

**UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT**

Boardman City Hall

March 7, 2017 – 1:30PM

Present: Director Roxbury                      Director Lieuallen  
          Director Kennedy                     Director Pratt

Absent: Director Matlack

Guests: Marlon Johnson, Day Wireless                      Rick Stokoe, Boardman Police Department  
          Jennine Weber, Harris Corporation                     Loren Dieter, Boardman Police Department  
          Greg Goodwin, Microwave Networks, Inc.

Staff: Shawn Halsey, Rosanna Brown, Brett Mueller

**I. Call to Order and Recognition of Guests:** The meeting was called to order at 1:37pm.

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

**III. Minutes of the Meetings from February 7, 2017**

*A motion to approve the minutes from the February 7 meeting was made by Director Lieuallen and seconded by Director Kennedy.*

*Director Kennedy: Aye*

*Director Lieuallen: Aye*

*Director Pratt: 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. Presentation by Director Pratt**

Director Pratt was excused from the February meeting, so he missed the discussion and vote on the District's band decision. He made a presentation to the Board to address some of the issues he had with the choice. The purpose of his presentation was to provide information and call for the decision to be readdressed. He distributed a packet to each Director and presented coverage maps for review.

His presentation included the following:

- Reduction of signal due to moving from analog to digital, with the current sites (less coverage)
- UMRDD Mission Statement: The mission of the Umatilla Morrow Radio & Data District is to provide quality public safety communications support to all system users and to provide this service in the most cost effective manner possible.
- Tax money, serve citizens, frugality
- \$.17/thousand isn't enough to build a quality system.
- Of 1200 subscriber units, 567+ cannot be flashed or upgraded for new system (except for 6 APXs)
- Agreed coverage should be #1 priority, interoperability a close second
- Interoperability with other counties necessary for interoperability grants, look for partnerships
- Piggy back on other local systems, share some control/ownership to save taxpayer money
- Systems in Washington, Frontier, the State
- Decisions still need to be made regarding features like GPS and encryption and also if the District will go Phase I or Phase II, split channels
- Spoke with the State, they have 4 sites available that they didn't use, could give those sites to UMRDD
- State is interested in a partnership, a site on Cabbage that will fill a gap, and their sites would help UMRDD's coverage, so what is the cost to the District with them?
- Could be an opportunity to talk to Gilliam County without an ISSI (doesn't work when you leave your coverage area), more interoperability
- Explore those partnerships and the costs, worthwhile to review
- Not against 450, but would like all options weighed before a final decision is made
- Paid \$50,000 to MCP for an answer
- Would like more info, more options, and a definition of what the Board wants
- Felt a lack of direction

Shawn responded to a few of Director Pratt's points. The cost of upgrading the radios would depend on the vendor, but the radios are too old to invest in. UMRDD is building a site on Cabbage. Any phase 2 system can run Phase 1 or Phase 2. There are a lot of pros and cons for going with the State. UHF has the coverage and 700 has the interoperability. MCP recommended 700 because they emphasized interoperability and agreed that it was a very close call between the two bands. Shawn agreed that staying analog would be the best solution for coverage, but no vendors are selling analog and that would cut the interoperability even more. Staying UHF, while going digital, minimizes the risk to coverage. Motorola also agreed that multipath in an unknown and there would be issues with simulcast on 700. It would be harder to engineer and would require more sites. Shawn was willing to go back and look at 700 again, if that was the decision of the Board. He felt that coverage was the most important point and Directors Kennedy and Lieuallen agreed.

Brett noted that remaining on 450 would not preclude a partnership with the State, with or without ISSI, and the system could technically still work with their core. Nothing about staying with UHF precludes working with Harris.

Director Roxbury suggested that the Board define interoperability, because as the system is now, there is interoperability between the 30 agencies in the two counties, with fire and law. The price will be the deciding factor and the vendors offer different styles of systems that will be compared in the RFP bids. The choice of band will not affect the style of system and its price.

#### **b. Next Voice System Description Draft**

Shawn provided a packet for the Board's review. It included a map with 10 simulcast sites and 3 fill in sites, with coverage at 95% for portables and 97% for mobiles. That was a harder standard than the current system was built to. The document was the beginning of the RFP Shawn planned to use for the new system. Shawn explained that it was an informal description of what the District wants in the next system. It reviewed guarantees of full functionality and included 3 ISSI connections (Tri-County, Benton County, and the State). It also outlined the requirement that most subscriber units work on the system.

