

UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT

Telephonic

May 28, 2020 1:30pm

Present: Director Pratt Director Kennedy (by phone)
Director Matlack Director Roxbury (by phone)

Absent: Director Lieuallen

Guests: Bob Simmons, CDX Scott Skibness, Racom

Staff: Shawn Halsey, Rosanna Brown

I. Call to Order and Recognition of Guests: The meeting was called to order at 1:39pm.

II. Changes/Additions to the Agenda: None

III. Business from Guests: None

IV. New Business

A. Purchase of Field Equipment-Racom

Shawn provided a change order quote from Racom to purchase 15 portables, 7 mobiles, 30 power cables for mobiles, 25 vehicle chargers, and 74 single pocket DC chargers for portables. The purchase of the extra radios was based on conversations Shawn had with users. This expense was anticipated and there was \$60,000 in the Field Equipment line for the purchase.

A motion to approve the Racom purchase, in the amount of \$53,268.90, was made by Director Matlack and seconded by Director Pratt.

Director Matlack: Aye

Director Pratt: Aye

Director Kennedy: Aye

Director Roxbury: Aye

Director Matlack noted that the vehicle list for MCSO was longer than he had expected. Shawn replied that he received the requested numbers from John Bowles.

B. Coombs Canyon Remediation

1. State Actions

Shawn spoke with the State regarding the tower at Coombs Canyon and they had a plan to have a new tower installed and functional in 6 weeks. Washington County recently replaced their system and gave a tower to ODOT. The State also expected other towers to be coming available. Shawn reported that the State had done a bid walk on 05/27/20 for a construction contractor and they expected bids soon. The work would include disposal of the old tower, foundations, extension of the fence, building an essentially new site, and adding an additional driveway for another access point. Shawn felt that 6 weeks was optimistic. An emergency declaration had been done to help avoid any delays. The 125', self-supported tower had been assessed by the State. Shawn was unsure of the age of the tower, but he felt confident that the State would not put it up if they didn't think it was in good shape. Not having to wait for a new tower would make the project move much faster. Shawn noted that, since the tower would be higher than the previous one, there would be a change to the licenses. Bob, with CDX, felt that they could expect the tower to last, as long as the steel was not rusted and there were no breaks in the galvanization.

Shawn had requested a quote from Nokia for new microwave equipment, but had not received it as of the meeting. It was noted that the request was an emergency. In response to Director Roxbury's question, Shawn explained that all of the equipment that had been on the tower was damaged and unusable, but that one radio might be salvaged to be used as a spare.

In regard to the insurance claim, Shawn noted that he sent photos to the insurance company and they seemed content with that and did not ask for a site visit. In response to Director Roxbury's question, Shawn guessed the District's actual

loss was about \$12,000. Director Kennedy asked about the possibility of having spare microwave dishes and other components and Shawn replied that it was possible with the 3' dishes, but storing an 8' dish would be challenging. He noted that they already had spare radios for all of the microwave hops, one of each possible frequency.

2. Backhaul

In response to Director Roxbury's question, Shawn reported that he and Brett were still working on the changes to the system needed due to the loss of Coombs. They were working on a fiberoptic patch from East Pendleton to PGG and were waiting for configurations from Nokia. Shawn was hoping to have the connection back shortly. He noted that they had a lot of help from Eastern Oregon Telecom and Pendleton Fiber to make the changes happen.

3. Temporary Site

Based on the information from the State and the possibility of the getting a patch into place, Shawn felt that a temporary site might not be needed. It wouldn't be able to bring up the old system and Coombs didn't provide a lot of coverage on the new system. He noted that, in this circumstance, a portable trunked site would be beneficial and that it was something he had been considering for a while and might suggest budgeting for down the road. That kind of site would also be helpful for areas that will not have coverage and could be used anywhere with a good cell signal. He expected the cost for that to be \$70,000-100,000. He noted that simulcast sites would not work in that configuration.

4. Accelerated Migration

Shawn presented his plan for an accelerated migration to the new system. The plan would start next week, with installs at Pilot Rock Fire, Pilot Rock Police, Pendleton Police, Tribal Police, and Umatilla County Sheriff's Office, lasting about 3 weeks. The Morrow County Sheriff's Office would migrate mid-June, which was about 2 weeks earlier than the original plan. Due to Racom's unavailability of faceplates, Shawn explained that their start date might not be next week, but there was a chance that Day Wireless had the parts and could begin. It was unknown at the time and Shawn felt comfortable with a staggered start if necessary. If the plan was followed as proposed, the migration would be complete around August 10, which was a month ahead of the original schedule. Shawn noted that the coverage testing would begin the week of June 1 as well.

Director Roxbury asked about how coverage testing would work if there was no tower at Coombs. Shawn explained that Racom planned to leave the testing equipment with him, so he could re-test after the new tower was put up. They were confident that the loss of Coombs would not make much of a difference for full coverage. Racom and Shawn both agreed with the plan.

5. PGG Anchor Inspection

Shawn requested and expected bids from Tower Engineering Professionals (TEP) and Day Wireless to dig up anchors at the PGG site for inspection. He hoped to have those bids before the Board meeting on 06/02/20, as he wanted to have the work done as soon as possible. He noted that PGG was trying to sell the land and also that the tower there was the only other guyed tower that the District used. He needed the information so the District could decide if the tower should be kept, replaced, or a new location found for the site. He planned to attempt contact with PGG again, to get the status of the potential sale of the property.

Director Roxbury asked Shawn to give his opinion on what was best for District, operationally and without considering cost, with regard to the PGG site. Shawn needed to see the inspection of the anchors and find out if there was any corrosion. He felt that prevention and maintenance at the site would be less expensive than putting up a new site. The PGG site provided very good coverage of Hermiston and Hermiston High School and it would be hard to find another location that did as well. He would prefer to stay at that location if possible. He agreed that an updated lease with the current and/or future owner was necessary.

V. Open Discussion

Shawn noted that Racom was working hard on the 700 to 450 patches, with help from Morrow County, that would be required when moving users to the new system. Racom expected to have it ready 06/01/20. Dispatch consoles also needed to be put in at Umatilla County and Tribal so unit emergency buttons worked. Coverage on the old system was suffering due to the loss of Coombs, but it was not an issue on the new system. Shawn planned to send out coverage maps to the Board, showing the difference of coverage on the new system with and without Coombs.

Shawn also suggested moving equipment to Pike's Peak to gain coverage. It would cover the southern area, near Nye Junction and Whittaker Flats. He planned to look into it.

Director Roxbury asked if the failure at Coombs exposed any other potential issues or weaknesses that could be prevented or mitigated. Shawn confirmed that the system was pretty solid and just had a break in the ring, causing loss of redundancy. Losing Coombs had the least impact of any site in the District.

He noted that Nokia had been surprised to hear that their loop did not provide good timing.

Shawn agreed that having back-up equipment would be helpful, but the District did not have enough storage space.

Director Kennedy suggested Shawn contact Chief Huxel to ask for space in the shop behind the Umatilla Police Department.

Director Roxbury requested that Shawn keep track of any agencies and vendors that helped during the crisis and send letters of appreciation to them, thanking them for help getting back on track. The letters should be on District letterhead and signed by the Board.

VI. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:21pm, was made by Director Kennedy and seconded by Director Matlack.

Director Matlack: Aye

Director Pratt: Aye

Director Kennedy: Aye

Director Roxbury: Aye

Next Meeting

June 2, 2020 1:30pm

Location: Umatilla County Fire District #1 Station 23