



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Meeting Minutes: Franklin County Emergency Communication System Oversight Committee					
Date	March 16, 2017	Location	John W. Olver Transit Center 12 Olive St Greenfield, MA 1 st Floor Meeting Room	Facilitators	Walter Tibbetts
Time	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Duration	2 Hours	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 Camden, Joseph Cuneo, Bob Dean, Craig Gagne, Butch Garrity, Dana Johnson, Dan Nietsche, John Paciorek, Bill Perlman, Tracy Rogers, Kurt Seaman, Walter Tibbetts, Murray Hill, Gregg Grisevich, Lee Lemoine, Robert Strahan, Mark Williams, Michael Saltzman, Linda Dunlavy
2. Review/approval of February 16, 2017 meeting minutes	Motion: Joe Camden motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on February 16, 2017. Dana Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.
3. Chairman's Report	No Update
4. Radio System Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. GPS receiver is back from Spectracom. Green Mountain Communications will retain the unit for future FCECS use. b. Murray reported there was a small call out for repair in Greenfield. Walter Tibbetts reminded our vendors to keep the Committee updated through the trouble ticket system as progress on the call out is happening. This is true even if the call is not brought in on the trouble ticket system. There was a general reminder to keep things as transparent as possible.
5. Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Private Equipment on FCECS Towers b. Update Report on possible 800 MHz Migration c. Review of specifications and maps for Antenna Replacement Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dan Nietsche will write a draft RFP to be delivered before the May meeting. b. John P introduced retired Massachusetts State Police Major Michael Saltzman. <p>Mr. Saltzman went on to explain how the State 800 MHz system came about, its current capacity, and the State's vision for the system's future. Currently the digital 800MHz P25 system is up and running for State Police use in Troop B. The State's goal is to roll out this system from west to east for State Police and other agencies that currently use this system. Michael went on to say that it is Undersecretary Curt Wood's vision to make the system accessible to local public safety entities. Michael went on to say that the State Police are the current stewards of the system, but the personality of the system has gone from State Police only to a Commonwealth system.</p> <p>Michael introduced the idea that Franklin County might be a good place to run a pilot program to see how local public safety agencies could utilize the state 800 system. He went on to say there is some radio capacity in the area and the system should be able to handle Franklin County coming on. In order for Franklin</p>

County to come onto the system, numerous items will need to be worked out including crafting a business model showing how subscriber unit and systems upgrades costs are paid for.

Once Michael had completed his description of the system and the future the Committee members asked him questions about coverage, especially as it relates to coverage inside homes or large buildings. The Committee would like to hear more about capacity, coverage, and cost as it relates back to the business plan. Mr. Saltzman said he knows there are coverage maps completed for this area and he is willing to share that information with the Committee. He cannot comment or commit on cost but the Undersecretary is working to leverage funds for the 800 system update that needs to happen across the Commonwealth. He also said that he has not heard of any extraordinary complaints relating to coverage from any of the Mass. State Police.

Bill Perlman stated that at this time the Committee has not made a decision and no one person has the authority to negotiate on behalf of the Oversight Committee.

John Paciorek reported on conversations he has had with Curt Wood. John reported that the last conversation revolved around seeing if Blair Sutherland would write a grant to the State 911 Commission to purchase subscriber units. The subscriber units would go to a roll out of the system to police first over a series of years. Due to inherent issues with interoperability, the police that migrate to the 800 system would need to carry two radios (to have the ability to talk across the new and old platforms) unless another resolution could be determined.

B. Perlman started a conversation about what the Oversight Committee wants to do about this proposal and to send a comment to the FRCOG Executive Council because ultimately the Council will decide. At this time no decision has been made.

Mr. Saltzman would like a formal letter to Curt Wood to start official communications in an effort to form a pilot program. Linda Dunlavy asked Walter to see if the Committee could take a vote to send a letter of commitment to talk about the pilot program. Robert Strahan asked that we wait on a vote until committee members go back to their respective associations to see if the associations would want the pilot program. The Oversight Committee felt that as representatives they can make the decision. **Dana Johnson made a motion to further explore the state system and open official communications with the Undersecretary and associates. Joe Cuneo seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.**

Joe Cuneo made a motion to establish a subcommittee to evaluate the pilot program with members being appointed by the Chair. Joe Camden seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

The subcommittee as appointed consists of Dana Johnson, John Paciorek, Kurt Seaman, Butch Garrity, Bill Perlman, and Joe Cuneo.

	<p>c. Lee Lemoine went over two coverage maps. The first was for the project to attach a panel antenna to the tower in Erving to allow for better reception into downtown Erving. This map showed that coverage would be improved and the destructive interference would not be at the levels there are at currently.</p> <p>Lee then showed the coverage maps for the antenna replacement project. He reported that in order to get the reduction in destructive interference we are expecting, the antennas would need to be custom made to achieve the correct down tilt. He is going to report back on if the manufacture can produce the antennas as needed.</p> <p>Lee also talked about how the issue with the system is related to the placement of the towers and not necessarily with the aging equipment, though the equipment is at its end of life. Placement of the towers makes it very difficult to time the system, which he feels is the overarching issue.</p>
<p>6. New Business a. Discussion and decision on how the group will review and agree on the GPS Receiver Replacement Project RFP.</p>	<p>a. The Committee decided that everyone will review the proposals. April 5th is the date we will meet to decide who is to be awarded the contract.</p>
<p>7. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>8. Wrap up and adjourn</p>	<p>Kurt Seaman made a motion to adjourn with Joe Cuneo seconding it. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:15p.m</p>