



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

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

<b>Date</b>	September 19, 2019	<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, Butch Garrity, Dana Johnson, Dan Nietzsche, Walter Tibbetts,
2. Review/approval of August 15, 2019 meeting minutes	<b>Motion: Butch Garrity motioned to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on August 15, 2019. Joe Cuneo seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.</b>
3. Chairman’s Report	WMRIC Meeting report – A Multi-state meeting was held on the topic of 700/800MHz spectrum distribution. It was reported that Maine and Vermont do not want to use the 700/800MHz. This means we may have more frequencies available to us. Melissa and Walter discussed if we would be able to personalize the radio banks. The response was that so long as it is programed into the radio, you can move the channels around via a flex zone feature. This channel reorganization can take place on a per radio basis without the need for a computer. Melissa also said that the State is looking at the mutual aid interoperability issue.
4. Radio System Manager Update (Kurt will be absent)	The Committee’s discussion is in italics.  <u>HVAC Repairs</u> Erving is ongoing – Bard still makes the identical unit. Options are being evaluated. New Salem – I was advised Thursday evening that unit is also in need of replacement. Options are being looked at.  <i>The Committee will wait for quotes.</i>  <u>Microwave Grace to New Salem</u> The engineering and quote are back. Cielo completed the engineering taking the current tower configurations into account. I am told the engineering is solid and will work.

	<p><i>Walter started the discussion says it is important to reestablish the link but the cost is really high for the amount of coverage that would be restored. Dana asks that since we are looking at three years until things are migrated and how much does this effect paging. Joe says paging is currently non-existent. Joe asks is there is a guarantee. The group does not feel that a guarantee is something that can be had. Joe asks if we want to take the risk of someone getting hurt because we do not fix the issue. Butch thinks we should put a schedule/deadline on this project. Dana Johnson made a motion to move forward with the quote/project so long as it includes a deadline. Butch Garrity seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.</i></p> <p><u>Antenna Engineering</u>  Over the last 4 weeks we have been looking at antenna configurations. It started with if we replaced Toby with an Omni on a proper standoff instead of a directional, what the change in coverage would be to the south and the east.  The ultimate result is what you have in front of you. The one thing the maps do show is that some geographic area just cannot be covered. It breaks into an east zone change and a west zone change. The change of the directional antenna on Toby should reduce DI across the southwest part of the system.  Two specific areas to look at are Erving Center by Station 1 and south Sunderland through the area of Cliffside on 116.  Some of the numbers to look at are the no coverage column. Every community is estimated to gain something in coverage. (Except Deerfield who nets 0% change) The margin of error in the program is +/-1%. Anywhere you see less than 1% may have no actual change. The end result of changing all antennas is an estimated 22.5sqmi in increased coverage.  My recommendation at this time would be to do the east end of the system and wait on the west end to see how we have done.</p> <p><i>Dan Nietzsche went over the data from this study. As a whole the group was interested in this study, felt there was marginal improvement to the system. They decided to wait until the New Salem microwave link was reestablished and a formal review of the coverage to decide on any antenna improvements.</i></p> <p><u>Generator PMs</u>  Will be completed by the end of the week. No major issues have been identified as of yet.</p>
<p>5. Public Safety Partner Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Fire Chief Association</li> <li>b. Police Chief Association</li> <li>c. Franklin County EMS Committee</li> <li>d. Shelburne Control</li> <li>e. Franklin County Sheriff's Office</li> <li>f. Tri-State Fire Mutual Aid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. None</li> <li>b. None</li> <li>c. None</li> <li>d. There will be a new tie in between Shelburne Control and Vermont Yankee which should be completed by the end of the meeting.</li> <li>e. None</li> <li>f. A new slate of directors has been voted in and there has been a board of directors meeting scheduled.</li> </ul>

6. 800MHz System Project	The Committee discussed how the September 5 <sup>th</sup> meeting went. As a whole everyone felt that the representatives from the State put everyone at ease.
7. Old Business	
8. New Business a. Engineering Study b. Quote for New Salem Microwave link c. Poet's Seat Tower News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. See radio system manager report</li> <li>b. See radio system manager report</li> <li>c. Dan Nietzsche explained that there may have been less damage done at this site than originally thought. Kurt has been able to turn on pieces in the shelf and they seem to be functioning. We do know that the GPS unit is not functioning and we will have to move the spare to this location and have a lightning protection system installed.</li> </ul>
9. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting	None
10. Wrap up and adjourn	<b>Joe Cuneo made a motion to adjourn. Dana Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.</b>