

Washtenaw County 800 MHz Consortium Board

Meeting Minutes from August 28, 2007 10:00 AM at the Saline Police Department

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Bunten at 10:06 AM.

Member Organizations Present

Ann Arbor Fire – Assistant Chief Greg Hollingsworth
Ann Arbor Police – Lt. Spring Tremaine
Ann Arbor Public Schools – Director Brad Mellor
City of Ann Arbor – Don Lowenberg
Chelsea Police – Sgt David Dettling
Eastern Michigan University Police – Lt Jeff Nesmith
Forensic Center - Mark Bartow
Huron Clinton Metro Parks – Commander Harley Rider
Huron Valley Ambulance - Vice President Jerry Zapolnik, Craig Swenson
Michigan State Police – Lt Ann McCaffery
Milan Police - Chief Jeff Lewis
Northfield Township Police – Chief Carl Watkins
Pittsfield Township Public Safety - Director John Phillips, Deputy Director Al D’Agostino,
Deputy Director Elizabeth McGuire
Saline Police - Chief Paul Bunten, Deputy Chief Jack Ceo
University of Michigan Dept of Public Safety – Jeff McDole
Washtenaw County Emergency Management - Dave Halteman
Washtenaw County Government – Commissioner Leah Gunn, Scott Patton
Washtenaw County Road Commission – Bob Berger
Washtenaw County Sheriff – Supervisor Tracy Chapman
Ypsilanti Police – Lt Mark Angott
Ypsilanti Township Fire - Chief Larry Morabito

Others Present

Motorola, Inc – Dave Eischens, Tony Coppa, Laurice Zielinski
Advanced Wireless – John LeBeau
EF Johnson – Tom Thompson

Call to Order / Introductions

Chair Bunten asked everyone around the table to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 26, 2007 Board meeting were unanimously approved. Motion by Zapolnik, second by Bartow.

Financial Report

Swenson presented the Monthly Budget/Actual Comparison spreadsheet and reported a fund balance of \$319,874. He stated that the only bills coming in the past two months were the regular Motorola maintenance contract and the yearly tower rental from EMU for \$6825. There were no questions from the Board.

Committee Updates

Project Oversight Committee (POC) – Zapolnik reported that the POC would be meeting August 29th to approve the infrastructure contract with Motorola. He stated that he feels the project is on schedule and moving forward.

Project Implementation Team (PIT) - Ceo stated that the PIT will be meeting on August 30th to continue work on the subscriber unit procurement process. Specifically they will be refining the requirements and working on a point system to evaluate the bids. He reviewed the process so far and stated to this point things are going well.

Non-Public Safety Users (NPSU) – Bunten stated that this committee has been appointed and that Jack Ceo will serve as the chair. At this point there are no immediate issues so they have not met, but will be meeting when other projects are completed.

Fire Services Committee – Nothing to report.

Operational / Maintenance Issues

Swenson directed members to the Maintenance Executive Summary and stated that there was an air conditioner failure at Mercywood that required maintenance. He also stated that on a recent Sunday morning he responded to the Mercywood tower for a problem with HVA's fire transmitter. When he arrived he noticed that the generator was running but that the site had no utility power. All of the surrounding business did have power, and the problem was tracked to an overhead line near Jackson Ave where a squirrel had tripped the circuit. DTE finally restored the power late that evening. Dave Halteman explained that when the power surged it took out the phone line that serves the alarm system and the backup cellular system was not programmed to send power failure alarms. He has a contract in process that will upgrade the entire system to prevent this in the future.

Swenson reported that the contract for Site Lens has been signed and that the equipment should start shipping within a month.

Tremaine updated the group on the connection to the UM system. She introduced Jeff McDole from UM DPS and stated that the City of Ann Arbor and the University are working to increase their interoperability, particularly around football games. Tremaine stated that a UASI grant will be used to purchase two control stations for UM and 1 for the Consortium to attach to the CEB so that operations can be carried out without the need for a patch every time. This will also provide a redundant backup for both centers. She also stated that she would like to have the Consortium approve the University operating on the Washtenaw system. Tremaine made a motion to approve the University of Michigan to operate on the Washtenaw system with two consolettes. Second by Zapolnik. Zapolnik asked if we didn't already have an agreement in place and Swenson stated

that the only arrangements we currently have are for backup talkgroups on each others systems. Swenson also clarified that this is done without any year charge since the University will not be assigned any talkgroups for primary use, as well as the fact that they make their system available to us as a backup. Motion passed unanimously.

