

Radio System User Committee

Minutes

September 15, 2022

The meeting of the Radio System User Committee was called to order by Chairman, Dan Birenbaum at 2:32 p.m. in the Ozaukee Sheriff's Office Lobby Conference Room of the Justice Center of Ozaukee County, Port Washington. Roll Call was taken and present were committee members: James Albrinck, Dan Birenbaum, Bob Ramthun, Joe Laurin, and Rick Nelson. Others in attendance: Shawn Anderson, Ozaukee County Radio Services; Matt Karpinski, Grafton Fire Department; Brandon Boettcher, Mequon Fire Department; Joe DeBoer, Port Washington Fire Department; Dennis Buchholtz, President of Communication Site Management and Contract Manager for Ozaukee County radio upgrades; Sixto Hernandez, Buchholtz CSM LLC; Jack Sculley, L3 Harris; Rodney Philgren, L3 Harris; Duane Willborn, General Communications; John Tramburg, General Communications.

Excused: Lindsay Graycarek; Josh Borden

2. Per Chairman, Dan Birenbaum, meeting was properly noticed. Agenda was adopted.

3. Approval of May 19, 2022 Minutes.

Motion by Rick Nelson, second by Jim Albrinck to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comments/Correspondence/Communications

None

5. Update on Radio Services, Condition of the Radio System, Planning for the Future of the Radio System

Shawn stated that last weekend Harris made progress with an issue in the radio system that was discovered in May. Testing was recently performed to ensure everything was operational. The transition to the P25 system is expected to occur sometime in the next couple of weeks.

Rodney Philgren added that the issue was discovered when new software was loaded in May but there was no end user impact. The testing was done because they wanted to ensure the system was stable before switching over.

Shawn will be sending out emails coordinating the transition process. Dan Birenbaum asked if the talk groups will remain the same. Shawn confirmed that they will remain the same for now. Matt Karpinski asked if there was a time frame for transitioning to the new talk groups adding that the previous plan is old and they would like to make changes. Shawn said it will be worked on but wanted to get through the transition to P25 before moving on to this project.

Dennis Buchholtz stated they are working on a maintenance agreement with Harris. They will be doing work with the Grafton DPW control stations and quotes. The radio recycling was completed two months ago but he is still receiving additional equipment. Users can turn items over to Dennis for disposal.

Jim Albrinck asked about the status of Concordia University's radios. Brandon Boettcher discussed a recent table top exercise conducted with the university which demonstrated issues with communications. The Concordia staff concluded that they need new radios but it's unknown where they are at with the process.

Rick Nelson questioned the maintenance agreement stating he though the agreement was completed two years ago. Dennis replied that while discussions were held no agreement was put in place and both sides have been working under the warranty during this time. Dennis added that the County Administrator Jason Dzwinel is aware.

Jim Albrinck left the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Matt questioned how end user agreements and maintenance is completed. Dennis stated end users should contact General Communications directly for repairs.

Dan asked about the control stations. Dennis stated that he has updated quote which was submitted to Jason Dzwinel. Shawn added that the cost of the control stations should be covered by the county as part of the project.

Rick asked Jack Sculley about the life span of portables. Jack stated about 10 years but could be longer if taken care of properly. Jack also noted that Harris can't control technological advancements that affect the radio system and equipment.

Discussion between Matt and Jack regarding the warranty replacement of portable mics. Matt stated that the old microphones are no longer supported and replacements received under warrant are not as good. Jack will look in to the issue.

6. Status of Harrington State Park Tower

Shawn confirmed that the tower will be activated once we transition to the P25 system.

7. MABAS Update

Brandon stated their box cards will be changing in the next couple of months. Area fire departments will be meeting soon to complete the annual updates.

8. Washington County Update

Dennis remarked that a Completed Detailed Design review for the building and tower in Washington County is done. They are now working on MOU's and locking in tower sites.

9. Set next Meeting Date and Time

Next meeting set for December 1st at 2:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion by Rick Nelson, second by Bob Ramthun to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

CC: County Clerk
Radio User Group