

UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT
BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
Stafford Hansell Government Center – December 3, 2024

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

Absent: None

In-Person Guests: Bill Dolittle, 911 Insight Management Consulting

Remote 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 meetings on November 5, 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 Pratt: Aye

Director Kennedy: Aye

Director Irons: Aye

Director Primmer: Aye

Director Pierotti: Aye

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

Brett reported that the most significant delay to system acceptance was the documentation from Racom, as lined out by Adcomm. Another pending item was the connection of a data room base station, at Pendleton Fire, to the outdoor antenna.

Brett also reported that there continued to be sporadic site controller resets. The issue was related to the current firmware. Units would be deregistered to the system, then find that they had to reregister when keyed up and got a bonk. Brett had not installed the newest firmware from Tait that might fix the error, because he was waiting until other systems had deployed the update without reporting any issues. He continued to ask for updates. In response to Director Pratt’s question, Brett confirmed that the problem was very sporadic and had not happened for about a week, the most recent incident in the Hermiston zone. Director Pierotti asked if some amount of that was allowable and Brett’s response was that it should not happen at all in a mission critical system.

Brett reported that he had been working on server replacements and network tasks and it had been time consuming. Hank was updating training presentations that Brett would review and then find a way to share with users. The training would include what to expect from the system, how to work around lack of service, and how to use the radios "off-system".

Additionally, Hank worked on a problem to address the occasional issue of lost or stolen radios. This would be helpful, especially with the lack of progress on the GPS reporting by Sunridge. Hank was writing a script to capture the location data on the network, and then programming that into the radios.

In response to Director Pratt's question regarding Sunridge, Brett said that several times he had explained to them that it was not necessary to build an interface to the local system, which was their explanation for the delay. Brett did not think it was a priority to Sunridge, even though he continued to bring it up annually with little to no action. Director Pratt asked if it would be helpful to get a few of the department heads together, to push it along. Director Primmer planned to reach out to her contact at Sunridge and ask about the viability.

Brett reported that he had also been experimenting with adaptive hunt and thought he and Hank had found the right levels. He planned to keep the board updated.

During a recent incident, east of Ukiah where there had been difficult coverage previously, Brett reported that the new Ukiah site offered more coverage than there had been in the past.

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

C. Fire Radio Committee Update

Director Pierotti notified the board that Adam Wilkinson was not available for the meeting and had not provided an update to report to the board.

Brett noted that the Motorola radios were still moving around. They were moving from Boardman and Tribal to other agencies. After prodding from Director Irons, there had been a response from the Bendix King representative and the Motorola code plug had been provided to them so they could begin building a BK program. Brett hoped to see those demos soon. He was unsure of the status of demos from Racom.

Director Pierotti informed the board that a new FEMA grant opened that the District would have a good chance of being awarded, due to the representation of so many agencies. He said it was not a hard grant to get and thought the award could be half a million dollars or more. It could also be applied for next year. He noted that the hardest part was setting up FEMA Go, since they required financial documents and metrics and he offered to help Brett work on it. The due date was 12/20/24.

D. Safety Review: Employees reviewed cold weather safety.

VI. New Business

A. City of Umatilla Dispatch Center

Brett noted that he had hoped Chief Bridge would be able to attend the meeting, but Director Kennedy explained that he had a schedule conflict.

Brett believed that everyone was aware that the City of Umatilla was planning a new police station, with a dispatch center included and as many as 5 consoles. It would be located just west of their existing building. Brett had previously met with Bill Doolittle, Chief Bridge, and Scott Skibness. Bill and Brett had reviewed the drawings and the identified location of an equipment room. Brett was looking at ways to

incorporated that into the District network and microwave system. He reached out to Nokia for path studies and found that there were only 2 viable sites that could see into there, being Umatilla Ridge at Radar Road, and Sillusi Butte. To make this configuration work, a 130' tower would be required. Brett had been considering a shunt between Umatilla Ridge and Sillusi Butte, which would break up the single microwave ring into 2 rings, helping the Hermiston zone and providing additional redundancy for the entire system. If that were the case, the District could potentially pay for one of the links. The City of Umatilla did not want a tower over 70', which would only just be enough to link to Sillusi, but not Umatilla Ridge. This meant it would be a spur and not any benefit to the District's system. There were possibly work arounds to make a path involving another site somewhere, but that would increase the complexity of the system, the maintenance time and expenses, and the potential for failures.

