

UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT
BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
Umatilla County Fire District #1, Station 23
August 4, 2020 1:30pm

Present: Director Pratt Director Kennedy Director Roxbury (telephonically)
Director Matlack Director Lieuallen

Absent:

Guests: Matt Scrivner, Morrow County Public Works (telephonically)
Rod Ekholm, Racom
Karen Primmer, Umatilla County Sheriff's Office
Marlon Johnson, Day Wireless

Staff: Shawn Halsey, Rosanna Brown

- I. Call to Order and Recognition of Guests: The meeting was called to order at 1:29pm.
- II. Changes/Additions to the Agenda: None
- III. Business from Guests: None
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes of the meetings from July 7, 2020
 - B. System Administrator's Report
 1. Unit Tracking Sheet
 2. District Income Review
 3. District Expenditures Review
 4. District Bank Statements/Checks Review
 5. LGIP

A motion to accept the consent agenda was made by Director Pratt and seconded by Director Matlack.

Director Lieuallen: Aye

Director Pratt: Aye

Director Roxbury: Aye

Director Roxbury: Aye

- V. Old Business
 - A. Microwave System Project Update

Shawn reported that Racom conducted an inspection of the site work done by Nokia, but he had not received a report yet. Rod Ekholm noted that 2 inspections had been done. The first was done after the failure at the Boardman site and loose hardware was found. Inspections were done at all of the rest of the sites and multiple hardware failures were found, specifically on the stabilizer arms. All sites had some sort of hardware deficiency. The Nokia representative was surprised at the quality of work that had been done by their crew. Modifications and repairs were completed. Rod felt comfortable using the system after the repairs and inspection were completed. Since the inspections, many of the sites had been moved back to the new system. Shawn reported that the old system was still vulnerable, but that the new system was good to go. He explained that the District had owed Nokia about \$58k before the failures and that the invoice from Racom was about \$18k. He expected to pay Nokia the difference, when the system was accepted.

- B. LMR System Project Update
 1. Mobile Installation

The mobile installations started on Wednesday, July 29. There were some issues and the users were not used to the sound of the patches, so there had been some difficulty adjusting, but Shawn confirmed that the patches were

functional. Shawn noted that the changeover for users would be done by dispatch center grouping. Umatilla County would be completed first, then CTUIR dispatch, then Morrow County. 2 consoles had been cut over at Umatilla County so far and UCSO installs were almost complete. The next agencies on the list were Stanfield Police, Umatilla Police, and Tribal. Pendleton Police was complete. Shawn noted that most users would not be comfortable on the system until everyone had been moved over and the patches were no longer needed.

2. DC/AC Inverter and Circuits: This project was finished and did not need to be on the agenda again.

3. Console Priority

During the last meeting the Board asked Shawn to discuss the topic of console priority with the users. He spoke with the User Board and also with users during radio training. He reported that most fire agencies were fine with Dispatch having priority. The opinion of the law enforcement agencies was varied. He noted that the discussion at the User Group meeting included the need for clearer and more concise traffic from both sides of the radios. The group felt that brevity would help with the priority issue. Shawn did plan to decrease the max traffic time to 15 seconds. He noted that the priority decision could be made on a talk group by talk group basis, so not every agency had to have theirs set up the same way. Director Lieuallen reported that she spoke with several Dispatch centers around the state and found that they did prefer to have priority on the main traffic channels, but some did not care as much on TAC channels. Director Matlack felt that Dispatch should have priority because they knew more of what was going on and had a better concept of the "big picture". He felt that Dispatch's traffic was almost always most important. He asked about the protocol for using the emergency button. Rod noted that, if a user in the field gets cut off by dispatch, no one will hear their traffic, including Dispatch. Shawn asked for clarification, because Scott (Skibness) had told the Board that Dispatch could hear the interrupted traffic. Rod said that was incorrect. Director Pratt felt that there were times when the officer in the field should have priority and Director Kennedy agreed.

The User group suggested main channels have Dispatch priority and TAC channels not. Director Kennedy worried about officers having to move to a TAC channel during a pursuit. Karen Primmer noted that Dispatch had written a protocol regarding the pursuit button and had been training dispatchers on it. She felt that better radio etiquette was needed on both sides. The Board discussed the use of the emergency button and training for the officers using the radios. If it was the fastest way to get help to an officer, it should be used.

Shawn acknowledged that there were positives and negatives for both configurations. The Board agreed on Dispatch priority on the main channels and suggested using TAC channels for on scene communications.

Rod noted that he would take the comments back for research and get answers to Shawn about options. Shawn planned to test on a different channel and report back to the board.

C. MCSO Building Grounding

The grounding project should be completed before August 5, according to Marlon. Shawn planned to inspect the work. Sheriff Matlack had not seen or heard any issues related to the work being done.

