

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

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

Absent:                    None  
In-Person Guests:        None  
Remote Guests:          Adam Wilkinson, Pendleton Fire  
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 October 1, 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 Irons: Aye*  
*Director Primmer: Aye*  
*Director Pratt: Aye*  
*Director Kennedy: Aye*  
*Director Pierotti: Aye*

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

Brett reported that there had been some Racom techs in the area, working on minor punch list items. They came from Spokane and were acquainted with the District’s system. One went to Black Mountain to replace an entry port boot, but found that it had already been done. The site did need preventative maintenance done before it became unreachable due to weather, so that was taken care of. As was the case 2 months ago, the documentation was still lacking and Brett had not seen any progress. He was unsure of the status and unable to give a time estimate for system acceptance.

There were a couple of issues that had been a problem before and had come back. One was site controllers suddenly having a set of circumstances that would trigger a reset. The reset only lasted a couple of seconds, but subscriber units lost their registration. They received a “bonk” and had to reregister. The current firmware, applied just before Round Up, was supposed to have a fix for that problem and it seemed to work for about a month. It began happening again, in all 3 simulcast zones (Pendleton, Hermiston, Heppner). Brett reported it to Tait, as an on-going issue, and was told Tech had another release out that should take care of it. Tait wanted the District to move to a new operating system on the site controllers and Brett was hesitant to accept that. He did reboot all of the site

controllers around the system, most of which had been running continuously for a couple of years. He had not seen any resets since the reboot. He also noted that, most of the time, users did not notice the reset and that District staff received an alarm when it happened. Additionally, updates to the operating system had to be done on at each site, so it could be May or June of 2025 before it was done, due to inaccessibility of the highest sites. He explained that the District might migrate to the new firmware version, while on the current operation system.

The other issue to come back up was related to subscriber unit firmware versions. Brett found that, when a unit was on continuously on for 2 days and 4 hours, a bug caused a system error and forced reset. Most of the time this was not a problem, as most radios were not left on that long, however base stations usually were. There was a loss of service during the reset and had an indication beep. The firmware released to fix it was tried on a radio and it was not a fix. Brett was annoyed that Tait seemed to be using the District for troubleshooting and as a beta tester. Hank was able to determine that the problem was related to OTAP and that, when it was disabled, the reset did not occur. Tait confirmed that the next subscriber firmware update would be released in January and Brett intended to put the update into a few units to test, before applying it District-wide.

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

C. Fire Radio Committee Update

Brett reported that there had been a little progress with the committee. Pilot Rock Fire had a couple of demo units for trial. Adam intended to provide a couple to Boardman Fire, but had run into some scheduling issues, so the plan was to go to Fire District #1. Brett also reported that Adam did not have units from other vendors. The Bendix King representative had seemed pretty eager a couple of months ago, but they had not heard from him recently and Brett was unsure why. Racom's status was preventing some progress, as they were supposed to be working on getting units from Kenwood, Harris, and Tait.

By phone, Adam reported that he had made contact with Racom and expected some movement. He also noted that his attempt at contact with Bendix King had been unsuccessful.

D. Safety Review: Employees reviewed an article about mental health/illness, from SDAO.

VI. New Business: None

VII. Open Discussion

Brett asked the board to consider replacements for Ray Denny, as a member of the UMRDD Budget Committee. The vacancy needed to be advertised. In the past, a small notice had been published in the East Oregonian, requesting interested parties to submit a letter of interest and resume. This could be done anytime before the budget season, but Brett would like it to be settled by March. He asked the board to approach or suggest potential committee members.

Brett reported that the District had made a decision regarding new bookkeeping services. The current bookkeeper was retiring and had recommended Nichole Crouser of Blue Mountain Tax and Accounting. Her office was in Pendleton. She and Rosanna discussed the process and had a plan to work more efficiently while continuing to have solid accounting practices, with accountability and account reconciliation. The cost to the District would decrease to less than \$3500 per year, from the \$6500 currently budgeted for that line.

At the WORJIC (Washington/Oregon Regional Joint Interoperability Committee) meeting in Richland, Brett was introduced to an app called Bridge4Public Safety. This app was intended to replace the current system of individual and group texts and emails, which could be hard to keep track of and also

had the potential to drop parties from the lists accidentally. Users of B4PS were vetted to ensure they were from public safety agencies. Brett thought the app had a lot of promise, but that it needed heavy participation to be useful. If there was a critical mass of local users, the District could use it as a resource to share information, training, alerts, known issues, and system work. The app had a free membership with most functionality and a paid membership that allowed uploading documents. Regarding this app compared to Teams, Brett noted that this app was public safety centric.

In response to Director Pratt's question, Brett confirmed that he had great interest in attending the 2025 IWCE. It had been over 5 years since he last attended. He also wanted Hank to be able to attend, but needed to find coverage if they were both going to be out of the area. He expected Rod and Shawn to both be attended and not available to help in the District. Brett asked the Board if he should look into having someone from Racom be in the District during that time, to respond to any major issues. He was confident that he could handle most problems remotely. Directors Pratt, Primmer, and Pierotti all agreed that Brett and Hank should both attend and that Brett should pursue scheduling coverage with Racom. Brett asked the board to notify him if any directors were also interested in attending the classes and/or exhibition hall, during the week of March 17, 2025.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 1:54pm.

Next Meeting  
December 3, 2024 - 1:30pm  
Stafford Hansell Government Center