

Thurston 911 Communications
Joint Operations Board & FLAC Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 15, 2020 @ 1:00 P.M.

The meeting was held via teleconference call.

Members Present:

Operations Board:

Steve Brooks – Lacey Fire District 3
John Weiks – Tumwater Police Department
Mike Buchanan – Olympia Fire Department
Todd Stancil – Yelm Police Department
Tim Braniff – Thurston County Sheriff's Office
Robert Almada – Lacey Police Department
Brian VanCamp – TC Fire Chiefs Association (South Bay Fire Department)

FLAC Members:

Gordon Phillips – Thurston County Sheriff's Office
Jim Mack – Lacey Police Department
Mark Nelson – East Olympia Fire Department
Rich Allen – Olympia Police Department
Ryan Cox – Lacey Fire District 3
Jen Schmidt - Lacey Fire District 3
Chris Patti – McClane/Black Lake Fire Department
Bruce Brenna – Tumwater Police Department
Brandon LeMay – South Bay Fire Department
Mark Gregory – Bald Hills Fire Department

TCOMM staff:

Keith Flewelling – Executive Director
Wendy Hill – Deputy Director
Bré Skaggs – Administrative Assistant
David Taylor – Radio Systems Manager
Tim Klotz – I.T. Systems Manager
Jan Morgan-Leiferman - I.T. Systems Administrator
Jonnica Elkins – Operations Supervisor
Randall Ross – Operations Supervisor
Andrea Jansen – Operations Supervisor
Susan Ronning – ADCOMM Engineering LLC, Owner & Principal Consultant
Molly Kovaka - ADCOMM Engineering LLC, Sr. Project Manager
Scott Peabody - ADCOMM Engineering LLC, Sr. Consultant
Joe Blaschka - ADCOMM Engineering LLC Principal Engineer

Guests:

Linda Horn – Evergreen State College
Chief Brunckhurst - Evergreen State College
Patrick Dunn – Washington State Patrol
Anthony Kuzma - American Medical Response

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Call to Order

M. Buchanan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Review of Agenda & Minutes

M/S/C approval of the June 15, 2020 agenda (S. Brooks/J. Weiks)

M/S/C approval of April 20, 2020, Joint Ops/FLAC meeting minutes (J. Weiks/S. Brooks)

Correspondence – None

Public Testimony – None

TCERN Radio Project Update – K. Flewelling provided an update on the TCERN project. Highlights included: Site visits are underway and should be completed by end of June which will help determine scope of work; fleet mapping is ongoing with Law, Fire/EMS, and Dispatch; TCOMM is no longer partnering with Washington State Patrol to share a core therefore alternate options are being considered; and a reminder that the stakeholder website will have previous meeting minutes, slides and an FAQ section, and those in attendance were encouraged to visit the site. Other topics discussed:

1. **Coverage Areas of Concern** – K. Flewelling provided a summary and research that was done on certain coverage areas of concern to include: Johnson Point, I-5 South/Maytown, and Lake St. Clair. TCOMM provided options that could help these areas. A discussion took place and motions were made on two subjects. M. Buchanan will attend the Administration Board meeting July 1st and TCOMM will present the Ops/FLAC recommendations to address these issues.

Recommendation to add a site at Station 8-2 (Johnson Point) M/S/C (B. VanCamp/J. Weiks)

Recommendation to move the site from Red Wind to Lake St. Clair M/S/C (S. Brooks/B. VanCamp)

2. **Encryption:** Does LE in Thurston Co. want to encrypt all communications or just specialty units only, or not encrypt anything? All law enforcement would need to be on board to become encrypted and the same applies to all Fire/EMS departments. There is a cost to the subscribers (per radio) and the system too. A discussion took place and it was determined that specialty units (e.g. SWAT, TNT) would be encrypted and a few simplex channels could be provided as well. Everyday traffic channels would remain unencrypted.

3. **Subscriber Equipment** – TCOMM purchased all member agency equipment which is included in the contract price, with the exception of specialty accessories used on an individual agency basis. The list will be uploaded on the TCERN stakeholder site. The initial purchase of equipment is through Motorola.

4. **Manufacturer, models, types & limitations** - TCOMM911/TCERN have established an equipment standard limiting subscriber equipment to public safety grade – manufacturer, models, types, and accessories. Motorola subscriber equipment will ensure that all the radios on the network operate the same way. This will help start out with a clean system. Member and Non-Member agencies are able to submit non-Motorola equipment for consideration. However, the equipment will need to be tested to make sure it works on the system appropriately which will be done through TCOMM. Costs associated

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with testing non-Motorola equipment will be for time, effort and materials associated with the testing and permitting process and will be billed to the applicable agency.

5. **Ownership responsibilities** – TCOMM purchased the subscriber equipment for all member agencies within the sales proposal and will inventory and assess the need for each agency to finalize the type and number of radios. Any added special accessories will largely fall to the agencies to fund; however TCOMM has contract pricing from Motorola for these items. Assests will be transferred to each agency to own and maintain with a one year warranty and 5 year maintenance plan included with purchase. Future lifecycle coverage will need to be discussed towards the end of those 6 years. Before a final decision is made TCOMM will get input from the OPS/FLAC groups.

6. **VHF Fire Alerting Concerns** – D. Taylor stated with the transition to the 700 mghz system, some of the legacy VHF channels will be decommissioned which leaves the county wide simulcast system to support all of the legacy 2-tone paging. With multiple agencies trying to send out pages, there will be significant delays. The group determined further discussion needs to take place at the next meeting to make a decision and will wait for the Motorola Sr. Technical Advisor to provide more information.

7. **In-Building coverage update** – S. Peabody stated a workshop took place on May 6th with fire officials to discuss how the existing BDA/DAS system will not work on the new radio system. The group reviewed the existing system changes with the new fire code, discussed the transition and created a database of known in-building systems. A draft of a testing and compliance procedure and forms are being worked on.

OPERATIONS BOARD:

None.

FLAC:

TCOMM Radio Communications Manual - W. Hill thanked everyone for their input on the manual and stated the updated version will be sent out next week.

Next meeting: July 20, 2020, at 1:00 pm