

Radio System User Committee

Minutes

September 26, 2024

The meeting of the Radio System User Committee was called to order by Chairman Bob Ramthun 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: Jim Albrinck, Joe Laurin, Bill Rice, Lindsay Graycarek, and Rick Nelson. Others in attendance: Heather Boesch, Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office; Sheriff Christy Knowles, Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office (arrived at 3:16 p.m.); Shawn Anderson, Ozaukee County Radio Services; Dennis Buchholtz, President of Communication Site Management and Contract Manager for Ozaukee County radio upgrades; Sixto Hernandez, Buchholtz CSM LLC; Kevin Runkel, Cedarburg Auxiliary Police; and Randy Bloch, Cedarburg Auxiliary Police.

Excused: Josh Borden

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

2. Per Chairman Bob Ramthun, meeting was properly noticed. Agenda was adopted.

3. Approval of June 13, 2024 Minutes.

Motion by Jim Albrinck, second by Joe Laurin to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comments/Correspondence/Communications

Jim received a communication from Tim Byers, Director of the Milwaukee Fire Bell inquiring about attending the meetings. He was told that the meeting is open to the public and he is welcome to attend.

5. Cedarburg Emergency Management Request to Change Call Numbers

Kevin Runkel requested to switch to the 1100 to 1199 radio series. He explained that due to a lack of radio numbers, a number of members must share a radio number with an added alpha character which causes confusion. Switching to four digits would provide enough numbers for each member to have their own. Shawn Anderson asked if dispatch had any concerns. Joe stated he did not. Bob Ramthun asked if all auxiliary police should be switched. Joe stated that would be best addressed at a future Chief's meeting by the Sheriff.

Upon her arrival, Sheriff Knowles stated she did not have any issues with allowing the use of the 1100 series. Joe asked that she add this to the agenda of the next police chief's meeting. Sheriff Knowles advised she would.

6. Megatone Paging Simulcast Activation

Shawn passed out a written update regarding the status of the installation project and provided an overview. The project is expected to be completed in October.

7. Effect of Megatone on Current Pagers in Use

Shawn explained that each department pager would have a new tone programmed in it to receive a shared tone for everyone. Lindsay Graycarek asked in what circumstances this would be used. Bill Rice provided an explanation. Bill asked Shawn what needs to be done on the fire department side. Shawn said just to program the tone sequence. Jim remarked that Cedarburg Auxiliary would need to be included. Jeff Vahsholtz. asked if Shawn would be doing the reprogramming. Shawn stated he does not have the capability to program pagers. Bill suggested a sub-committee to address the reprogramming and procedural issues.

8. Radio System Failure Procedure

Jim remarked that he believed the procedure from 2019 was fine and didn't need any changes. Discussion between Jim and Bill regarding the radio system communication issue that occurred over the summer. Shawn remarked that it took time to locate the issue.

Joe explained that the procedure was updated after the communication issue added that it needed to be revamped to address changes to county-wide dispatch. Joe remarked that it doesn't address who can activate the procedure. Discussion.

Joe recommended that the procedure is sent out to all committee members for review.

Jeff recommended regular testing of the procedure.

9. Proposed Fire Template vs. Current Template

Jim asked if a new fire template is necessary adding he wants to know what the new template has that wasn't included in the old template. Bill explained the efficiencies of the new template. Jim asked if all of the fire departments were included in the plan. Matt Karpinski explained that a representative from each fire department was included in the discussions.

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

Shawn stated they are still working on programming but are still on track to be completed by the end of 2024. Questions regarding the BeOn process and licensing.

Dennis provided a written update and provided an overview.

11. Status of Harrington Beach

Shawn stated that the site is still in a holding pattern. There were issues with turning off the EDACS system at this site because Grafton Fire Paging is still active on EDACS. Shawn added that he is working with GenCom to fix that issue.

Jim asked if anyone other than Grafton paging is still on EDACS. Shawn advised there is not.

12. MABAS Update

Bill Rice stated that the MABAS conference is starting today. More changes to the box cards are anticipated with departments merging services in the future.

13. Washington County Update

Dennis provided a written update and provided an overview. The work continuing.

Jeff inquired about the back-up center for dispatch. Heather Boesch asked Shawn if Washington County Sheriff is capable of paging Ozaukee County Fire Departments. Shawn said right now there is only a connection between Ozaukee and Washington Counties for two-way communication but added that paging should be possible in the future.

Joe provided an overview of how IamResponding can be used through both the web application and Gmail to alert area fire departments in the event of a radio failure. Jeff asked that this process be tested with each department.

14. Set next Meeting Date and Time

Next meeting set for January 16, 2025 at 2:30 p.m.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion by Rick Nelson, second by Bill Rice to adjourn the meeting at 3:38 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

CC: County Clerk
Radio User Group