

UMATILLA MORROW RADIO & DATA DISTRICT  
BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING  
Stafford Hansell Government Center – August 5, 2025 – 1:30pm

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

Absent:                    None

In-Person Guest(s): Tony Pierotti, Pendleton Fire Department  
                                 Erik Patton, Morrow County Sheriff's Office  
                                 Kevin Knutz, Umatilla Electric Cooperative

Remote Guest(s):     Arthur Ekstrom, Irrigon Fire & MC Health District

Staff:                      Brett Mueller, Rosanna Brown

- I.        Call to Order and Recognition of Guests: The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm.
- II.       Roll Call: Directors Primmer, Pratt, and Kennedy were present. Director Irons attended via teleconference.
- III.      Recognition of Guest(s): Tony Pierotti, Erik Patton, Kevin Knutz, Arthur Ekstrom
- IV.      Changes/Additions to the Agenda: Addition of New Business A. Mobile Radios Purchase Order
- V.       Business from Guests: None
- VI.      Consent Agenda
  - A. Minutes of the meetings from July 9, 2025.
  - B. System Administrator's Report
    1. Income Review
    2. Expenditures Review
    3. Bank Statements/Checks Review
    4. LGIP Account Review

*A motion to accept the consent agenda was made by Director Kennedy and seconded by Director Primmer.*

*Director Pratt: Aye*

*Director Primmer: Aye*

*Director Irons: Aye*

*Director Kennedy: Aye*

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

Brett reported that site controller resets had increased dramatically in frequency, occurring almost daily in early July. These resets were linked to roaming OSP units and were most frequently triggered when a unit moved between zones using the OSP Pend1 talkgroup, which crossed the ISSI to the state system. Tait confirmed that the issue was resolved in a newer firmware update, and the District now plans to cautiously proceed with the upgrade—though not during Round-Up week. Coordination with dispatch centers will occur ahead of any upgrade, which may cause brief service interruptions (2–3 seconds per site).

Directors discussed the need to move forward with the update due to both operational concerns and liability. Brett noted that a rollback would be possible during early stages, using a backup controller, but once the core OS was upgraded, reverting would no longer be an option.

On the console side, Brett reported that the VPGate upgrade went smoothly, improving audio behavior with new consoles. Chris from Racom was scheduled to return the next week to test one upgraded console at Umatilla County to evaluate real-time performance.

Brett also shared that final documentation from Racom remained under review, and that the final payment would not be made until the system was accepted. The board expected the document to be forwarded to Adcomm for review before the next board meeting.

Director Kennedy reported an on-going mobile radio issue at the Umatilla Ridge site involving one specific vehicle. Though not a system-wide issue, Brett and Hank would continue troubleshooting.

#### B. Fire Portable Radio Committee Update

Sam reported favorable feedback on the BK portable radios, particularly the ease of front-panel programming and the feel of controls while wearing gloves. Agencies preferred the BK units over the Motorola APX8000. CTUIR continued testing Harris and Kenwood radios.

Adam continued to rotate radios to users. Brett noted that the District was expecting a TP9000 unit from Scott Skibness on 08/07/25.

#### C. City of Umatilla Dispatch Center Update

Director Kennedy reported that the project remained on hold and would be on the November ballot.

#### D. District Administrator Evaluation

Director Pratt stated that he had only received one evaluation form from the directors and asked that the rest of the board send him their completed form, so he could schedule a review meeting with Brett.

#### E. District Safety Committee Update

Employees reviewed information on distraction in the workplace.

#### F. Director Position #1 Appointment

The board reviewed letters of interest from the following candidates:

- Tony Pierotti
- Erik Patton
- Kevin Knutz
- Arthur Ekstrom

Each candidate briefly spoke of their interest, background, and qualifications. The board expressed appreciation for the high level of interest.

Votes were cast as follows:

Director Kennedy: Tony Pierotti

Director Pratt: Kevin Knutz

Director Irons: Erik Patton

Director Primmer: Tony Pierotti

*Tony Pierotti was reinstated to Director Position #1 and took the oath of office.*

The board thanked all candidates for their interest and attendance.

### VII. New Business

#### A. Purchase Order for 20 Mobile Radios

Brett requested board approval for a purchase of 20 mobile radios, explaining the ongoing need to equip incident command vehicles, new vehicles, and replace units that needed repair due to radio failures.

Tait's repair turnaround time and dependability remained unreliable.

The new radios feature improved control heads and are better suited for field use. Brett explained that additional radios may be needed in the near future, but this purchase will provide a buffer and allow for critical replacements.

Directors Pratt and Keith discussed retrieving unused radios from agencies or vendors, including Navy units, as a potential resource. Brett confirmed some radios from Irrigon and Boardman could also be temporarily repurposed.

*A motion to approve the purchase of 20 mobile radios was made by Director Primmer and seconded by Director Pierotti.*

*Director Pratt: Aye*

*Director Primmer: Aye*

*Director Irons: Aye*

*Director Kennedy: Aye*

*Director Pierotti: Aye*

#### VIII. Open Discussion

The board confirmed availability for the September board meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, September 2, 2025, the day after Labor Day.

In response to Director Primmer's question, Brett confirmed that he planned to work on the process of hiring another technician following his scheduled vacation.

X. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:21pm.

#### Next Board Meeting

September 2, 2025 - 1:30pm: Boardman City Hall