

**Thurston 911 Communications**  
**Operations Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, August 21, 2023 @ 1:00 P.M.**

**Meeting was held via Zoom and in person.**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jon Weiks – Chair, Tumwater Police Department  
Rob Carlson – Yelm Police Department  
Rich Allen – Olympia Police Department  
Robert Almada – Lacey Police Department  
Dave Johnson - Thurston County Sheriffs Office

**FIRE SERVICE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Todd Carson – Vice-Chair, Olympia Fire Department  
Steve Brooks – Lacey Fire District 3  
Ben Miller-Todd – Thurston County Medic One  
Brian VanCamp - TC Fire Chiefs Association (South Bay Fire Department)

**TCOMM STAFF:**

Wendy Hill – Executive Director  
Jonnica Elkins – Deputy Director  
Aaron Moe - Human Resources Manager  
Tim Klotz – Information Systems Administrator  
David Taylor – Radio Systems Manager  
Bre Skaggs – Administrative Assistant

**GUESTS:**

Jennifer Schmidt – Lacey Fire District 3  
Shawn Crimmins – Tumwater Fire Department  
Chris Patti – McLane Black Lake Fire Department  
Leonard Johnson, McLane Black Lake Fire Department  
Dave Brunckhurst– Evergreen State College

**Call to Order**

Operations Chair, Jon Weiks called the meeting to order at 1300 hrs.

**Approval of Agenda & Minutes**

Approval of August 21, 2023 Agenda. One item was added to the agenda under Old Business: “Unknown if Injury” MVAs. **(R. Almada/S. Brooks)**

Approval of the June 26, 2023 Joint Operations/FLAC meeting minutes **M/S/C (R. Allen/T. Carson)**

**Correspondence - None**

**Public Testimony - None**

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**I.T. Services** – T. Klotz provided an update on the Mobile Comm 6 project. One issue was found in relation to looking up warrants that has since been forwarded to CentralSquare to address. There is no estimated

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fix date at this time. All of the network servers are going through an update to the newest version, this should not impact local agencies.

**Radio Systems** – D. Taylor provided a brief update of current TCERN projects and the legacy system.

Subscriber Equipment - All of the portables/mobiles have been delivered to the user agencies, except for those ordered in change order #5. Base station consolettes have been distributed to the user agencies as well.

DVRS - Testing has taken place with FD-9 and Tumwater FD on the DVRS (Digital Vehicle Repeater Systems). This allows agencies to put a repeater in their vehicles to help in areas with limited radio coverage. The Beta test was successful and the DVRS order will be placed shortly with Motorola. Further communication regarding use and distribution will be sent once the order has been received by TCOMM.

TCERN Timeline - The TCERN cutover is still set to take place mid-2024. During the TCERN project build, the legacy system maintenance is still required which also takes a large amount of Radio Systems staff time. Motorola has had system technicians on site at TCOMM and they have been working to optimize and turn up sites in preparation for the cutover.

Site Work - No further microwave infrastructure installations will take place until the last two sites have been built. FS-82 is still pending permit approval. The DuPont site is also still pending permit approval. Hawks Prairie was set to start this week however, Motorola is still working with the sub-contractors and their schedules but believe they should be able to start next week. The process to move the Birch site to the 8<sup>th</sup> and Fir location is also being worked through. ADCOMM is working on a practical solution to the power and system designs for the Bald Hills site.

**FLAC Subcommittee Report** – J. Elkins gave a few highlights from the last FLAC meeting. The timeout limitation for dispatches has been fixed with USDD. The updated Radio User Manual has been sent out to member agencies to forward to their staff. Training on the new radio subscriber equipment will take place in September and will be in a train-the-trainer format.

**Old Business**

**“Unknown if Injury” MVAs** – S. Brooks asked that this topic move forward by motion of the Board. Effective September 1, Fire will not be dispatched to “unknown if injury” MVAs, with the exception of calls in the County. Those will be held for five minutes and then proceed with the dispatch if law enforcement’s ETA is beyond that time. **M/S/C (S. Brooks/T. Carson)**

**New Business**

**Phone System Update** - W. Hill stated the phone system experienced call intake issues on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Several calls were presenting multiple times and slowed the system down. This made it look as though there were a lot more calls than actually received, which were approximately 600 calls between 09-01. Other members of the phone system consortium were affected as well. Solacom did an upgrade to the system the following week. The Consortium is continuing to meet and discuss next steps regarding the ongoing issues. TCOMM also implemented a Fireworks Information line this year to help curb some calls

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to the emergency line about fireworks, and will continue to explore other options to reduce non-emergency call volume on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Staffing Update** – W. Hill stated the fourth academy of 2023 began on August 14<sup>th</sup> with two new employees. The next academy will begin mid-October and will be the last one for 2023. There are four academies scheduled for 2024.

**UPS Replacement Project at the ESC** – W. Hill stated the UPS project is moving forward. A meeting took place last week with the County and the contractors. They stated dispatch can stay at TCOMM and will no longer have to move to the backup center while the work is done. The replacement will take place towards the end of September and will take approximately two weeks to complete.

**Meeting adjourned:** With no further business or good of the order, the Board meeting adjourned at 1:23 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Joint Operations/FLAC Meeting September 18, 2023 @ 1:00 pm