

**UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT**

Boardman City Hall  
May 1, 2018 1:30PM

Present: Director Pratt Director Kennedy  
Director Lieuallen Director Matlack

Absent: Director Roxbury

Guests: Marlon Johnson, Day Wireless Loren Dieter, Boardman Police Department  
Steve Surwillo, CDX Wireless (telephonically) Rick Stokoe, Boardman Police Department  
Nicole Jackson, Motorola Chris, Motorola  
Steve Wynn, Day Wireless Steve Myren, budget committee  
Mike Smith, Frontier

Staff: Rosanna Brown, Brett Mueller

I. Call to Order and Recognition of Guest(s): The meeting was called to order at 1:28pm.

II. Minutes of the Meetings from April 3, 2018

*A motion to accept the minutes from the meeting on April 3, 2018 was made by Director Pratt and seconded by Director Kennedy.*

*Director Matlack: Aye*

*Director Pratt: Aye*

*Director Lieuallen: Aye*

*Director Kennedy: Aye*

III. Changes/Additions to the Agenda: None

IV. Old Business

A. Next System RFP

1. CDX Report

Steve Surwillo attended by phone. He forwarded the requested report to the Board after the April meeting. It was longer than he had intended but wanted to be sure he gave enough information and background on the CDX recommendation. He did not plan to go through it page by page, but was available to answer any questions. In response to Director Kennedy's request, Steve Surwillo summed up the report. He noted that the Board's concern at the last meeting was the amount of risk involved in implementing the microwave project separately from the voice system project and also the risk with a multi-vendor RFP. CDX did not see a risk in a multi-vendor RFP because the interfaces were standardized and because of the compliance assessment in P25. CDX felt comfortable moving forward with the microwave project before the voice system project. The report provided a quote for moving microwave equipment between sites, based on input from Marlon at Day Wireless. Steve Surwillo also noted that the report was very specifically tailored to UMRDD, based on the information they had collected and the District's strengths.

CDX was continuing to work on the RFP and Steve Surwillo noted that it had sections addressing coverage and features. He expected to have a draft to send to Shawn the next week. It would include microwave, but that part could be taken out and compartmentalized.

Shawn met with the State a few weeks ago to discuss the idea of using their microwave network. Some expense involved would be the purchase of cards to put into their equipment but the issue of bandwidth and its high cost (first year \$45k) was one that led Shawn to look at other options. Another option was to install dishes on the State's tower and piggy back the District's signal onto theirs, with the District's equipment in a separate building. This option would give free reign regarding bandwidth. Shawn was discussing that option with John Wilson. He noted that some microwave vendors might not work with that configuration. Additionally, supporting the District's legacy DS3 loop might turn vendors away. Part of using the state hops would also force the District into using fiber optic between the Justice Center and PGG site. Based on a meeting with Windwave, the construction of a link between those sites would cost \$121k, plus \$1200 per month and Shawn felt that the options was too expensive. Vendors told Shawn that the District needed dark fiber for the TDM based side of things, while running 2 systems. There could not be time lost over the system. Shawn was not concerned about the initial construction cost, but was very concerned with the monthly fee. Shawn and Brett continued to brainstorm for a solution and were considering a different microwave loop configuration, using the State's hop, to go from Sillusi to Coombs and Cabbage Hill to PGG. Shawn did not want to put more equipment on the already full Sillusi site. Another option was Sillusi to PGG. The agreements and decisions were based on the State's openness to being creative with the paths. Shawn did have a backup plan that would increase the cost of the microwave by 2 shots and, based on the quotes he

had been receiving, that option was still in the budgeted amount. He planned to continue talks with the State and noted that they were good to work with.

## 2. Subscriber Unit Subcommittee Report

Director Kennedy gave a report at the April meeting. Shawn noted that he planned to reduce the number of subscriber units in the new system, to around 1000. Director Kennedy and Shawn planned to meet with the agency heads.

## 3. VA data SIP Update

Shawn reported that the county suggested that it and the city would not take any Tier 2 money, but would distribute it to the taxing districts. The city had not given a reply to the suggestion. The taxing districts planned to meet to discuss it and vote on it, then take their recommendation to the State. This plan would mean less pressure to pursue Tier 3 funds.

## V. New Business

### A. System Administrator's Report

1. Unit Tracking Sheet: The Board reviewed the tracking sheet. Director Matlack notified Shawn that MCSO would be needing 2 portables and 2 mobiles for new hires.
2. District Income Review: The Board reviewed the income report.
3. District Expenditures Review: The Board reviewed the expenditure report. Shawn noted that there would be an expense of about \$16k in May for a new battery plant at Gleason. Additionally, there were 2 more battery plants to replace during the next fiscal year and Shawn included funds in that budget line for the project.
4. District Bank Statement/Checks Review: The Board reviewed the bank statements and checks.
5. LGIP: The Board reviewed the LGIP statement.