D. Logging Recorder

Director Lieuallen reported that they were waiting to hear the recordings from the radios, to confirm the recorder was working. The final bill had not been paid. The phone calls were coming in and recording correctly. Karen reported that, on July 27, ANI ALI was working as it should, but nothing since July 28. They would confirm it was working correctly before making the final payment.

E. Microwave System Demolition RFP

Shawn reported that he received a response to the RFP, in the amount that he had budgeted for the project. He asked the board to decide if they should use the funds earmarked for that project or use them for something else. He had not heard back about the PGG property. The response was from Day Wireless and Shawn felt confident in the quality of their work. He noted that the District could decide to do the demo in phases, site by site. Director Matlack had no problem awarding Day the contract, based on Shawn's confidence and what had been budgeted for the project.

Shawn noted that the quote was good until October and requested a delay in a decision, until he knew more about the PGG property.

F. Coombs Project Update

Shawn reported that the tower had been shipped and that the finalized design of the site configuration was almost complete. Marlon noted that he had not heard if Day Wireless would be doing the work. Shawn confirmed that the project completion would not meet the original projection of 6 weeks. Shawn received a quote from Nokia, for the replacement equipment, but had some issues with the fees included for project management and installation, which were unnecessary. He planned to ask for a quote for the equipment only.

A motion to authorize the purchase of equipment from Nokia, in the amount of \$18,675.55, was made by Director Pratt and seconded by Director Kennedy.

Director Lieuallen: Aye

Director Pratt: Aye

Director Roxbury: Aye

Director Roxbury: Aye

In response to Director Kennedy's question, Shawn confirmed that insurance would cover the cost and that he was obtaining quotes from other vendors for the installation.

G. PGG Anchor Inspection

Shawn reported that the inspection had been done the week before. The rod that connected the anchors were steel. There was some corrosion, but could be scraped off to get to clean metal. He was waiting for a report on the strength left on the rod, but expected it to be fine. It was not like Coombs Canyon. Shawn noted that there were a couple of options available to prevent corrosion and he expected the report to come with a recommendation. He felt confident that the tower was safe for the time being.

VI. New Business

A. Safety Review

Shawn noted that it had been extremely hot and that staff and vendors had been working outside. He recommended staying hydrated. He also planned on obtaining safety goggles for protection against the Coronavirus. He reported an injury that happened during the vehicle installation work. An installer walked into a fan in a fire station and was cut. He had to have stitches, but was back to work the next day.

B. Enterprise Zone Notification

Shawn presented 2 notifications the District received regarding Enterprise Zones. They were meeting notifications for the City of Umatilla and the Port of Morrow. Shawn noted that the only impact to the District was in loss of future or potential tax revenue, not a loss of current revenue. He noted that it could cause an increase of service needed from user agencies, which could lead to more subscriber units requested.

C. Morrow County Road Department/Public Works

Matt Scrivner, from Morrow County Public Works, called in to the meeting. He approached Shawn last week about new radios for a few of their vehicles and their supervisors. Matt noted that they always respond to incidents in Morrow County that involve the roads, such as wrecks and fires. Shawn noted that they were the only public works department in the District that currently used the system/radios.

Currently the District's policy allowed public works departments to be users of the system, but required them to purchase their own subscriber units. Matt requested that MCPW be allowed access to the new system and for 4 mobile radios and 1 portable radio. They were also interested in dual band radios. Shawn confirmed that MCPW was allowed to use the system and asked the Board if the District wanted to change the policy for issuing radios. In response to the Board's question, Matt confirmed that MCPW supported the MCSO in the field 1-2 times per week, at least. Director Matlack expressed support for the MCPW department and noted that the Road Department played an important part in responses to crashes, accidents, weather, and down trees. He felt that use of the radios was important, due to the many areas in Morrow County that did not have cell phone coverage. Shawn noted that Umatilla County Public Works had radios issued to them during CSEPP, but that they had not been used. He also noted that the District could provide MCPW with 4 mobiles easily, from the current inventory.

Director Roxbury was concerned that giving MCPW radios would create a demand for subscriber units from other Public Works departments in the District. Matt noted that he would have to run the numbers against his budget, to see if MCPW could afford the 5 radios they would like to have. He would work with Shawn to get the information.

Shawn expected to have the same discussion with hospitals, BIA, and the Forest Service. They have been allowed on the system for interoperability purposes, while paying for their own units.

Shawn noted that he intended to give the hospital a base station for their ER, unless the Board had an objection.

VII. Open Discussion: None

VIII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:48pm was made by Director Pratt and seconded by Director Kennedy.

Director Lieuallen: Aye

Director Pratt: Aye

Director Kennedy: Aye

Director Roxbury: Aye

Director Matlack: Aye

Next Meeting
September 1, 2020 1:30pm
Location: TBA