Additions to the document will include adding a dispatch console in Morrow County, the same amount of connections to conventional resources, and a better way to connect consoles to Tribal Dispatch. The next system will use the NICE logging recorder. The document emphasized P25 and common standards, as that is where the District will save the most money.

Shawn asked the Board to review the documents and send feedback to him, including what the Board wants and doesn't want in the new system, like encryption for BENT and GPS tracking. The band would not affect the price, so this could be done with 450 or 700. Shawn reiterated that the District will not be adding any additional sites. Bidding vendors will have to find other ways to make the coverage work, such as larger antennas and higher powered radios.

#### **B. Service Vehicle Update**

Shawn spoke with Undersheriff Littlefield regarding the vehicle agreement. Littlefield expected a decision sometime in April, after the budget was reviewed. UCSO may attempt to buy the truck with their vehicle fund. Shawn will keep the Board updated.

### **VII. New Business**

#### **A. System Administrator's Report**

##### **1. Unit Tracking Sheet**

Portables were issued to UCSO and OSP, and OSP requested 2 additional portables. Shawn agreed with the Board that there will be less radios to issue with the new system and he planned to have a meeting with users to discuss the changes. Director Roxbury suggested a tiered system of higher and lower cost radios, where users receive units based on the need for features. Shawn also noted that some buy-in from agencies may be required to help fund a new fleet of subscriber units. In response to the Board's question, Shawn responded that OSP did appear to be using all of their issued subscribers.

**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.

#### **B. Frontier Site Visit Report**

Shawn has been in talks with Michael Smith from Frontier, about ways to make the systems work together. Frontier approved a connection of systems by putting their radios in the District's sites. Shawn was looking at ways to install equipment on their system so a patch could be created using the 450 and 700 repeaters purchased with the grant. Smith also suggested linking systems by sharing a core. Shawn was interested in that idea and will meet with Smith to discuss it further, on March 16. Shawn explained that he would need to look at their microwave system and find out more about it. The Board directed Shawn to send an email with a review of what he and Smith discussed. Shawn agreed and also noted that the directors should not use "reply all" to emails that are sent to the group, as it would be a violation of public meeting laws.

### **VIII. Open Discussion:**

Marlon Johnson: Based on the discussion, Johnson asked for clarification about which band the District's new system would be on. Director Roxbury agreed that it was back up for discussion and to view the decision to go 700 as a working hypotheses. Shawn noted that the only affect the decision currently had was whether he could purchase new subscribers or not.

Chief Stokoe: Chief Stokoe asked the Board if they thought the District could stay UHF without adding boosters or towers. He assured the Board that sites would have to be added when going digital. Shawn explained that the plan has been to add 3 fill in sites and that he did know, and expect, the sound on a digital system to be compromised. Stokoe asked Shawn how much the system will cost as UHF or 700 and Shawn explained that he wouldn't know numbers until the RFP comes back with bids and that no vendor is willing to give a full proposal without a chosen band. Stokoe told the Board to spend the tax payer's money correctly and to know the amount the system will cost before making a decision. He suggested reaching out to users to discuss the new system. Shawn planned to continue to talk to the User Board and to talk to other users. Stokoe suggested creating a subcommittee for the discussion and offered to be a part of it, and also asked that some Directors plan to attend. The next User Board meeting will be held in April.

Shawn reported that he planned to be an observer at a Jamming Exercise at Idaho National Labs this summer. Jamming has become a big issue with radio systems and they plan to work on ways to combat it. Shawn noted that the 700 band was more susceptible to jamming that other bands, especially with intentional interference. Shawn expected to learn a lot during the exercise.

Shawn reported that he planned to travel to Dallas, Texas, for an EF Johnson system staging in late May and was looking for Directors to go along. The system is similar to the District's, with 8 or 9 sites.

Shawn had started taking a closer look at the interference issue and suggested having the local FCC enforcer visit and help find where the interference is coming from and prosecute the offenders.

### **IX. Adjourn**

*A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:54pm was made by Director Lieuallen and seconded by Director Kennedy.*

*Director Roxbury: Aye*

*Director Kennedy: Aye*

*Director Lieuallen: Aye*

*Director Pratt: Aye*

**The next meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2017, at Umatilla County Fire District #1, Station 23**