

UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT
BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
March 7, 2023
Boardman City Hall

Present: Director Pierotti (telephonically) Director Irons
Director Kennedy Director Pratt

Absent: Director Primmer

Guests: Rod Ekholm, Racom Rick Stokoe, Boardman Police Department
Mike Miller, Racom (telephonically) Adam Crippen, Racom

Staff: Brett Mueller, Rosanna Brown

I. Call to Order and Recognition of Guests: The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm.

II. Changes/Additions to the Agenda: None

III. Business from Guests

Rod Ekholm: As many people know, Racom was recently sold to a company that they have partnered with for many years. Eastern Communications, based in Queens, New York, had a similar business model to Racom and was the East Coast distributor for Tait and Harris. Rod confirmed that customers would not see much of a change, since Racom had always been a partner to Eastern Communications and they had a history of consultation between the companies. They expected to be able to better support customers, have more support to their teams, and bring a larger nationwide voice to the products they sold and installed. The transition would be smooth and the team members were not changing.

Mike Miller: This collaboration was a great thing for the employees and customers of Racom. Intentional steps were taken along the way to increase the scale of business, to bring more products and the right prices to customers, while providing cutting edge career opportunities to the employees. Racom was a family owned company and this gave stability to the company and the customers for the future. Racom Corporation was considered a subsidiary of Eastern Communications, but still Racom Corporation as a legal entity, so all of the legal agreements remained unchanged.

IV. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes from the meeting on February 7, 2023.
- B. System Administrator's Report
 - 1. District Income Review
 - 2. District Expenditures Review
 - 3. District Bank Statement/Checks Review
 - 4. LGIP

A motion to accept the consent agenda was made by Director Kennedy and seconded by Director Irons.

Director Pratt: Aye

Director Kennedy: Aye

Director Pierotti: Aye

Director Irons: Aye

V. Old Business

A. LMR System Project Update

Brett reminded the board that, at the last meeting, he reported that the controller upgrade project was at phase 1 of 2. These upgrades needed to be completed to put the ISSI functionality into place. All controllers needed an operations

system upgrade and then would have the current Tait firmware version installed. Rod spent time at each site, putting in the new operating system and that had gone pretty well. While at the Black Mountain site, he and a couple of Racom techs, on a UTV, encountered emergency personnel that requested help transporting a patient and they were able to provide assistance.

After the upgrades were done at the sites, they moved on to the core controllers. Brett knew that this upgrade would be impactful as the system would be taken down. It was scheduled for 02/28/23. They encountered a few snags and the outage was longer than expected, about 20 minutes. Brett and Rod were working with a Tait engineer during that time. Rod noted that the cause of the extended outage was due to a slight difference in the way the upgrade worked in the Tait lab versus at the District's system. John, the Tait engineer, was able to identify the problem quickly and kept the outage from going on longer. Notes on the issue were passed along to Tait.

The second controller upgrade went more smoothly and the outage was hardly noticeable. The new operating system, with old firmware, had been running without incident for a week.

Brett was preparing to install the new Tait firmware, but was waiting for feedback from Tait about how it worked with other systems first. Rod noted that Tait had 2 stateside systems that had been updated with the latest version. The MAC system in Grant County, Washington was similar to the District and had not gone yet. Rod thought it might be during the week of April 13.

Brett reported that he reviewed all of the minor complaints that had come in since the operating system upgrades and found that none were system related. Brett believed that the system was working the same as prior to the update.

Rod and Adam spoke with Chief Davis at FD1 about the issue that had been coming up when radios on the same channels did not always hear the same traffic. To test this scenario, Rod set up 6 portable radios on a maintenance channel, then began making test calls to see which radios picked up the audio. He hadn't been able to replicate the issue.

Brett recently attended a Local Budget Law training in Oregon City, presented by the Department of Revenue. He reported that it was very helpful and he would use what he learned when working on the FY23-24 budget. He noted that the budget and the hiring of a Comm Tech were his top priorities presently.

B. Ukiah Site Construction

Day Wireless provided Brett a proposed contract for the site work at Ukiah. After reviewing it, Brett felt it needed work and asked for help from the District's legal counsel. After their review and some changes, Brett sent it back to Day Wireless, hoping they would return it soon enough to be presented to the Board. As of the meeting, Brett had not heard back from Day Wireless, so Board approval had to be moved to the next meeting. While the site work could not be done for some time, due to weather, there was a significant period of engineering and permitting planned. Brett had hoped to have the contract signed at this meeting, so that work could begin.

C. Communications Technician

The job description for both Communications Technician levels, as well as the job posting and application, were all created and reviewed by SDAO HR. Brett made a few edits, based on their suggestions, but did have to explain that he was unwilling to remove the requirement for a criminal background check. That must be included due to CJIS requirements. Brett intended to advertise the posting in the coming days. He asked that any directors interested in being a part of the interview process let him know. When a candidate was chosen to offer the position to, he would initiate the full background check, driving check, and drug testing.

D. ISSI Shared Use IGA

Brett provided the IGA to the Board for review. It was what the District and ODOT put forth as the final document and Brett asked the Board to consider adopting it.

A motion to approve and sign the ISSI Shared Use IGA was made by Director Irons and seconded by Director Kennedy.

Director Irons: Aye

Director Kennedy: Aye

Director Pierotti: Aye

Director Pratt: Aye

E. Safety review

Brett noted that it was the season for insects. District staff watched a video regarding bees, wasps, and spiders. The advice regarding bees and wasps was generally to get away from them. The video also gave tips on treatment of bites and stings.

VI. New Business

A. Resolution Adopting Changes to the Budget

Brett reported that the District received an invoice, via email, from Nokia. After research, he found that the invoice was for replacement equipment at the Coombs Canyon site, after the tower fell 2 years ago. Brett contacted Nokia to express his disappointment in the handling of the billing. He did receive an apology. Brett also contacted the insurance adjustor that handled the case and a check was cut and sent to the District. It was deposited. Since this expense was not in the budget, funds needed to be moved to cover that line.

A motion to adopt Resolution 23-03-07-01: Changes to the Budget, was made by Director Irons and seconded by Director Kennedy.

Director Irons: Aye

Director Kennedy: Aye

Director Pratt: Aye

Director Pierotti: Aye

In response to Director Kennedy's question about the recent frequency of budget change resolutions, Brett noted that this instance was one that the District had not been able to predict. He hoped to avoid additional changes in the future.

VII. Open Discussion: None

VIII. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:12pm.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 4, 2023 @ 1:30pm

Umatilla County Fire District #1