6. Safety Review: The Wilkinson site was the worst for being sealed and animals had been able to get inside. Both District vehicles had first aid kits.

### B. Frontier Site Visits/Meeting Report

Shawn visited the Frontier sites, wrote a report with his findings, and sent the report to the Board for review. It included a map with the location of the sites and Shawn's recommendations. He noted that the sites, as they existed, were not at the same level as the District's and had various issues, mostly at the Roosevelt site and Kent elevator. If the District joined Frontier, the path would be Boardman to Roosevelt and Jordan Butte to Air Base. As they existed, the sites needed a lot of infrastructure work done. Based on this visit, Shawn was unsure what the District would get out of an agreement with Frontier, besides the use of the core. To make the arrangement work, the District would add 4 microwave shots and the distance between the system and core would increase substantially. Shawn did not think that the arrangement would save the District any money long term. Making this work would cost the same amount as a new (non-Motorola) system with the District retaining control and core.

Mike Smith noted that he received Shawn's report the day before and asked to address some of the points made and some things he thought Shawn missed. He reported that none of the tasks for infrastructure improvement were deal breakers for Frontier and many of those upgrades were already on their list of future projects. Mike thought all of the tasks could be done in 6 months and that Frontier would be happy to do them. He also thought that Shawn's report was a great opportunity for an outside audit.

Frontier was addressing the ISPS moving out of their sites. The battery would hold the system for 18 hours. Frontier owned all of the sites, except for the grain elevator. The issue there was a math problem, because of the length of Ethernet needed. Mike also reported that Motorola had been a reliable system and that their Board would like to have a discussion with the UMRDD Board that would include the topic of a voting position for the District on the Frontier Board.

Director Lieuallen was very disappointed in the site status outlined in Shawn's report. She was horrified at the grain elevator set up and thought it was dangerous and left the equipment vulnerable. She was concerned with wind, cabling, power, and interference. Steve Wynn, a senior technician from Day Wireless, had been working on the system almost since the beginning so he addressed Director Lieuallen's concerns. He noted that the Frontier system actually has 3 elevators as part of the network, 2 not being part of the loop and they have been in place since 2004. The Kent elevator had supported 2 wave guides for the past 13 years and he was confident it was a viable solution. He agreed with Shawn that the pole was old and there should be a plan for it. Mike addressed the hole in the microwave dish by explaining that it had happened the past winter and that it was scheduled to be replaced. He also noted that it was a link going south to Wheeler County and part of a redundancy. The upgrades to Erskin were small projects. The

propane tank was 2 times the size of the other sites and it had external battery next to the ups cabinet. Mike and Steve Wynn agreed that the weeds, gravel, and fencing were issues that needed to be addressed. They also agreed that having co-located users caused some issues, but Frontier and Day were connected to the system and received alarms so they could respond immediately. When it happened in the past they met with the user, who keyed up inside the building, and reviewed what happened and how to avoid it in the future. Shawn was not sure how that would have caused the issue.

Director Lieuallen asked Shawn to talk about the leak on pages 48-50. Shawn pointed out the rust and leak stains on the floor and ceiling indicated that it had been leaking for a long time and he noted a fresh, wet spot that further indicated the age and condition of the 70 year old structure. Shawn was always concerned with leaks into an RF site and Mike agreed that it was a concern of Frontier as well. He was attempting to get a quote for repairs.

Shawn felt that, overall, the sites appear to have been put in as quickly and economically as possible. Steve Wynn referenced the report's comment that the Frontier sites were not built to UMRDD's standards, but pointed out that Frontier didn't know what those standards were. Shawn explained that they included a higher level of battery backup and better delivery access to sites, such as designated driveways. Director Lieuallen also expressed concern about the fire hazard of weeds around the sites. Mike explained that their Weed Department cleared them annually and that Shawn's report would help motivate the Board to move forward with proper fencing and graveling. He reiterated that none of the upgrades on the list were things that the Board would not do and that the tasks would be prioritized and taken care of quickly.

Director Matlack had been interested in exploring the option of a consolidation with Frontier but was only willing to consider giving up full autonomy if the savings were substantial. He also felt that determining control over all the parts of the system would be challenging. He wanted to know what the savings would be. Based on Shawn's findings, he lost some of his enthusiasm about the project and had major concerns. Mike explained that, based on the District's budget, the only way to stay with Motorola was to join Frontier and that Motorola was working hard to find a way to make that work within the confines of the budget. The agreement also ensured regular system upgrades.

Director Lieuallen expressed concern about providing the current level of services to the agencies in the District with a system that did not meet the standards and needs of UMRDD. In response to her question, Mike confirmed that they had experienced some interference on one path due to a windmill, but that it was not a critical path. Shawn disagreed that it was not a critical path because it was part of the loop and all paths should be considered critical.

