



Jackson County Sheriff's Office

30 N. 3rd Street - Black River Falls, WI 54615 - (715) 284-9009 - Fax: (715) 284-0252

DUANE M. WALDERA, SHERIFF – MARK J. MOAN, CHIEF DEPUTY

E-MAIL: sheriff@co.jackson.wi.us

Chuck Jensen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday October 1, 2013 in the Compass Room of the Jackson County Courthouse. Additional members present were Ron Carney, Jeff Amo, Marge Rewald, and Ray Ransom. Also Sheriff Waldera, Chief Deputy Moan, Steve Pott PSC Alliance

Agenda Revisions

None

Radio Project Update

Steve and Jeff Nelson came down last week before the coverage testing started yesterday. Drove around the county and in North Bend, Hixton, City Point etc and could talk on the portable in all those places. Then downtown City of BRF and did not have coverage. The problem is significant without decent coverage. Not comfortable with going live with the lack of coverage within the City of BRF. Currently with things the way they are, don't think the City PD will be able to hear portables within the office. Fire department was of bigger concern in that given the signal strength outside the station, don't believe pagers would even go off inside the building. Problem can be overcome. Did some testing with a base station on the Brockway tower and it solved the problem. Drove tested the downtown area and recorded the simulcast system and Brockway tower on it's own. Coverage by the Casino was much better. Brockway tower was a good choice. Talked with Tait about these options and were assured they would have a price for us by today and they do not have anything together for us. Was hoping to find out the price of putting up a site at the Sheriff's Office vs Brockway. Steve thinks that Brockway is the better choice rather than putting the site here at the Sheriff's Office. Advantage to Brockway is that there is DC power, shelter and generator are already there as well as the Spectra Com GPS equipment, microwave link and antennas are already on the tank waiting to be used. PSC is leaning towards the Brockway site depending on costs. Will be getting a quote from Tait for cost of Brockway and Sheriff's Office. Knapp site was about a \$75,000 credit. Already own the radios which are in inventory and could go right into the Brockway shelter ready to go. If you take the \$75,000 plus the cost of equipment which is about \$30,000 that we already have would be about \$45,000 additional cost. There is some fall out by using those repeaters and putting transmitters at Brockway is that we have some intermod concerns. Putting MARC repeater and EM repeater at County Rd A they wouldn't work. By moving them to Brockway, it creates the problem at Brockway. Intermod is that If you have 3 or 4 repeaters on at the same time it creates intermod problem that is right on the receiver to key up the LG tac would not work. A lot of systems don't pay attention to intermod, the odds of fire, highway and mark trying to call in all at the same time on LG tac?

Costs/Budget:

If we were to move forward with all the things we were planning up to the point of this glitch the balance left of the budget would be \$28,473. Red highlights are discretionary and could be cut. County Rd A estimate of repairs of \$9284 is not accurate at this time.

- Combiners and filters at county rd A were to deal with the IM product and protecting the transmitters and receivers, If you don't purchase these with WISPERN or point keyed up the signal may not be as good. When IFERN is keyed up the fire receiver will be descended and when fire simulcast is keyed it would wipe out that receiver as well. Is a bit of balancing act, because putting more filters creates problems with signal strength. Not sure how often WISPERN or point is used where it would impact LG tac. Would this effect the quality of the pagers in the Hixton fire dept. which currently don't go off inside the building. Currently Hixton is paged off snow creek but in the future would be off another tower. When testing in Hixton signal strength had very good outside signal strength. Taylor is at the end of the line and not sure how coverage will be inside at Taylor.
- Brockway – when fire simulcast is keyed MARC will be less effective. MARC repeater at Brockway will not have the footprint it does at Snow Creek. Can't go to any of the sites that have simulcast. Could



Jackson County Sheriff's Office

30 N. 3rd Street - Black River Falls, WI 54615 - (715) 284-9009 - Fax: (715) 284-0252

DUANE M. WALDERA, SHERIFF – MARK J. MOAN, CHIEF DEPUTY

E-MAIL: sheriff@co.jackson.wi.us

move MARC to the WiDOT tower if possible. Sounds like a good idea but depending on what they use for a control channel it may take more time to figure out. When MARC is on the air there is an intermod problem at Brockway that there is no fix for which would take out the Lg tac. EM channel has two near hits at Brockway but probably would not notice. Nobody really uses the EM channel Spoke with Bruce Branter in Dunn county and the EM repeaters are being abandoned and not really used. Is currently at Snow Creek and is interoperable and goes communications center to communications center is all.

