

911 COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

April 21st, 2021
Unofficial Minutes

Members present: Chief Ernie Rhodes, Janesville Fire Department; Chief David Moore; Janesville Police Department; Sheriff Troy Knudson, Rock County Sheriff's Office; Brian Snyder, Town of Beloit Fire Department; Chief Randy Pickering, Edgerton Fire Department; Chief Brian Raupp, Orfordville Police Department; Chief Tom Kunkel, Town of Fulton Police Department

Members Not Present: Chief Dan Pease, Beloit Fire Department; Interim Chief Tom Stigler, Beloit Police Department

Others present: Kathy Sukus, Brian Becker and Faith Quinlan, Rock County Communications Center; Sara Herzig and Dara Mosley, Rock County IT

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

Chief Rhodes called the meeting of the 911 Communications Commission to order at 2:00pm Motion to approve the agenda by Knudson. Second by Kunkel. All approved.

2. **Minutes – January 20, 2021**

Motion by Kunkel to approve minutes as written. Second by Pickering. All approved. January 20, 2021 minutes approved as written.

3. **Comments from the Public**

None

4. **Information Technology – Updates**

- 1) Radio Network Separation: Dara Mosley explained the status of the radio network separation at three different sites as part of the ongoing response to the November 2020 countywide network outage. Vendor General Communications (GenComm) successfully completed work at the first site, Janesville Fire Station 1. The link is up at the second location at the Town of Beloit Fire Department. Work is delayed at the third site (Blackhawk Technical College) due to a holdup finalizing the agreement with Spectrum Communications; that agreement was recently received and has been sent to Corporation Counsel for review.

5. **Rock County Fire Officers' Radio System Recommendations – Update**

Kathren Sukus gave updates on the 12 areas needing improvements, as recommended by the Rock County Fire Officer's Association.

- 1) Physical Separation of Radio Network – The anticipated completion date of the project is July 2021.
- 2) Standalone Backup Control Station Radios at Dispatch Center – GenComm received an approved purchase order on 4/9/21, with installation expected May 2021.
- 3) Reestablish Over-The-Air Link to Paging Transmitter – This is already in place but Standard Operating Procedures need completed.
 - a. Pickering indicated in addition to Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), there should be a broader, multi-

disciplinary network-down SOP for law/fire/EMS. He suggested it should address inside the 911 Center and the 13-14 area fire stations. Sukus stated the topic would be added to the upcoming Fire Workgroup agenda.

- 4) Add ALL CALL Paging Tones to New Control Station Radios – This will be available when radios are installed.
- 5) Add RF ALL CALL Paging Capability at Dane County 911 as a Backup - Sukus and Brian Becker met with representatives from Dane County's 911 Center, who confirmed they would assist. GenComm is testing methods to develop quotes for the project.
- 6) Add Portable Coverage to Existing "Off-Network" Channels – Sukus stated this was discussed at multiple meetings with workgroup members and more recently confirmed with Chief Pickering & Capt. McManus (Janesville FD) to make certain GenComm understand what was being requested. GenComm expected to have a quote by the end of April or early May to present to the County Administrator.
- 7) Hire Consultant to Review Staffing and Technology Needs for Present and Future – Sukus and Becker met with Mission Critical Partners in March where they discussed numerous goals for the 911 Center's staffing, technology needs, and more. The Center is waiting on quotes to address improvements, which will then need to be approved by the County Administrator to move forward.
- 8) Enhance Fireground Capacity and Capability – This will be included in the 2022 budget with the MASTR III update project.
- 9) Implement Automatic Alerting System for Fire/EMS Agencies – Rock County IT is researching products that are compatible with the current CAD system. This will be placed in the Center's CIP for 2023 budget, and will be discussed further with the Fire Workgroup to determine what product will work best.
- 10) Improve IFERN and IFERN2 Coverage in North and South – This will be reviewed in future budget. MASTR III updates for both channels are slated for 2023.
- 11) Add "BeOn" Capabilities to Rock County Radio Infrastructure – This will be put in CIP for future budget. Dane County is open to hosting Rock County on their system possibly to save on costs.
- 12) Build WISCOM Functionality into County Communications Plan Where Beneficial – Currently watching to see what the State plans to do with WISCOM in the future. Currently, the Center has 3 WISCOM radios, but not all agencies have capability in all radios.
 - a. Pickering shared insight into what he learned recently regarding the project. He discussed the various financial and logistical hurdles. The group discussed whether American Recovery Act funds could help offset potential costs. Currently, changes are already factored into Governor Evers' 2021/2022 budget. Sukus stated additional information would be shared with the group as it became available.

6. Information Items and Updates

- 1) Sukus provided additional details regarding the IT Department and Communications Center's building expansion. Bids are due in May 2021,

with groundbreaking anticipated for August 2021 and move-in expected in late 2022.

- 2) MASTR III project details were discussed further.
- 3) The Center received an \$81,530 grant to upgrade the NextGen 911 logging recorders. The project is progressing quickly.
- 4) The Center is slowly reopening to allow tours, and Sukus indicated requests should go through her, Becker, or supervisors. Approximately 70% of Center staff have been vaccinated.
 - a. Sukus proposed whether to hold the July 911 Commission meeting in person. The group decided to continue ZOOM meetings until further notice.

7. Adjournment

Kunkel moved to adjourn the 911 Communications Commission meeting at 2:34 pm. Second by Knudson. All in favor.

Next Meeting – July 21st @ 2pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Faith Quinlan
Administrative Secretary
Rock County Communications Center