

Radio System User Committee

Minutes

June 15, 2023

The meeting of the Radio System User Committee was called to order by Chairman, Dan Birenbaum 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, Joe Laurin, and Rick Nelson. Others in attendance: Shawn Anderson, Ozaukee County Radio Services; Bill Rice, Grafton Fire Department; Matt Karpinski, Grafton Fire Department; Dennis Buchholtz, President of Communication Site Management and Contract Manager for Ozaukee County radio upgrades; Sixto Hernandez, Buchholtz CSM LLC; Scott Ziegler, Ozaukee County Emergency Management; Jeff Vahsholtz, Cedarburg Fire Department; Ray Vollrath, Cedarburg Fire Department; Jason Dzwiniel, Ozaukee County Administrator; Joe DeBoer, Port Washington Fire Department.

Excused: Josh Borden, Robert Ramthun, Lindsay Graycarek

1. Call to Order at 2:31 p.m.

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

3. Approval of May 16, 2023 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

Dennis Buchholtz advised that the contract was signed for the Pinnacle site and the steel has been ordered. Crews will be working on the site to clear trees. All of the pre-testing has been completed. They still need to complete a Detail Design Review (DDR) for the microwave update. Funds were approved for new control stations and they are being purchased.

Jim Albrinck asked about time line. Dennis replied that he was waiting on an invoice before moving forward so no timeline is currently available.

Dennis remarked that new equipment was purchased for Grafton. Matt Karpinski asked for a timeline on that. Dennis stated it would be the same as the control stations.

Shawn Anderson arrived at 2:35 p.m.

Shawn stated profile updates have been put on hold to work on the encryption of the law enforcement talk groups. Rick Nelson asked if the work included fire. Shawn stated fire departments have not been involved in the encryption conversations. Jim Albrinck asked if law and fire could communicate. Shawn stated law and fire could be patched but that drops the encryption.

Jeff Vahsholtz asked if we need to wait for the control stations to be installed before switching to P25. Shawn confirmed that they must be in place before switching.

Jim Albrinck asked the group if anyone was experiencing queuing or coverage issues. Scott Ziegler stated the VHF mutual aid channels and 8TAC channels are bleeding over into each other. A COM-U in his group noted that the frequencies being used are too close together and we may need to revisit the channel usage.

Jeff Vahsholtz noted coverage and distortion issues on the law enforcement side in downtown Cedarburg. Joe DeBoer stated Port Washington Fire is still having issues with portable microphones. Matt Karpinski reported the same issue. Dennis requested the users provide him with the number of failed microphones and to then reach out to Jack Sculley with these issues.

Jason Dzwinel arrived at 3:06 p.m.

6. Election of New Chairperson

Per Dan Birenbaum, the election will be tabled until the next meeting due to the absence of multiple committee members.

7. Status of Harrington Beach

Shawn Anderson stated we're experiencing a microwave issue with that tower. Harris is working on getting it fixed.

8. MABAS

Bill Rice stated there have been a few busy months. There have been multiple box alarms including a shift during which two simultaneous box alarms took place, one in Ozaukee and one in Washington County. Bill added that there is a need for training as many of his current staff were not around when MABAS was implemented. Jim Albrinck asked Joe Laurin about the dispatch side. Joe agreed with Bill Rice about training newer staff since there has also been a number of new dispatchers since the start of MABAS.

9. Washington County Update

Dennis Buchholtz report that a 300' tower was constructed two weeks ago. They are now working on the Kewaskum site. Generators were ordered for all sites but the estimated delivery date is over a year out.

10. Set next Meeting Date and Time

Next meeting set for September 28, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion by Joe Laurin, second by Jim Albrinck to adjourn the meeting at 3:18 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

CC: County Clerk
Radio User Group