

Washtenaw County 800 MHz Consortium Board

Meeting Minutes from February 27, 2007 10:00 AM at the Saline Police Department

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Bunten at 10:12 AM.

Member Organizations Present

City of Ann Arbor - Lt. Spring Tremaine, Lt Angella Abrams, Sgt Tom Hickey
City of Ypsilanti – Lt Mark Angott
Chelsea Police - Chief Ed Toth
Eastern Michigan University Police - Lt. Jeff Nesmith
Forensic Center - Mark Bartow
Huron Valley Ambulance - Vice President Jerry Zapolnik, Craig Swenson
Milan Police - Chief Jeff Lewis
Northfield Township Police – Lt Tim Greene
Pittsfield Township Public Safety - Director John Phillips, Deputy Director Elizabeth McGuire
Saline Police - Chief Paul Bunten, Deputy Chief Jack Ceo
Washtenaw County Emergency Management - Dave Halteman
Washtenaw County Sheriff – Supervisor Tracy Chapman
Washtenaw County Road Commission - Ken Nixon
Ypsilanti Township Fire - Chief Larry Morabito

Others Present

Motorola, Inc - Dave Eischens, Tony Coppa, Connie Woodcock, Laurice Zielinski

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 12, 2006 Board meeting were unanimously approved. Motion: Zapolnik Second: Morabito

Financial Updates

Swenson reported that the transition review of the budget showed that there were three outstanding Motorola monthly bills from 2006 for a total of \$42,741 and also four member agencies that had not paid their 2006 maintenance charges totaling, \$87,900. As of today all members are current. Swenson will be meeting with Washtenaw County Finance personnel again to finalize the accounting process, but it appears at this time that the fund balance for 2006 will be approximately \$95,000. With 2007 income projected at \$282,600 and an approved budget of \$270,768 the 2007 fund balance is tentatively projected to be about \$109,000. This does not include any above budget expenditure that might be approved such as an upgrade to the SIMS system.

Swenson presented a document showing a breakdown of radios by entity. The total number of radios on the system is currently shown as 1884. Zapolnik asked where the Haz Mat team radios were reflected in the count and Halteman indicated that he thought they were in the Washtenaw County group. Swenson asked for clarification of the policy that allows MPSCS users to use the Washtenaw County system. Moriboto indicated that when Ypsilanti Township Fire purchased MPSCS radios he had discussions about those radios also being programmed for the Washtenaw County system. It was not clear if the policy to waive the fees was formalized by the Consortium or not. Tremaine commented that Ann Arbor has several MPSCS radios that they pay the lowest tier pricing to MPSCS for. Ceo asked if the full MPSCS fees were being paid on the Ypsilanti Township radios and Morabito indicated yes. Ceo suggested that if the MPSCS fees paid were less than the WC800 fee that perhaps they should pay the difference between the two to WC800. Bunten indicated that he would like to see Consortium action to formalize a policy and Morobito indicated that he would like to take a little more time to see how things are going with his communications needs. He indicated that he wants to pay his fair share if it turns out that Ypsilanti Township Fire uses the Consortium system in any extensive way other than Mutual Aid. Motion Zapolnik: To approve invoices except Ypsilanti Township and to continue discussion of the issue of dual programming until next meeting. Second: Bartow. Motion passed.

Swenson was also instructed to determine how many radios might possibly be in question, and what potential radios might be coming onto the system. Zapolnik noted that several fire departments are considering purchasing MPSCS radios. He also stated that paramedics that work the HVA E unit stationed in Dexter report that their MPSCS portable radio works much better than a WC800 radio they originally used. It was noted that this unit works in close proximity to the current MPSCS tower at Baker road and that similar results should not be expected throughout the county.

Swenson reviewed the bills and asked for approval to reimburse the City of Ann Arbor for electrical work to connect the CEB to the City UPS. The City of Ann Arbor provides space, utilities, and UPS power to the Consortium for the CEB at no charge. The electrical upgrades were identified by Motorola as necessary to insure reliable CEB performance. Swenson also explained that a server and the alias data base computer are currently not connected to the UPS. The electrician provided an estimate of \$520 to fix this. Motion by Zapolnik to pay bills and authorize additional electrical work. Second by Phillips. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Oversight Committee (POC) – Zapolnik reported that the consultant has developed a project timeline that will be available at the next meeting. The consultant has gathered information and is in the process of drafting the infrastructure RFP. The potential tower sites are being reviewed and it might be time to create the Implementation Team that the County Board planned. Bunten mentioned that the Business Plan Committee could provide a basis for this since any fine tuning needed in the plan could be done fairly easily. There was a general discussion about the makeup of the team and it was decided that the Executive Committee should meet to appoint the Implementation Team.

