# Meeting Minutes: Franklin County Emergency Communication System Oversight Committee

**Date**: May 23, 2019  
**Location**: John W. Olver Transit Center  
12 Olive St  
Greenfield, MA  
1st Floor Meeting Room  
**Facilitators**: Walter Tibbetts  
**Meeting Cancellation Notice**: 413-774-3167 x153

**Time**: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
**Duration**: 2 Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda Items</th>
<th>Action/Motion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Welcoming remarks/agenda/introductions</td>
<td>Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were Joe Cuneo, Bob Dean, Dan Nietsche, John Paciorek, Bill Perlman, Kurt Seaman, Walter Tibbetts, Mark Williams, Beth Bezio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Review/approval of April 18, 2019 meeting minutes</td>
<td>Motion: Joe Cuneo motioned to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on April 18, 2019. John Paciorek seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Chairman’s Report</td>
<td>Nothing to report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Radio System Manager Update</td>
<td>Kurt gave an overview of the roofing and leak issue at the Shelburne Mt. shelter. It is leaking onto the server and radio box alarm system. That equipment is currently being protected. Kurt received a quote to fix the roof and fascia board. Bill Perlman made a motion to proceed with the repairs with the cost of the project not to exceed $9,500. John Paciorek seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote. Dan Nietsche and Kurt will work with FRCOG procurement department to determine the best way forward for this project. There is a need to replace up to 60 back up batteries at various locations. This replacement process will commence during the preventative maintenance process being performed by Beltronics. A discussion about equipment in the Mt. Lincoln shelter being “deaf”. This was attributed to failing power supplies. There was also a discussion about accounting for the time Beltronics bills us for. Both Kurt and Dan will work with Beltronics to ensure they check in before starting on a project and also when the finish. John Paciorek made a motion to approve the replacement of power supplies. Bill Perlman seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kurt reported on the quote received from Beltronics to perform the tower climbing and microwave system check at Mt. Grace and New Salem...
tower sites. The purpose of this work is to verify that the line of sight between each microwave antenna is still viable. John Paciorek made a motion to authorize up to $9,500 for this work. Bill Perlman seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Kurt reported on the Sim 2 issue that he is investigating. He explained that the first place the communication stops is the JPS voters. What is thought to happen is a certain tone/frequency coming over the radios is causing the original card to have an issue. Even the tone of someone’s voice coming over the radio could trigger the issue. When he investigated the card(s) he noticed that some of them were the original cards. The cost to replace that card is $1172.30 plus $35 shipping. Bill Perlman made a motion to replace this card with a not to exceed the amount of $2,000. John Paciorek seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote. Kurt reported that to bring all the cards up to date we would need to upgrade three more cards. At this time the group decided to see if the system has no further issues, after the card replacement, and then decide to replace more cards.

Kurt reported that the preventative maintenance at each location will be delayed a few weeks at Beltronics request. Kurt will forward the schedule once he receives it from Beltronics. Kurt will be going with them during the PM tour.

5. Public Safety Partner Updates
   a. Fire Chief Association
   b. Police Chief Association
   c. Franklin County EMS Committee
   d. Shelburne Control
   e. Franklin County Sheriff’s Office

   a. Nothing to report
   b. Nothing to report
   c. Nothing to report
   d. The Turners Falls Fire Department sent in a letter to the Massachusetts State Police requesting to be dispatched by Shelburne Control. The Shelburne Control committee made the recommendation that Turners Falls Fire Department be dispatched by Shelburne Control. The request is now being reviewed by MSP/EOPSS.
   e. Nothing to report

6. 800MHz System Project

   Chief Bezio attended and commented that she has seen our draft roll plan. With that said she made the formal request to see if Ashfield PD and FD could be moved up in the rollout plan. She described how bad the FCECS radio system is in their town and that they also have really limited cell phone service to use as a backup. In response to her request Walter Tibbetts reported on how the group prepared the draft rollout plan along with the very short schedule in which to complete it. He explained that this is a draft plan and there would be opportunities for it to be revised. Dan Nietsche gave Chief Bezio two of the Kenwood radios which work on the CoMIRS to test within Ashfield. The group asked that she test so we know the CoMIRS will work better in her town than the FCECS before making a decision to alter the draft plan.

   Bill Perlman reported that there have been no new developments in this project.

7. Old Business

   None
| 8. New Business Update on insurance quotes | Dan Nietsche reported that the FRCOG is exploring different options for insurance coverage. It is an issue that our equipment can no longer be easily repaired or bought. It is also not compatible with newer equipment. This means that in the past if a piece of equipment is damaged we do not receive enough money from insurance to complete the repair. The City of Greenfield has requested to have their assessment invoiced quarterly. A discussion was had by the group and this request and also how the Oversight Committee would like the FRCOG to proceed. **Joe Cuneo made a motion to recommend that all members of the FCECS be billed for their invoice once a year as has happened in the past.** John Paciorek seconded the motion. The motion received yeas from four members with Mark Williams abstaining. |
| 9. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting | None |
| 10. Wrap up and adjourn | Bill Perlman made a motion to adjourn. Joe Cuneo seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM. |