

UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT
BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
Stafford Hansell Building, Hermiston
February 6, 2024

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

Absent: None

Guests: None

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: None

- IV. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes from the meeting on January 2, 2024.
 - 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 Irons and seconded by Director Kennedy.

Director Kennedy: Aye

Director Primmer: Aye

Director Irons: Aye

Director Pratt: Aye

Director Pierotti: Aye

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

Since the last meeting, Brett received assorted reports of various kinds of OS problems. Most of these reports came from areas with weak coverage. Brett intended to check individual units related to reports from areas that should have had good coverage. One of these incidents was reported by Director Kennedy. Brett also noted that he had received quite a few radio requests.

Regarding the Adcomm system assessment, Brett reported that they were in the data collection stage. This included collecting all of the documentation for the system design, engineering, and construction. A coordination meeting was scheduled for the follow day. In response to Director Pierotti's question, Brett explained that the timeline partially depended on cooperation from the District. Adcomm's initial estimate was 2-3 months.

The Umatilla County Dispatch Center recently went through a reflooring project and it occupied a lot more of District staff's time than initially expected. The District would be invoicing UCSO for some of that time. There had not been a lot of progress on the closeout or TAGs projects, due to Rod Ekholm being out with a serious illness.

B. Ukiah Site Construction: Due to the winter weather, there was no progress on construction.

C. Nolin Hills Energy Project Agreement

This agreement was brought to the Board in January and the directors requested additional time to review it. There were no additional comments. Brett noted that he spoke with Umatilla County counsel and was advised that the suit they have with the Oregon Supreme Court, to challenge the right to overrule local ordinances, was in the works but had not been heard yet.

A motion to accept both of the Nolin Hills Energy Project Agreements was made by Director Primmer and seconded by Director Kennedy.

Director Kennedy: Aye

Director Primmer: Aye

Director Irons: Aye

Director Pratt: Aye

Director Pierotti: Aye

D. Update to the User and Subscriber Unit Issue Policy/Fee Schedule: Brett was unable to spend time on the policy, so it was postponed to the next meeting.

E. Safety Review: Staff reviewed information on cardiovascular disease, including occupational effects, mitigation and diagnoses.

VI. New Business

A. Discussion on tax abatement programs within the District

Director Pratt attending the last CREZ II meeting at Morrow County. He reported that they had sections for all the taxing district, with a section specific to public safety. UMRDD was left out of that section and Director Pratt thought that might have been due to a lack of understanding about the purpose and mission of the District. The District provided critical infrastructure to public safety entities and should be included in the distribution of those funds, even if it took some of the funding away from other agencies. It was a revenue stream that the District was missing out on and not just in this zone, but other CREZs and SIPS. Director Pierotti agreed and noted that funds that were distributed to the District would directly benefit public safety agencies and Director Kennedy agreed. Funds could be used for system and hardware upgrades, including subscriber units. Director Pratt suggested educating people by attending these types of meetings and ensuring that the members of these boards understood what the District did. It would be very helpful for the directors on this board to attend these meetings, especially when Brett was unavailable. It was also suggested that some kind of form letter be sent to the different boards, including the Umatilla and Morrow Board of Commissioners, to refresh their memories about the service that the District provides. Director Primmer agreed that the District should have a representative at every meeting. The directors also expressed concern that these types of agreements were often quietly done, so the notices were easy to miss. Brett expressed his frustration and disappointment about this to Umatilla County counsel, Doug Olsen. Director Pratt agreed that many of these meetings were advertised in accordance with public meeting laws, but done very vaguely with unclear agendas. Director Pierotti suggested also taking a long term plan for subscriber unit replacements to these sessions, to show what the funds would go toward and who would benefit from them. Director Pratt agreed that having a document with budgetary plans would be helpful when attending and those numbers should include statistics on how many units, the cost of the units, tower equipment, and employee hours. Brett noted that many of these numbers were included in the annual Budget Message and that there would be more pertinent information coming out in the Adcomm report. Director Pierotti suggested providing a QR code to get the information out as well.

B. Review of District's FY22-23 Audit Report

The Board reviewed the audit report. Brett noted that he reviewed the report and did not find any of the errors that he had found in previous reports. He did not have any concerns.

