



In response to the Board's question about why the users could not get into the system, Shawn suggested that there might be interference in the area of Elm Ave in Hermiston and that that lead required some investigating. Director Roxbury had expected to not have to deal with interference issues, since the District was advised to go with the 700 band to avoid that problem. In response, Rod explained that UMRDD did have the license for the public safety block, but that there were band allocations adjacent to the District. Interference could be coming from those and could be attributed to anything from rogue transmitters to adjacent agencies operating outside of their permissions. There was a chance that this interference was coming from FirstNet, who operated under AT&T and had a strong signal from one of their sites in Hermiston. Shawn noted that there were other potential sources to look at, like cable network channels and could include old equipment or bad lines.

Steve Surwillo acknowledged that CDX did make a recommendation for the District to go with the 700 band because it should have had less interference. Any interference on the 700 band would only be caused by someone operating badly. That was not the case with 450, which had more potential for interference with regular use.

Director Lieuallen found this information to be disturbing and Director Roxbury felt that every issue should have been seen ahead of time and a solution should have been provided. He felt that, if there were going to be interference issues with 700, the District should have stayed with 450. Director Lieuallen was concerned with officer safety and the field users' faith in the system and in Dispatch.

Rod noted that, in regard to interference, they were checking areas and logging reports and were meeting once or twice per week to work on the issues. Each issue was noted, remarked on, solved, investigated, and/or escalated to Tait or Avtec. He reported that a few issues were related to software and that they were working directly with Tait to correct those. At least 4 cases had been opened in December. These issues included software bugs related to priority functionality, power cycling, system controllers, and the ability to do OTAP. Some of those had been resolved. In response to Director Lieuallen's question, Rob explained that Tait was generally very responsive, though that had fluctuated during the holiday weeks.

Director Matlack acknowledged that investigation of calls and listening to recordings was important, but wondered if they should be working directly with the officers involved by phone calls or by riding with them while they were on duty. He felt that hearing the issues in real time would be beneficial and Rod agreed. He noted that they had been discussing setting up ride-alongs for that purpose, especially because the system logs were not showing denials of service. They also planned to watch the electronic logs during the ride-alongs, to see how the radios were being seen and interacting with the system.

Director Matlack asked Shawn what sort of continued discussion had there been regarding Dispatch having priority and the ability to break in while field users were talking. Director Lieuallen noted that it was pretty common for Dispatch to have that so they had the ability to interrupt for emergency situations. She felt that the more pressing concern was the possible interference from FirstNet. Shawn acknowledged that it was possible that the interference was from FirstNet, but he needed to do more investigating before he took his concerns to them.

Director Kennedy asked if, since the key up delay was a little longer in the new system, could users not be waiting long enough? Rod said they could go back and look at individual calls to see if that was the case, however he noted that they had not seen evidence of two field units trying to key up at the same time or a field unit and Dispatch. Shawn did notice there were some clipped audio, but not full words.

In response to Director Kennedy's question regarding the pursuit channel, Shawn reported that the issues there were due to an erroneous setting in the logging and that it was now up to Umatilla County to correct. The vendor had been given the correct information, but did not follow it precisely. The District did not have any control over changes to the logger. He reported that Karen was working on the corrections with Eventide and Shawn expected that the issue had been resolved.

Rod told the Board that Racom knew they were frustrated and that they were working hard to identify and correct all of the issues. Some of these issues were related to the Avtech consoles, so they were working with them as well. One problem was that Dispatchers were not hearing the talk groups from the field. The traffic was making it to the console, that could be seen from the recording system, but Dispatch wasn't hearing it. He noted that there were 6 open tickets

with Avetch, just in December. The plan was to have them come on site to do analysis and troubleshooting. The District and Racom asked for an Avtec representative from the actual design team in South Carolina.

In response to Director Matlack's question, Shawn noted that he had not spoken with the HPD officers that had the issue directly, but that he would have questions for them after he had done more investigating. He did not believe they needed to attend a Board meeting to get a resolution. Shawn felt that the reports that he sent, and would continue to send, would be sufficient in keeping the Board informed of the issues and the corrective measures taken.

Director Kennedy stated that he would not be willing to accept the system until the user group signed off on it and Shawn agreed to attend the LEA meeting at the end of January, which was the same day as the next User Group Meeting. In response to Director Lieuallen's comment, Shawn agreed that the train-the-trainer sessions had not been as helpful as he'd hoped and that he would need to conduct trainings for the users directly.

