



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Meeting Minutes: Franklin County Emergency Communication System Oversight Committee			
Date	July 20, 2017	Location	John W. Olver Transit Center 12 Olive St Greenfield, MA 1 st Floor Meeting Room
Time	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Duration	2 Hours
		Facilitators	Walter Tibbetts
		Meeting Cancellation Notice	413-774-3167 x153

Agenda Items	Action/Motion
1. Welcoming remarks/agenda/introductions	Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were Joe Cuneo, Bob Dean, Craig Gagne, Butch Garrity, Dana Johnson, Dan Nietsche, John Paciorek, Bill Perlman, Tracy Rogers, Kurt Seaman, Walter Tibbetts, Murray Hill
2. Review/approval of June 15, 2017 meeting minutes	Motion: Kurt Seaman motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on June 15, 2017. Bill Perlman seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.
3. Chairman’s Report	<p>WMRIC - Walter Tibbetts reported on what was discussed at the last WMRIC meeting. He said there was a lot of discussion about issues groups are having with different radio system vendors. That the WMRIC members felt tentative about applying the advice they are receiving from vendors to the systems. A discussion about public safety departments who are looking, or already have, to get out of the public safety bands and into a business class radio system due to advice from manufacturers. This will be an issue with interoperability and mutual aid in the future as the systems do not mesh together well.</p> <p>Walter gave an update on the FCECS system to WMRIC. He reported on the issues we are having with the Mt. Toby Repeater and the work on the Erving panel projects.</p> <p>WMRICs next year’s budget has been allocated. There is no more money to be given out.</p> <p>Next, a discussion was had about the letter form the Town of Gill and the response sent to them from Linda Dunlavy. Bill Perlman went on to talk about how the system is not a FRCOG system it is a Town system. He feels that while we oversee the system we are not to be blamed for the system.</p>
4. Radio System Manager Update	<p>MSTR III issues at Mt Toby - Murray reported that efforts were made to effect repairs with parts from the available spare repeaters we have. Unfortunately the spares we have need replacement parts also and very few vendors have those spares. Another issue to this approach is if we repair one repeater we need to update all the repeaters. If we introduce new software revisions into one repeater then the system will perform well as all of the repeaters need to be on the same revision. After an exhaustive search the only vendor that will guaranty the replacement parts only has five cards of any revision and we need ten. It was decided that the search for spare parts will continue.</p> <p>New Trouble Tickets – Murray reported that every trouble ticket issue has to do with destructive interference. He said we have a poorly engineered system that does not have the correct antennas and the towers are not in the correct locations. By replacing the GPS units we have unmasked additional problems that he</p>

	<p>is working to address. Discussion about how to overcome the TDI issues. Murray recommends additional engineering to create a plan for the system wide antenna replacement project. De-activating towers as a solution was discussed. Craig says if we do that we may end up moving the issue around instead of improving the system. Craig made a suggestion that it might be more economical to spend the money now to engineer which led to a discussion of the true cost of moving the Commonwealth System. Craig reported that any simulcast system using the towers we have will not work.</p> <p>Preventive Maintenance- Walter asked if there is going to be anything different on these PM. Craig responded that Beltronics will follow the scope of work as described in the contract when conducting preventative maintenance. He also reported this process will start Monday, July 20, 2017.</p> <p>Erving Panel Project – The antenna and cabling on the tower has been installed. What is left to do is to order the cables for the combiner and install them. Bill Perlman made a motion to purchase the cables and install them for this project with a not to exceed price of \$2,500. Joe Cuneo seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.</p>
<p>5. 800MHz System Project Update</p>	<p>Testing Procedure and Radios – Dan Nietzsche reported the radios are on their way and the test report format is being approved or revised at the State level. Once the testing procedure is approved the radio schedule will be released and testing will begin.</p> <p>Boston Trip – A group comprising FRCOG and FCECS Subcommittee members went to EOPSS for a meeting to discuss EOPSS’s plan for the upgrade to the Commonwealth System. Bill Perlman said he left the meeting feeling positive but unsatisfied. It is clear to him that EOPSS is interested in working with us. EOPSS wants a statewide system and interoperability. There is a bond bill for 68 million to ensure everyone currently on the system has radios and the current system has been refurbished. Phase 2 is to convert the entire state to 800MHz digital. The total for Phase 1 and 2 is approximately \$122 million dollars. Phase 3 would be when additional users would be brought on to the system. EOPSS will be having a meeting with Administration and Finance to discuss getting these funds allocated. That meeting has not happened as of yet. No one seemed to be putting up road blocks. Dana reports maybe it is time for all the towns to sit down and say it is time to bring in the state and apply pressure due to the issues with the current system. Craig reports that we should procure an engineering study as he feels that a new system would be less expensive.</p>
<p>6. Old Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. System-wide Antenna Replacement Project – CDCG Proposal b. HVAC at Adams Hill Quote c. CMED 	<p>System wide Antenna Replacement Project –The group discussed the question on if it is a good investment to move forward with antenna project or to abandon it. Bill Perlman said that by replacing the antennas it eliminates one of the known issues. It is general assumed, by the group that replacing poorly chosen antennas and their location on the towers will have some positive effect on the system. Joe Cuneo makes a motion to accept the CDCG proposal with a not to exceed amount of \$5,000. John Paciorek seconds the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Bill Perlman suggests that we move forward with the project once the CDCG work is completed to fast track the antenna project by allowing FRCOG to take the results from the engineering study and immediately start the procurement process. A motion was made by Bill Perlman to move forward with the antenna replacement project with a not to exceed \$77,000 with FRCOG procuring the purchase and installation based on the CDCG scope of work without consulting the Oversight Committee. Joe Cuneo seconds the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.</p> <p>A motion was made to accept the proposal Bill Perlman to replace the HVAC system at Adams Hill per the quote form Green Mountain. John Paciorek seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.</p>

	<p>Kurt Seaman made a motion to institute a preventative maintenance program for our HVAC systems and to go out to bid for the work. John Paciorek seconded the motion.</p> <p>No new updates.</p>
<p>7. New Business</p> <p> a. Capital Improvement Plan – Power Supplies</p>	<p>a. Tabled until next meeting.</p>
<p>8. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>9. Wrap up and adjourn</p>	<p>Kurt Seaman made a motion to adjourn with John Paciorek seconding it. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:52 p.m</p>