Bill had expressed to Brett that from his perspective, the District would be responsible for maintenance and possible ownership, and should assert the requirements and parameters necessary to the City, and also discuss how to work with a 70' tower. Brett was not opposed to that, but did not have the time to dedicate to it. He preferred that Adcomm Engineering design a satisfactory network, and touch base with Brett for particulars, at the expense of the City of Umatilla.

Bill concurred with Brett's assessment and Brett asked the board if it was in agreement with his recommendations for moving forward.

In response to Director Pratt's question, Brett said he believed the preference for a 70' tower was cosmetic.

Director Pierotti felt that, if this strengthened the District's system and didn't cost anything, he did not have a problem with it. Brett explained that, with the decision of a 70' tower, this site would not strengthen the District's system and the additional equipment would require maintenance, creating more work for District staff. A new dispatch center, regardless of the tower configuration, would already require District time. Director Pierotti pointed out that the system was very maintenance heavy and that Brett and Hank were already overextended. This project would set the District up for output, without any input. He thought any proposal should include the City providing the District with a technician or FTE position for maintenance. Brett was unsure if the City would be opposed to that idea.

Bill's proposal was to open the door for a discussion about an MOU that spelled out what the City wanted the District to do, including what the District would charge for service and maintenance. Bill also informed the board that a general contractor had been hired and was working on detail design and that the architect was already asking for specs. It was the time for the District's requirements and preferences to be heard, if it was going to be providing support.

Director Kennedy noted that he would declare a conflict, but asked Brett if they had considered the Boardman site. Brett responded that the Boardman site was worse and would require a higher tower and bigger microwave dishes. Bill confirmed that a table of alternatives had been built that provided the option of fiber connections, but that those were not reliable enough. The best case was a 130' tower with 2 microwave drops, but a 70' foot tower was what the City was submitting for permitting. Once that permit was approved, there would be further discussion about who would build it and what else would be on it, including possible non-microwave assets. The expected occupancy of the police department was 2026 and the expected occupancy of the dispatch center was 2027.

Director Pratt asked Brett if he had attended a city council meeting and Brett replied that he had not.

Director Pierotti asked what the impact of this site, tower, and dispatch center was going to be. He wanted the board to consider the amount of District resources needed, compared to the relatively small number of users that would be served.

Director Pratt pointed out that the project was being funded by CREZ/Amazon funds that the City of Umatilla received. Those funds were in lieu of taxes, so this created a financial loss to the District, since it decreased the amount of property taxes distributed to the tax funded districts in that zone.

Brett confirmed that the support provided to the 3 dispatch centers was included in the \$0.17/\$1000 budget, without any additional fees and that the District funded the new site at Radar Road, specifically to help coverage in Umatilla.

Director Pierotti thought it was interesting that the District system was struggling, but continued to provide ever increasing service, while there was money available that was not being shared. He thought that the City of Umatilla had a chance to help bolster the system, but instead focused only on a new project that would be a draw on District resources. He thought that it should be addressed when talking to the City and Brett expected that to be part of discussion when writing the memorandum. It should include what the financial obligations of the City would be regarding equipment and services.

Director Kennedy thought a conversation with the city manager, police chief, and city council would be beneficial. He also agreed with Director Pierotti's opinion that there should be some benefit to the District.

Brett and Bill planned to continue discussing alternative options.

VII. Open Discussion

Director Primmer planned to register for the SDAO annual conference in February 2025. She had attended virtually in the past and found the information beneficial.

Director Irons noted that he was already registered.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:13pm.

Next Meeting
January 7, 2025 - 1:30pm
Boardman City Hall