- Can't fix the problem with MARC. It either has to go to another tower or live with interference. Ifern would only impact fire channel and county rd a site. If BRF fire is talking and someone calls on Ifern dispatch would not here it. The filters are something that could be added in the future if needed but seem to often times solve one problem but create another problem.
- MARC repeater – there is a little fall out from using the Tait transmitters as transmitters and now don't have a MARC repeater. Left the MARC repeater in the budget along with installation. WISPERN point base can be used and is capable of Narrowbanding has 3 digits but as long as the last number ends in 0 it can be used .Could we put MARC at DNR? Possibly, but that tower is base to base. By moving point to point it will be better reception than we have today. Could possibly put MARC on the BRF water tower but there is no backup power there. Also could possibly use the old county rd A tower for the MARC. Reality is that MARC just can't be at any of the repeater sites unless you want to deal with the interference. Best to not put it on a site without transmitter sites. DNR may be first choice, 2nd choice old County Rd A, 3rd BRF water site. Either way will need a new radio which would be \$9000 for radio and installation.
- Scenario on budget took forestry repeater out of Knapp. Know the system works in Millston now, Knapp is between Millston and Mckenna. Fire is not an issue. Maybe scrap Knapp for now. Maybe move EM repeater to Knapp since we already own the equipment.
- Snow Creek and Garfield antennae removal are just guesses. Garfield is rental and will probably have to move the equipment when done. May be ok to abandon in place and leave equipment at Garfield if possible.
- Microwave cards – do want to purchase the cards for the addition of IFERN and WISPERN at Cty Rd A and MARC/EM at Brockway and here at the Sheriff's office. \$3950 total (\$1950 to buy cards \$2000 to install).
- Frequency coordination maybe getting bill from APCO because frequency coordinations were launched yesterday 9/30.
- Mobile portable radio equipment was \$5000. Just ordered two radios which was about \$2000.
- Eliminated filters and cavities for County Rd A/Brockway, eliminated Knapp, cut mobile to \$2000 and leave balance of \$50,473
- No idea to even guess what the cost of Tait's proposal will be. System engineer will have to come back and integrate back into the simulcast. Should be able to plug in and program up at Brockway. There is room for all the equipment that would need to be there. The way Tait equipment is designed, all 4 receivers are in one radio chassis. Transmitter would be installed. Is all speculation until we see Tait's proposal but they know we want to use existing equipment.
- Did we get the extension? Waiver expired 9/30. We did apply for the extension, but have not heard back. There are several surrounding counties that have extensions through the end of the year. Could operate the new system in talk through mode in narrowband. Most of the fire departments have reprogrammed but there are a few that have not. From conversation Steve had with Don at Two Way the other day, he believes that Don was calling the departments and putting the brakes on and not reprogramming at this time. Fire does not use more than a couple channels do they? No but asked to keep the legacy channels so some did not have enough channels. It is important to get the agencies that are not updated yet to have them get reprogrammed in case the waiver does not get extended.



Jackson County Sheriff's Office

30 N. 3rd Street - Black River Falls, WI 54615 - (715) 284-9009 - Fax: (715) 284-0252

DUANE M. WALDERA, SHERIFF – MARK J. MOAN, CHIEF DEPUTY

E-MAIL: sheriff@co.jackson.wi.us

- Could we go live with highway and use the new system. Not sure we would want to do that since the project is not complete yet and would not be fair to Tait to start using it at this time. Tait would have to agree to the contract and the 30 day burn in period would not start until everything was live and ready.
- Based on what we already have for equipment it seems reasonable that it would be under the \$50,000 speculated. Would need RSU's and licenses. Bulk of cost would be labor and licenses.
- Is there a way to get a schematic layout of what each tower could be capable of? Would be part of the info from Tait.
- Another option would be to only put fire and law enforcement at Brockway.
- **Motion by Ransom to authorize continuation of radio program with changes suggested by Steve Pott up to a maximum of Tait changes in the amount of no more than \$50,000. 2nd by Carney. All in favor; motion carried.**
- Will set tentative meeting for Friday at 9:00 if proposal comes in over.
- Safe to say that we want to build out Brockway to transmit/receive in order to fix the downtown area coverage.
- Beginning coverage testing has had really good quality coverage.

Closed Session – motion by Ransom 2nd by Amo to enter closed session at 11:16 a.m. All in favor; Motion Carried

- The committee will convene into closed session for the discussion of employee related matters pursuant to section WSS 19.85(1)(b)(c)(f) employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; to consider dismissal, demotion, licensing or discipline of any public employee licensed by a board or commission or the investigation of charges against such person(s).
 - Probationary Employee Performance Evaluation
 - Motion to return to open session pursuant to sec 19.85(2) by Ransom 2nd by Rewald at 11:29 a.m.

No action taken in closed session.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Ransom 2nd by Amo to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. All in favor; Motion carried

*******These minutes will be approved by LEC Committee at the 10/28/13 LEC meeting**