Swenson advised that the PSAP/8 group talked about the failsoft plan and appointed several member to get together to review the plan and prepare for the migration to MPSCS. The subgroup is Swenson, Ceo, Tremaine, Chapman, Halteman, and McDole.

Swenson explained that when he visited with Brad Mellor they discovered that the UM backup system and talk-around were not programmed into the Ann Arbor Public Schools radios. Brad contracted with Bob Nedrow to reprogram their radios and that was accomplished last weekend. Swenson stated that as they looked at failsoft assignments it was noticed that AAPS was on a channel with all of City government as well as County government. A decision was made to move them to a less used channel that they would share with the Forensic Center. Bunten requested that a diagram of the failsoft plan be made available to all Consortium members and Swenson indicated that he would have that by next meeting.

Swenson also explained that there has been a request for a Mutual Operating Agreement between the consortium and Huron Valley Ambulance for the use of HVA's new mobile command in return for supporting UASI grants to equip the unit. Swenson mentioned that HVA has always provided their mobile command to any unit in the county that has requested it and they are willing to formalize that policy in an agreement. A draft agreement was presented and a motion was made by Gunn and seconded by Lewis to approve the draft and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement. The motion passed, with Zapolnik abstaining.

Swenson relayed that the MPSCS has recommended that we adopt Mutual Operating Agreements with surrounding counties. This may provide some relief from power restrictions for our new system if it is to be used by other counties. Also, Northfield Township has approached the Consortium about talking with Green Oak Township PD and Hamburg Twp PD. Bunten asked Lewis how MPD communicates with Monroe units and Lewis mentioned that they currently use a control station to monitor them, but the units in the field can not talk to each other. The group discussed that there is a need to expand this to the fire service also, and Morabito stated that the issue is being discussed at the state level. A motion was made by Zapolnik to approve providing a generic Washtenaw system radio ID to both Livingston County and Monroe County by Zapolnik, seconded by Bartow. Motion carried unanimously. After this a second motion was made by Zapolnik to approve ID's for any surrounding jurisdiction that is willing to enter into a Mutual Operating Agreement. The motion was seconded by Morabito, and passed unanimously.

Swenson next asked the Consortium to approve the concept of a Consortium sponsored Interoperability Exercise routine to be implemented on a regular basis to insure that users know how to use the interoperable mutual aid channels. McDole and Tremaine also mentioned that they have experienced problems around the UM football games and Tremaine offered to conduct these exercises from the Ann Arbor dispatch center. Bartow mentioned that this is also needed for the Prison Escape Plan. Swenson was directed to work this out.

Other Issues

Bunten talked about the potential need for a model BDA (Bi-directional amplifier) ordinance and the problems that can be presented when installing these. He stated that the County Corporation

Counsel, Curt Hedger, has advised that the ordinance should include a disclaimer absolving the Consortium of any liability. Lowenberg stated that there are BDA's in UM Hospital that work well. Halteman stated that he has heard that there is resistance at the state level to BDA ordinances because of a possible impact on economic development. Bunten stated he is not looking for any action on this at present, but would like the Consortium to continue to keep it in mind.

Tremaine mentioned that she is working with Midwest MedFlight to apply for a UASI grant for MPSCS radio equipment. There was a discussion about what equipment they currently have in their helicopter and it was not clear. Bunten mentioned that he had also been contacted by MedFlight and part of the problem is that the dispatch center does not have the ability to talk on MPSCS. Swenson was assigned to contact both MedFlight and Survival Flight to determine exactly what their needs are and to report back.

Zapolnik asked Swenson to give an update on the interference problem. He stated that he has worked with both Motorola and MPSCS on the problem and some field work has been done. Everyone agrees that there seems to be some interference, the challenge now is to locate it. Swenson is continuing to work with Zielinski on this issue.

Public Comment

None.

Next Meeting

Bunten stated that the next is scheduled for October 23rd at Saline PD.

Adjournment

Moved by Bartow, seconded by Nesmith at 10:55 AM. Motion passed.