

UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT  
BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING  
Boardman City Hall  
March 5, 2024

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

Absent:                    Director Pratt

In-Person Guests:        None  
Remote Guests:         Adam Wilkinson (telephonically)  
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: New Business A. Fire Radio Committee Appointment
  
- III.     Business from Guests: None
  
- IV.     Consent Agenda
  - A. Minutes from the meeting on February 6, 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 Kennedy and seconded by Director Primmer.*

*Director Kennedy: Aye*

*Director Primmer: Aye*

*Director Irons: Aye*

*Director Pierotti: Aye*

Brett pointed out an error on the expense tracking sheet. It showed the District Insurance line at 103%, but the Board passed a resolution to move funds into that line at the last meeting. The error would be corrected for the next report.

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

Brett reported that there were few issues from users. A report of mic issues was attributed to a user, not a system error, and a coverage issue was attributed to an equipment problem.

An issue that Brett spent more time on was missing call audio from Tribal Police, near the foothills. Brett expected to have good coverage in that area. He hoped that, with Adcomm's assistance, this would be addressed.

A request came from Umatilla County Dispatch regarding a fix to the OSP end point on the consoles. Brett thought it was likely that it had not worked since the ISSI went in, but went unnoticed due to the infrequent use. He attempted to enable it and errors showed up in the logs. Racom enlisted assistance from Avtec, the consol vendor. Currently, the OSP Pend 1 talk group was not available on the consoles. It was also noted that

the volume from OSP Dispatch and some field users was very loud. Brett was unsure if there was a fix for that, as there were only 2 spots to adjust the audio.

Brett was looking ahead to plan some programming updates, so he installed new Tait firmware that was supposed to have some improvements and enhancements. When testing, he found a bug that caused the radio to periodically reset, usually under extended operation. It took a lot of time to diagnose, repeat the problem, report it, and get Racom and Tait on board. Tait was able to replicate the problem and expected to have a fix out in April.

Brett also reported that Boardman Police had been dealing with problems with the Harris mobile radios and, according to Director Pratt, they seemed to get progressively worse with the updates. Rod Ekholm, with Racom, experienced it and ODOT was having the same problem. Pressure was put on Harris to fix the problem.

Brett noted that the new Comm Tech, Hank Gehrke, was coming up to speed and was reviewing logs to review known issues and discover unknown problems, enabling the District to take care of issues proactively. Brett said Hank was doing well and developing a good understanding of the system.

Rod was working with Tait on the cellular push to talk. He was also working on the TAGs with Omnitronics. He was in the District the previous Thursday and would be back in the current week.

Adcomm created a trouble reporting form that Brett planned to distribute to the directors and a few users to try out. Adcomm was still gathering data for their report. Racom was supposed to provide all open and closed tickets that were given to Tait, and they were also providing other system documentation. Brett still needed to provide a stakeholder list to Adcomm and that list would include the directors and a few key people from the agencies that had the most issues.

Brett drove to Spokane to pick up the District truck that Racom installed the new transportable site in. He and Hank needed to conduct performance testing and look for any ways to improve it.

The DC power system for Umatilla Ridge was installed the previous week.

Adam Wilkinson asked Brett if the Pendleton site issues with the mobiles were hardware or system related. Brett explained that they were location specific and he thought that the corrective action used to fix the problem in Pendleton moved it on to the reservation. He was able to see certain spots on the foothills, in a strong signal area, that picked up bit errors. That was one of the problems he hoped to get answers from Adcomm about. He noted that it was what was happening in Hermiston as well.

#### B. Ukiah Site Construction

The weather had been favorable in Ukiah and excavation started. The forms were in place and the concrete was poured. The propane tank was being installed 03/05/24 and the mono pole from Boardman and shelter from Umatilla County were being transported on 03/06/24. The project was making good progress and Racom was looking for a time to squeeze it into their schedule.

#### C. Update to the User and Subscriber Unit Issue Policy/Fee Schedule: No update

#### D. Safety Review: District staff reviewed common general safety mistakes, including failure to track near misses, lack of training, not having or using PPE and other ways injuries happen in the workplace. Their review also included how to avoid or fix these types of mistakes.

## VI. New Business

### A. Fire Radio Committee

Adam spoke with the following 9 fire agencies that agreed to be part of the committee: Pendleton Fire, Boardman Fire, UCFD1, Umatilla Fire, Pilot Rock Fire, Tribal Fire, Heppner Fire, Echo Fire, and East Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District.

Adam planned to coordinate with Brett about features and his suggestions. Adam noted that Pendleton Fire had demo-ed some Motorola radios. They were bulkier and heavier than the Tait portables, but they were a more durable unit, waterproof, and had display screens on the front and top of the radio. The buttons and knobs were designed to be used while wearing large gloves. Additionally, they had audible and physical feedback when buttons were pressed. Director Pierotti also noted that users could change the channels and volume from the lapel mic. The Motorola portable was \$8,000, but it was clear that, when compared to the Tait portable, it was a better design for fire users.

Adam planned to obtain more demo radios and distribute them to the agencies, then collect reports on what the users thought about the units and what features there were looking for.

In response to Director Pierotti's comment, Adam confirmed that the Motorola portable was a dual band radio, with VHF and 800. Having access to the VHF was very helpful for their agency when communicating with BIA, Forest Service, and on State Fire Net.

In response to Director Kennedy's question, Adam confirmed that he had a least one point of contact at each agency, and 2 from UCFD1 and Echo. Adam will provide those names to the board, so they can be made official at the next meeting.

### B. Open Business

Brett asked the board to discuss and advise him about the situation with the Morrow County Health District ambulance service. It was a little unclear what would happen moving forward, but did appear that they would not be performing ambulance service starting 03/13/24. Brett suggested waiting to see what their permanent solution ended up being, before the District take any formal action regarding collection of the radios. In response to Director Iron's question, Brett confirmed that he had the ability to turn the radios off, but he preferred to deal with them directly, if he heard about a problem or if there was activity happening that shouldn't be. Director Kennedy agreed that Brett should not remove or turn the radios off right now and to monitor what they were using the radios for and also the status of the situation with Morrow County. In response to Director Iron's question, Brett explained that his communication with Morrow County was with Sheriff Bowles and with Kristen Bowles.

Director Pierotti asked Brett about contracts between the agencies and the District. Brett thought he would need to know what they planned to use the radios for going forward, and then decide if that followed the mission of the District to have them as users on the system. That could mean removing radios, or just changing the programming. Brett also noted that, to update the programming using OTAP, users would have to manually accept the update. It would not happen automatically, but the District would know when it was done.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:08pm.

### Next Meeting

April 2, 2024 - 1:30pm

Stafford Hansell Government Center