

UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT

UCFD 1, Station 23

February 7, 2017 – 1:30PM

Present: Director Roxbury Director Lieuallen
 Director Matlack Director Kennedy

Absent: Director Pratt, excused

Guests: Marlon Johnson, Day Wireless

Staff: Shawn Halsey, Rosanna Brown, Brett Mueller

I. Call to Order and Recognition of Guests: The meeting was called to order at 1:34pm.

II. Roll Call: Directors Lieuallen, Matlack, Kennedy, and Roxbury were present. Director Pratt was excused.

III. Minutes of the Meetings from January 3, 2017

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 3 meeting was made by Director Kennedy and seconded by Director Matlack.

Director Matlack: Aye

Director Kennedy: Aye

Director Lieuallen: Aye

Director Roxbury: Aye

IV. Changes/Additions to the Agenda: None

V. Business from Guests: None

VI. Old Business

A. Next System RFP

1. Voice System Frequency Selection

a. Coverage Maps

The Board decided not to review the coverage maps and preferred to move straight to a discussion on which bandwidth to move forward with. Based on the presentations from vendors and from Shawn, the Board saw pros and cons for UHF/450 and 700 and asked Shawn to give them a recommendation. Director Matlack asked if anything had changed since the Board reviewed coverage maps the last time and Brett responded that the maps were essentially the same and showed UHF as having better coverage, with the same holes in coverage as shown before. These holes would be worse with 700. Shawn explained that moving to digital would cause loss of coverage with either band, but there would be less loss with 450. Shawn felt that the District's first priority should be coverage, over interoperability, and that coverage issues are fixable with fill sites. The 700 band had more frequencies open. Director Roxbury did not want to stifle conversation, so he asked for straw poll of the Board to see how close they were to a consensus for voting. He felt that the District could not move forward until the band was decided and felt that the Board was ready to make the decision.

The Board had some discussion about vendors and what they had to offer, but Shawn explained that the vendors would work with either band and the choice of band would not give any vendors more or less ability to respond to an RFP.

Director Matlack expressed some concern with the progress of the State Radio Project and Shawn explained that the State would be able to work with the District not matter which band was chosen because they carried tri-band radios. Additionally, any system the District chose would be capable of connecting to another system, with ISSI.

Shawn also confirmed that 450 works better for simulcasting than 700 and stated that staying with 450 would not cause any issues with frequencies because it would not be difficult to get licenses for lower (power and altitude) sites, such as fill sites that were discussed for Pendleton, Umatilla, and Heppner. Marlon reported that he spoke with the FCC and there are UHF frequencies available.

Shawn recommended staying with 450. Another point he made was that replacing the fleet of subscriber units would cost less because half of the current fleet could be moved onto the new system, with an upgrade. Moving to 700 would require purchase of all new units. Motorola has offered discounts for upgrading and Harris offered high discounts on new units and trade in value for old units. In response to Director Roxbury's question, Shawn responded that MCP did recommend going 700, but that it was a close decision and was mostly based on interoperability as the primary reason for choosing it.

In response to the Board's question, Marlon said that 700 had worked in the areas that were using it, such as Benton County, once Nextel went away. Their only issues were with talking to non-700 agencies and those were fixed with patches or going through their dispatch centers. Marlon, and Shawn, did not feel that there would be any negative reaction from surrounding agencies if UMRDD stayed UHF. Director Kennedy expressed concern about not being able to talk to Washington agencies and while Director Roxbury agreed that it was a problem, he felt that there were inexpensive and uncomplicated ways to make it work. Brett agreed and noted that it could be done with ISSI and patches. Director Matlack suggested the District obtain a small group of triband radios to distribute to agency supervisors during multi-agency events.

Shawn also noted that he had some concerns with the multipath issue in 700. He pointed out that staying 450 would be the less expensive option and it would not be giving any vendor an unfair advantage.

Director Kennedy said that he would chose 700 for the building penetration and interoperability if he only considered Umatilla, but felt 450 was a better choice for the District as a whole and agreed to follow Shawn's recommendation. Directors Lieuallen, Roxbury, and Matlack also agreed to follow Shawn's recommendation. The Board did not know what Director Pratt's opinion was, but Shawn felt that, based on previous conversations, Chief Stokoe did not like 700.

In response to Director Roxbury's question, Shawn reported that he did not think the User Group had a strong opinion either way, as long as the system worked.

Shawn confirmed, on record, that he was not aware of any advantage that any vendor would have, based on the choice between 450 and 700. Each vendor would have the opportunity to bid the system and subscribers competitively, without advantage.

Shawn also noted that going with 450 would give him the opportunity to start replacing some of the very old subscriber units that are still in use but are past end of life.

A motion to adopt the UHF/450 frequency band for the future Umatilla Morrow Radio & Data District P25 voice system was made by Director Matlack and seconded by Director Lieuallen.

Director Matlack: Aye

Director Lieuallen: Aye

Director Roxbury: Aye

Director Kennedy: Aye

B. Service Vehicle Update

Shawn believed this issue was dead, but was recently notified by Undersheriff Jim Littlefield that the UCSO is still looking at ways to make the agreement happen. Shawn will give an update at the next meeting.

VII. New Business

A. System Administrator's Report

1. Unit Tracking Sheet: One mobile was issued to Tribal Fire for a new vehicle.

2. District Income Review: The Board reviewed the income report.

3. District Expenditures Review: The Board reviewed the expenditure report.

4. District Bank Statement/Checks Review: The Board reviewed the bank statements.

5. LGIP: The Board reviewed the LGIP report. The money in the account was earmarked for the microwave project and to fund operating expenses for the rest of the budget year. The Board discussed moving forward with a double RFP, since the band had been decided. Shawn's recommendation was to do separate RFPs for the microwave and voice systems.

B. Codan/Daniels Tour Report

Shawn, Director Roxbury, and Director Matlack visited Codan/Daniels in Victoria. The tour of the facility included a presentation on developing technology and discussion with the developer. With their system, every base station can run the system. The current UMRDD system has redundancy, but this type of system would multiply that redundancy by every site. Motorola's suggestion of 3 zones would require 3 prime sites and that would be cost prohibitive. In response to Director Matlack's question, Shawn agreed that issues from the past would be less likely to happen with the Codan/Daniels style system. Shawn was quoted \$35,000 for each 2 channel unit and 3 or 4 would be needed for each site. Based on this quote, Shawn estimates a 6 channel system would cost \$1.2 million (\$1.382 million for 7 channels). This system (and staying with UHF/450) would require no additional equipment so there would not be additional expenses at each site. Quantar repeaters could not be sold because they were purchased with federal funding, but they could be traded for other equipment. New consoles will need to be purchased, regardless of what vendor is chosen for the new system.

Shawn also noted that there were ways to build the system to cover 2 simulcast zones, but it would be easier not to and he recommended 1 zone.

Shawn planned to revisit Codan/Daniels in summer 2017, when they have set up a trunking system for testing. Their R&D department had radios from every vendor to test on their system, to ensure compatibility.

C. Resolution 17-02-07-01: Budget Changes

The Resolution moved \$13400, from the contingency fund to the audit line and site lease line. It was read by District Administrator, Shawn Halsey.

A motion to adopt Resolution 17-02-07-01, as read by District Administrator, was made by Director Kennedy and seconded by Director Lieuallen.

Director Kennedy: Aye

Director Matlack: Aye

Director Roxbury: Aye

Director Lieuallen: Aye

VIII. Open Discussion: presentation slides from Victoria can be sent by Shawn.

IX. Adjourn: *The meeting was adjourned at 3:05pm.*

The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2017, at Boardman City Hall.