

UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT  
BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING  
Boardman City Hall  
September 3, 2024

Present:                 Director Pratt                     Director Irons                     Director Primmer  
                              Director Pierotti                 Director Kennedy

Absent:                 None

In-Person Guests:     Rod Ekholm, Racom                 Kelly Hembach, Racom             Susan Ronning, ADCOMM  
Remote Guests:        Scott Skibness, 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: None
- IV.    Consent Agenda
  - A. Minutes from the meetings on August 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 Irons and seconded by Director Primmer.*

*Director Irons: Aye*

*Director Primmer: Aye*

*Director Pratt: Aye*

*Director Pierotti: Aye*

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

Brett notified the board that the District was getting close to system acceptance and he expected to have it on the next meeting's agenda. There were a few small things left on the punch list that needed to be done before the sign off. Racom provided system documentation for Brett to review and approve and Brett was checking for any issues or items that needed correction.

Brett reported that comms issues came up during a fire near Tutuilla Church Road and Market Road. It was a known trouble spot in the Pendleton zone. He had hoped that the recent programming adjustments would cause the radios to roam to other sites, but they did not. Brett explained that it was a multipath problem, with 3 different transmitters mixing together and signals bouncing off of the hillside. The mobile radios were most susceptible to this issue due to their better antenna and better gain, causing them to pick up reflected signals. He expected Susan Ronning to talk about this in her presentation as well. It was something that Brett would continue to work on by adjusting settings, going farther than Tait had recommended in the past. He wanted radios that were experiencing errors to switch to a better site, at the right time.

The mobiles in that area should have been able to get to 4 other sites in that area (Coombs Canyon, Weston Mountain, Pikes Peak, Black Mountain) and, if they had, their comms would have been better. Brett confirmed that the system was working as it should. Brett and Hank reviewed the logs, to see where the units were registered. He noted that a few radios did move to Weston, but most stayed on the Pendleton zone.

Brett reported an issue at Pikes Peak. He and Hank separately responded to 2 incidents, a couple of weeks a part, when power outages caused the site to get too warm. The site had a generator, but it didn't provide power to the HVAC system, so Brett and Hank kept the shelter cool by opening the door until the power was restored. Esther Click, from Wescom, was looking for a way to resolve the problem, by either connecting the HVAC system to the current generator or replacing it with one that could run the system. Brett noted that it needed to be done before winter.

Brett reported that the Morrow County ASA contracts had been put into place. Morrow County Health District would provide ambulance service in south Morrow County and Irrigon, starting 09/06/24. Boardman Fire would continue to provide ambulance service in Boardman. Brett noted that there would be work done on their paging and also some renaming and reconfiguring of talk groups.

Rod Ekholm announced that he would be leaving his employment with Racom. Rod and Scott had been the face of Racom with regard to the District's system for 4 years. They worked with Shawn, then Brett, on a weekly basis to address issues, topics, questions, and troubleshooting. Brett and Hank had mostly taken over and Rod expected that the needs of the District moving forward would be handled by the service department. He introduced Kelly Hembach as the new service manager. Kelly's experience included being the Spokane chief of police, and running an installation business for 25 years. Kelly would run all of the technician and service crews. Rod was confident that Brett and Hank could do anything on the system and he noted that Racom support would continue to be available, through a call center in Iowa. Issues that could not be handled there would be escalated.

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

C. Fire Radio Committee Update

Brett reported that Adam Wilkinson was unable to attend the meeting, so there was little to update. Motorola APX radios had been received at the District in early August and they needed to be programmed. Brett's intention was to put enough into the units to access the system and then have Day Wireless complete the programming.

Rod reported that Adam Crippen, the Racom employee that obtained demos from Racom for Tait, Kenwood, and Harris, left the company recently. Rod planned to work on scheduling techs to help Brett with the codeplugs.

D. Safety Review: There was a staff safety meeting scheduled for 09/05/24.

VI. New Business

A. ADCOMM System Assessment Presentation, Susan Ronning

ADCOMM conducted a system assessment for the District and Susan attended the meeting to present the report. She also provided a Findings and Recommendations document to the board.

VII. Open Discussion: None

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:52pm.

Next Meeting: October 1, 2024 - 1:30pm - Stafford Hansell Government Center