

Radio System User Committee

Minutes

April 8, 2021

The meeting of the Radio System User Committee was called to order by Chairman, Dan Birenbaum at 2:30 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, Rick Nelson, Mark Kastens, Josh Borden, Joseph Laurin, and Bob Ramthun. Others in attendance: Jason Dzwiniel, Ozaukee County Administrator; Shawn Anderson, Ozaukee County Radio Services; Bill Rice, Grafton Fire Department; Matt Karpinski, Grafton Fire Department; Jeff Vahsholtz, Cedarburg Fire Department; Mark Mitchell, Port Washington Fire Department; Dennis Buchholtz, President of Communication Site Management and Contract Manager for Ozaukee County radio upgrades; Scott Ziegler, Emergency Management Director; Lt. Wayne Lambrecht, Ozaukee Sheriff's Office; Gary Schmidt, Milwaukee Fire Bell; Jack Sculley, L3 Harris.

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

3. Approval of January 22, 2021 Minutes.

Motion by Jim Albrinck, second by Josh Borden 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 distributed a packet containing sample MOU's. Dennis noted that there are user fees involved with communicating on the OASIS system. Matt Karpinski stated that this was different from the information he received regarding mutual aid channels. Discussion.

Fire Chief's from both Ozaukee and Sheboygan have been meeting regarding communication procedures. Additional meetings are planned to establish MOU's. Matt Karpinski asked if law enforcement was included in these discussions. Wayne Lambrecht explained the ability for patrol to utilize patching and interoperability channels on the law enforcement side. Joe Laurin explained that it was agreed upon at the last meeting with Sheboygan that we would continue to use these options for interoperability and found it unnecessary to have access to the other agency's talk groups. Discussion ensued regarding fire and law enforcement radio programming templates and the time frame. Law Enforcement template is due April 13th. Fire will review the law enforcement final template and adjust theirs as needed. Jim Albrinck questioned the need for sharing talk groups when MABAS procedures allow for interoperability. Shawn Anderson remarked that the infrastructure is already in place in Ozaukee County for interoperability but local agencies must devise their own protocols. Matt Karpinski explained the need to have local channels when working on a MABAS change of quarters since they will sometimes handle other local emergency calls separate from the MABAS incident.

Dennis provided an update on the radio system. New software called Activity Warehouse was purchased which is a radio system reports program for extracting data. Harris needs to name a local site manager to manage the project going forward. System acceptance is approximately 2 ½ weeks away.

Dennis remarked that no new radio system gets implemented without some issues. Matt Karpinski questioned how these issues would be reported. Discussion.

Dennis explained that the radios purchased for this project are of good quality and recommended that each agency consider purchasing a maintenance / extended warranty program once the MOU's have been signed.

Jack Sculley with L3 Harris introduced himself as the replacement for Tim Romanelli. Jack offered to answer any questions. Rick Nelson questioned the length of time the entire project has taken and asked if this was normal. Jack and Dennis discussed the issues encountered along the way which included discovering a need to build a new radio tower and the need to test radios at full foliage. Further discussion ensued.

Shawn Anderson provided an overview of the BeOn software and requirements.

6. Status of Harrington State Park Tower

No change

7. MABAS Update

Bill Rice stated a large fire took place in Menomonee Falls. He will soon receive the after-action report.

8. Washington County Update

Dennis Buchholtz advised that they are currently working on the contract.

10. Set next Meeting Date and Time

Next meeting set for June 17, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion by Jim Albrinck, second by Mark Kastens, to adjourn the meeting at 4:08 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

CC: County Clerk
Radio User Group