C. Portable Radio Purchase

Brett reported that he continued to receive requests for more radios, and was also attempting to build up a cache. He provided a quote for a purchase of portables that would not fill the cache, but would provide enough radios to get through the next few months of requests, while considering options other than the current model. Director Pratt suggested an alternative to the 9400, a Harris radio specifically designed for fire service and use with gloves. If a number of this version were purchased, the portables assigned to the fire agencies currently could be distributed to other agencies. Brett agreed, while also confirming the need to purchase 20 immediately. Director Kennedy agreed that the advantage of buying fire specific radios would provide a cache of 9400s. He and Brett confirmed that typically the law enforcement users were content with the functionality of the that style.

Brett also thought that more radio versions would create additional staff hours for programming and could be a reason to consider an additional Comm Tech position in the District.

After additional discussion, the Board agreed that a committee of fire agencies should be formed to research, test, and review portable options and provide a recommendation of one type of radio that they think would have the best functionality for all fire users. Brett should be included in this plan, to ensure that committee members were looking at options that would work within the District's system. Director Pierotti volunteered Adam Wilkinson to head the committee. In response to Brett's question, Director Pratt did not think anything would come from the Adcomm report that would change the recommendation, so there was no need to wait for that report to start the committee meetings. Director Irons noted that he had contact information for many of the fire agencies and would provide that to Adam. The Board emphasized that the majority of the time, coordination, and work involved should be the responsibility of the committee and not Brett. Director Pratt recommended that the committee have a vendors bring them demo radios and Director Pierotti noted that PFD had some Motorola demo radios on hand that could be passed around to other agencies. Brett noted that knowing the price of the units that were being considered would be important too. Director Irons also noted that having the cost in mind when going to CREZ meetings would be helpful as well.

A motion to approve the purchase of 20 portable radios from Racom, in the amount of \$35,016.79, was made by Director Pierotti and seconded by Director Irons.

Director Kennedy: Aye

Director Primmer: Aye

Director Irons: Aye

Director Pratt: Aye

Director Pierotti: Aye

D. Site Security Quote

Brett had been working on, but having little success, obtaining quotes for security systems for the radio sites for some time. The desire for site security systems was triggered by the theft and vandalism.

He was looking for a camera recording system with analytics to detect people and vehicles, to gain meaningful information sent out in real time alerts. He had received a quote from Day Wireless, but it was for the product only, as they did not have anyone that could do the installation. Brett provided a quote to the Board, from Uni-Tech. They were a local and well established vendor that had a lot of experience working with government agencies. Brett felt that they were a good choice for the work. The provided quote was from 2022, but Brett confirmed with Uni-Tech that the price had remained the same. The quote

included cameras that would communicate with each other, would record at the sites with DVR, and did not require microwave backhaul. Alerts would be received from across the network. He planned to have the installation done at Feedville to start and then move to other sites as the budget allowed.

A motion to approve the purchase and installation of a surveillance system from Uni-Tech, in the amount of \$26,292.44, was made by Director Kennedy and seconded by Director Pierotti.

Director Kennedy: Aye

Director Primmer: Aye

Director Irons: Aye

Director Pratt: Aye

Director Pierotti: Aye

VII. Open Discussion

The Board continued the discussion regarding a portable radio for fire agencies committee.

Director Pierotti really liked the plan of creating a committee of fire users, to find out what would work best for them. Director Kennedy wanted the committee to also provide a rough idea of the average cost of the chosen radios to Brett. Brett asked if the intention was to replace all of the fire radios, or just specific areas or specific users. Director Pierotti felt that the radios should be assigned to units, versus individual users. He thought that way would cut down the number of units needed.

The Board reiterated that the head of the committee, Adam, would be Brett's contact and that the majority of the time and work would be delegated to the committee. The ideal committee would have a representative from each fire agency in the District.

Director Pratt reported that he had been using the 8000, which was made for fire, and that it was a great size, with great audio.

Director Pierotti suggested the District hiring a part time person to write grants and that Sage Delong (Umatilla County Emergency Manager) was a good resource for that. He also thought there may be some grants that needed to go through Sage's department anyway. Brett noted that grant funds for increasing interoperability had been available, historically. Brett agreed to reach out to Sage. In response to Director Pratt's question, the Board decided that the committee should begin meeting as soon as possible, and that the members would be officially appointed at the March meeting. It was the Board's hope that some of the committee members would also attend that meeting.

Brett had been considering hiring an additional Comm Tech, as additional units and sites were increasing the workload. Director Pierotti asked Brett to start crunching numbers and make a plan about how to add that into the budget.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:28pm.

Next Meeting

March 5, 2024

1:30pm

Boardman City Hall