In response to Director Kennedy's question, Shawn confirmed that going forward with Frontier would cause a delay in implementation because the infrastructure upgrades would have to be done first. Director Pratt questioned if the work would be done if the District decided not to join; he wondered if these upgrades were a priority to Frontier. Mike answered that they knew the projects needed to be done and were on their list, but the most important point was the functionality of the system and he confirmed that it was remarkable reliable. In response to Shawn's question, Steve Wynn noted that the only site without a generator was Roosevelt and it had gone dark in the past, but that was before it was part of the network. In response to Director Lieuallen's question, Mike said they had service in 9 counties and had 400 subscribers, 4 counties being dispatched, and Burns tribe. They also provided network services for the county government, banks, and schools.

Director Pratt addressed governance and said he believed that the most important issue was cost savings versus losing some control of the system. Any contract would have to be spelled out very specifically so all expectations were met and addressed. While Shawn agreed that contracts were important, he explained that they were hard to get out of. Moving between contracts was expensive and termination would be impossible if all of the District's funds were going toward the maintenance of the system. He felt that a contract would be a false sense of security.

Director Matlack asked for numbers. He wanted to know what savings could be realized by a merger with Frontier. Shawn explained that the cost of the necessary microwave shots were around \$160k and that there was a monthly fee for fiber, but he did not have that number. Director Lieuallen agreed with Director Matlack that the Board needed all of those numbers to make a decision.

Director Kennedy asked Steve Surwillo (by phone) what CDX's opinion of the Frontier merger was. Steve Surwillo explained that, in their experience, cooperative shaving of a core was only possible with equal parts of high needs to operate, cost savings, general understanding, and the ability for the entities to get along and work together in governance. He had seen this kind of agreement succeed and fail, based on those points. He noted that CDX could allow for vendors to provide component sharing in the RFP. He agreed that the most important questions were regarding the tradeoffs. What would be lost and what would be gained? In response to Director Lieuallen's question, Shawn reported that he had brought up the topic at the last user meeting, but there was little attendance. Steve Myren, a user group member, felt that the users had the same concerns that the Board was voicing.

The Board asked Shawn to get estimates for both options and provide the Board with a list of pros and cons for a merger.

In response to Director Pratt's question, Chris from Motorola said the District would save around \$2m going with Frontier, over the cost of a standalone Motorola system. Chris explained that the only way for the system to be in the District's budget was to cost share with Frontier. He also noted that the District would continue to have autonomy by full access to features like adding and deleting users and setting up talk groups. He also addressed the issue of a contract by noting that the maintenance of the system

would not be the contract between Frontier and UMRDD, but with Motorola, as there was already an upgrade strategy included in the 10 year plan. The only issue was what UMRDD would pay Frontier for the access. Steve Myren expressed concern about response time because, with the current system, all 3 of the District's employees lived near the core and could respond in 10 minutes. A response for Frontier would be handled by Day Wireless and Steve Wynn gave a best time of 15 minutes, but explained that the response time would depend on which site they responded to. He also stressed that it would be very difficult to knock the entire system out. Director Kennedy was in agreement with Director Matlack and was not willing to give up the ownership of the system without hard numbers, but noted that the savings would have to be substantial. He was not opposed to that sort of arrangement being written into the RFP as a possibility. In response to Director Matlack's question, Shawn explained that he had given Motorola the budget number of \$5m over 10 years and the quote they provided matched, but he viewed their quote as showing the cost of the core being \$2m, not a savings of \$2m. That was the difference in the offers. He also noted that the RFP asked for a geographically diverse system, as far as cores go, and Motorola did not have that option to offer. Based on what he had seen from Orders of Magnitude, there were other vendors that were capable of that or better. In response to Director Lieuallen's question, Shawn confirmed that the microwave project needed to start soon or would have to be put off for 6 months. He also confirmed that the microwave system project could begin now and other hops could be added later. In response to Director Matlack's question, Shawn said the following vendors were interested in providing a proposal for the voice system; Tait, Kenwood, and Codan. Harris proved to be too expensive but they use Tait. Grant County has a Tait system and their administrator Dean Hane has been happy with it for the 4 years it's been working. He also noted that Tim Bush at Deschutes County has Motorola, Harris, EF Johnson, and Tait subscribers on his system and says the Tait radios work the best. Shawn's recommendation was to move forward with the microwave upgrade project and do the RFPs. The District would monitor the upgrades happening at Frontier and look at the governance piece of an agreement. The Board directed Shawn to discuss the microwave loop options with vendors and then bring them to the next meeting for a decision.

VI. Open Discussion

Shawn planned to visit Dean Hane in May. He asked which directors were interested in going too.

*Director Kennedy left the meeting at 3:19pm.*

Shawn attended a meeting in Portland to discuss FirstNet. They announced that mission critical push to talk would be released in 2019 and they planned to start talking to people with sites soon.

In response to Mike Smith's request for a meeting with the Frontier Board, the directors noted that they would first like to see progress on Frontier's infrastructure.

VII. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 3:21pm.

**Next Meeting**

June 5, 2018 @ 1:30pm

Umatilla County Fire District #1, Station 23