Non-Public Safety Users (NPSU) – Nothing to report at this time.

Business Plan – Nothing to report at this time.

Operational/Maintenance Issues

Swenson provide copies of the Motorola Dispatch Service Report with a spreadsheet highlighting the important issues. He provided an overview of each entry on the summary.

Swenson explained that Motorola contacted him to advise that the EMU tower Efratom Ribidium Time Standard device had been replaced with a Motorola spare and that this was one of the parts that had been identified by Motorola as needing upgrading about a year ago. The Consortium had elected not to spend money on new time standards at that time and an agreement was signed stating that both parties agreed that "...Motorola will use best effort as long as parts are available for the repair of unsupported equipment including but not limited to the efratoms...".

Swenson reported that he had done some independent investigation and was able to talk to the company that repairs these devices for the manufacturer. However, after several conversations to confirm that our model could still be repaired, he was referred back to Symmetricom, the company that purchased Efratom, because the sub-contractor did not want to go around their main client. Swenson provide an email from Symmetricom with an estimate of about \$4000 for repair. Bunten stated that he did not remember any discussion about the possibility of repair when the agreement was signed. Motion by Zapolnik to send our time standard unit out for repair. Second by Nixon. Motion passed.

Swenson advised that ComSource has recommended the SIMS (Smartnet Information Management System) be replaced with a newer product, Site Lens. The SIMS system has been at the Sheriffs Dept since 1987 but it is currently not functioning. Chapman stated that she has worked there for 4 years and to her knowledge it has never function in that time. Swenson stated that this is the same system that came with the original Type 1 infrastructure in 1987 and that it was not very user friendly then. He stated that ComSource has repaired it several times and that when it was recently returned from Motorola it only ran in the shop for a short time before a hard drive failed. Tony Coppa provided an estimate of \$20,000 for the new product. Swenson stated that he has not done due diligence on the product to confirm that it will provide the consortium with what we need (inhibit, press to talk and air time summary by talk group, and number of busies), but what he was looking for was a sense of direction from the Consortium. Bunten stated that accurate information about system usage is important to the migration to MPSCS. Tremaine asked if Motorola could provide this information without investing in new equipment and Coppa stated that they probably could not provide the level of detail that the Consortium is looking for. Nesmith asked if there was a lease option and Coppa advise he would look into that. Swenson was charged with investigating the product and getting the questions answered for the next meeting.

Swenson reported that one of the cases opened with Motorola was determined to be caused by a technician taking the EMU tower off-line for more than an hour. Swenson provided a copy of a letter that he was instructed by the Executive Committee to send to ComSource detailing the absolute need for notification to and approval by the Consortium before any anticipated outages. Lewis asked if the users would have input and Swenson stated that when he is notified he will contact the users that could be affected by the outage to get their approval. He cited the recent electrical upgrades that caused consoles to go down as an example of how the notification works.

Swenson advised the consortium that he had met with McGuire and Fulton to facilitate disaster planning for failure to the spread spectrum microwave connections they use. State Electronics

has a technician that has worked on these systems before and the users will be calling SEC for future problems if they occur.

Swenson mentioned that the Federal Daylight Savings Time legislation that lengthened this time could have an impact of the radio system time. This would not create problems for field users but could affect dispatch centers that are connected to the CEB. Swenson reported that Ron Kendall from ComSource stated that his technicians would be checking out the situation and applying a fix to compensation for the change. Zapolnik questioned if the NT platform will still be supported and Angott advised that he has addressed this and found a source for the NT patch if needed.

2007 Meeting Dates

The proposed dates for the remaining 2007 meetings were presented. The dates are:

April 24
June 26
August 28
October 23
December 18

Motion by Morobito to adopt these dates. Second by Nesmith. Motioned passed.

Public Comment

None

Next Meeting Date

April 24, 2007 at 10 AM Saline Police Department

Adjournment

Motion by Morobito to adjourn. Second by everyone. Motion passes.