In response to Director Roxbury's question, Shawn reported that the 450 system was still working, however most of the subscriber units had been collected. It would be difficult to switch users back and it would also require them to carry 2 radios. Director Kennedy asked if the 450 system could be causing the interference and Shawn acknowledged that it was possible, however he knew that was not the cause of the interference in Hermiston.

Shawn reported that they were also working on the removal of the old microwave system. Dishes were being taken down at MCSO in Heppner. The entire system was completely offline. Director Roxbury felt that working on current system issues was more important than removing the old system at that point and that it should be put off. Rod noted that Racom had other projects coming up and they hoped to be finished with the District's decommissioning by February. If not, they would need to reschedule. Shawn also noted that waiting would affect the sale of the old equipment. In response to Director Roxbury's question, Shawn said he had received a quoted amount of \$40,000 for the 60% of units collected and sent so far. Director Roxbury asked if a cache of old radios should be kept, in case of incident and Shawn explained that the old radios had a difficult time talking to the new consoles.

Director Pratt felt that it would be fine to continue with the decommissioning, as long as they also continued to work through the bugs in the new system and Director Lieuallen agreed.

#### B. Coombs Project Update

Shawn reported that the concrete had not been poured at the Coombs site yet. Marlon Johnson reported that he had been notified that it would be poured in the next week. He noted that the tower sections were put together, and were on the ground. They expected 10-15 days of curing before an inspection could be done. Construction would continue into February. Shawn explained that the District's equipment could be installed then. He provided 2 quotes to the Board for the dish installation. The quote from Racom was \$9,000 if the work was done while they were already working at Coombs, or \$13,500 if it was a separate project. The quote from Day Wireless was \$10,500. Scott Skibness felt sure that the Racom crew would be able to do the work at the same time, therefore committing to a cost of \$9,000 for the work. Marlon explained that Day Wireless assumed the work would be a separate job and that, if it could be done while the crew was already working, the price could be different. He asked for the time to rework and resubmit their quote.

Based on the slow progress of the site, the Board agreed that they were willing to wait to make a decision until the February meeting, giving Day Wireless the opportunity to submit a new quote.

### VI. New Business

#### A. Safety Review

Shawn reported that there were no safety issues this month. He noted that District employees should be vigilant about fall prevention. Since computers and tablets used for programming had gotten smaller over the years, there was less danger when climbing into and out of vehicles, but there was still a need for caution.

#### B. Morrow County DA portable use

Shawn was approached by the Morrow County District attorney last summer, while the District was moving to the new system. He was referred to Shawn from the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, when he expressed concern about not being able to scan the traffic due to encryption. At the time, Shawn did not see any issue with giving him access to the system since he was part of a public entity that had a public safety related role. The MCDA signed the user agreement

that Shawn sent to him and then purchased their own radio. There was no expense to the District and the Morrow County Law Common talk group was the only talk group he would have access to.

Recently, based on the recommendation from Director Matlack to speak with Director Roxbury, Shawn learned that Director Roxbury had an issue with the arrangement. His concerns included an additional entity having the ability to weigh in on decisions related to the system, as a user. He was also concerned about the involvement of lawyers and their access and the possibility of other similar requests coming in. He felt that a separate and different agreement should be used, if these types of agencies/officials were going to be granted access to the system.

Director Pratt reported that the MCDA often used his cell phone for contact and would exclusively use the radio as a scanner, as he had been. In response to Director Kennedy's question, Director Matlack said he didn't have problem with the MCDA having the ability to listen to traffic as long as it was for information related to cases he would be seeing, but did not want him to be communicating via radio or directing scenes with it. It should not be the primary means of communication between the MCDA and the MCSO. Directors Lieuallen and Pratt both agreed that use of a cell phone by the MCDA was adequate. Director Lieuallen noted that, during major crimes, UCSO deputies contacted the Umatilla County DAs directly by cell phone as a policy. Director Kennedy noted that the Umatilla Police Department also gave information to the UCDA via cell phone, when it was necessary.

Director Pratt felt that being in an elected position did not automatically afford the official access to the system. It was not a precedent the District should set. Since the agreement had been made, he suggested that the District reimburse the MCDA for the cost of the radio.

#### VII. Open Discussion

Marlon informed Shawn that he had contact information for a FirstNet representative in Oregon and would forward it to him.

#### VIII. Adjourn

*A motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:46pm was made by Director Kennedy and seconded by Director Lieuallen.*

*Director Lieuallen: Aye*

*Director Pratt: Aye*

*Director Roxbury: Aye*

*Director Kennedy: Aye*

*Director Matlack: Aye*

#### Next Meeting

February 2, 2021 1:30pm

Location: UCFD #1, Station 23