



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

*Meeting Minutes: Franklin County Emergency Communication System Oversight Committee*

<b>Date</b>	December 21, 2017	<b>Location</b>	John W. Olver Transit Center 12 Olive St Greenfield, MA 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room	<b>Facilitators</b>	Walter Tibbetts
<b>Time</b>	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Duration</b>	2 Hours	<b>Meeting Cancellation Notice</b>	413-774-3167 x153

Agenda Items	Action/Motion
1. Welcoming remarks/agenda/introductions	<b>Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.</b> In attendance were Joe Cuneo, Bob Dean, Craig Gagne, Butch Garrity, Dana Johnson, Dan Nietsche, John Paciorek, Bill Perlman, Kurt Seaman, Walter Tibbetts, Murray Hill
2. Review/approval of November 16, 2017 meeting minutes	<b>Motion: Bill Perlman motioned to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on November 16, 2017. Dana Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.</b>
3. Chairman's Report	<p>a. The Chair reported from the WMRIC meeting that WMLEC is starting to see the same issues we are experiencing with our system coming up against end of life and no longer supported equipment. At the moment their users' fees cover just the rental costs for the sites and not for capital expenses.</p> <p>At the moment there are lots of delays in the radio id programming for the Hampshire Hills project for the new 800 MHz radios. Walter wonders if this is going to be indicative of the rollout if Franklin County moves to the 800MHz system.</p> <p>b. CMED Update: There has been a relocation of equipment that is part of the CMED system. This project is not on schedule due to a hold up with National Grid which owns the new site. It is reported that National Grid is clamping down on site access availability. The first step to improving the CMED connection is to determine who owns the equipment CMED resides on. The council is working to determine CMED ownership. It was reported the equipment north of Mt. Tom is functioning correctly.</p> <p>c. Helicopter Communication Update: There is still an issue with some air ambulance companies using the wrong channel or not know which to use during ground to air communications. There is not a clear and</p>

	<p>concise policy on what they are supposed to use when entering into different counties. Walter is working with the Fire Chief from Amherst to get a concise policy on what channels they need to have installed and which they need to use.</p>
<p>4. Radio System Manager Update</p>	<p>a. Since the last meeting there have not been any significant issues with the system.</p>
<p>5. 800MHz System Project Update</p>	<p>a. Bill produced a list of questions which he feels need to be answered by EOPSS soon. Bill reported on a conference call that he was not a part of where it was discussed how the Efficiency and Regionalization grant which FRCOG applied for was not going to be fully funded. The reasoning behind this decision is the State feels it is not efficient to fund the construction of a new radio system when an existing one, Commonwealth System, is available. This means that if the County would like to continue to having their own system the possibility of getting funding from the State is very low. Additionally, on the call EOPSS discussed moving Franklin County up in priority. EOPSS also said that they are at the beginning of their state-wide project and do not have specifics on schedule. Dana is concerned that the timeframe there needs to be pressure to get us onto the system sooner rather than later. Butch suggested we ask them to answer the questions at the February meeting.</p>
<p>6. Old Business  a. Timing Calculations</p>	<p>Craig provided the system time delay data to the Committee. Both Craig and Murray went on to report that due to the configuration and type of some antennas changing the timing to match the data Craig provided would not improve the system and may, in fact, be detrimental. A discussion was had about how to alleviate this issue. Craig says we should add an antenna so that each SIM has its own antenna. Murray added we could replace the directional antenna to omni. Another solution would be to add another intraplex shelf at each site which would be very expensive.</p> <p>The discussion then went to solving the problem of the FCECS being overpowered for the area it covers. After CDCG showed that changing the type and power of the antenna on Borden Mt. did not produce the expected reduction of coverage another option would be to shut down sites. John Paciorek added that the system worked better four years ago with the antenna on Borden Mt. facing a different direction than it is in now. He suggested we go back to that configuration. The consensus is to return to the antenna replacement project to en-</p>

	<p>sure the ability for the system to be timed correctly. John Paciorek asks if after the antenna replacements will the two systems, meaning SIM 1 and 2, be the same? Craig responds they will be as similar as possible. Walter asks if we have to perform a structural analysis on the towers we do not own. The consensus of the group was that we will need to do the analysis and that will need to be included in the cost.</p> <p>Kurt Seaman asked what we should do with Borden Mt. to reduce its power. An option the group discussed was turning off the transmit side of the tower. While a viable option, this may reduce the coverage in some very rural areas. This option would need considerable outreach to affected communities and follow up testing all across the county to determine if it reduced destructive interference. Dana Johnson asked Murray what we should do? Murray says that in order to figure out what might come next or next roadblock the system needs to be reengineered. Bill Perlman suggests that we change from manual to automatic on all units and complete the antenna project. Craig says the change from manual to automatic should be completed after the antenna replacement. Bill Perlman made a motion to have Beltronics and Green Mountain work together to provide a scope of work, mapping, and pricing for the antenna replacement project. Dana Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.</p>
7. New Business	Bill Perlman made a motion to accept the draft FY19 FCECS budget as presented. Joe Cuneo seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
8. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting	a. Governor is making a decision on whether to opt in or out to the AT&T FirstNet service. He must do so by December 28, 2017.
9. Wrap up and adjourn	<b>John Paciorek made a motion to adjourn with Joe Cuneo seconding it. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m</b>