how to fund it. He said this should be born on County tax rolls. It was suggested that a resolution be created by September for the addition of a public safety support position funded by the County, motion by Moore, second by Wilson. Motion approved.

6. Informational Items & Updates

i: Quality Assurance

Second quarter quality assurance summaries were distributed to Commission members. The rate of return for the past three months has been 33%, 30%, and 57%. Sleeter noted this was exceptional, as a 30% rate of return is the usual average. The Communications Center is at 38% returned for the year. The grades for the second quarter were mostly A's and B's, with the exception of one D. This was the first D in a long time for the Center. A follow-up was done on this call. The citizen said the call taker's tone of voice showed a lack of concern for their report of a suspicious vehicle. Sleeter stated after reviewing the call the citizen's complaint was confirmed and appropriate follow-up actions were taken. Jacobs inquired how difficult it was to find the recording of a call to critique. Sukus noted it usually takes a matter of minutes due to recordkeeping trails.

ii: Assistance to Firefighter's Grant - Update

According to Dara Mosley, the initial install of hot spots will occur next week. August will be when the big rollout of equipment happens. Mosley spoke briefly on possible training on how to use the new software. He noted Steve Kramer is currently doing testing on the mapping software. A snag has been

found regarding highways, but the vendor believes this can be solved. Mosley said hot spots should be completed by September 27, 2009.

Huffman questioned when agencies would need to begin paying for services. A partial payment may be due the last few months of 2009.

iii: BadgerTraCS

Mosley stated training dates are in the works for the October/November time period. More information will be coming.

iv: Activity Update

Sleeter inquired as to whether anyone had questions about the Activity Update that was attached with the Commission Agenda. No questions.

5. Set Date for Next Meeting – September 16, 2009
6. Adjournment – Motion Huffman, Second Liggett. Approved. Meeting Adjourned at approximately 2:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara Hanley
Support Specialist
Rock County Communications Center