

Thurston 911 Communications
Operations Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 20, 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 Hollis – Lacey Police Department
Dave Pearsall - 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
Leonard Johnson, McLane Black Lake Fire Department
Brian Hurley – Tumwater 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
Tillman Atkins – Yelm Police Department

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Approval of November 20, 2023 Agenda. **(L. Johnson/R. Hollis)**

Approval of the September 27, 2023 Joint Administration/Operations meeting minutes **M/S/C (R. Hollis/R. Carlson)**

Correspondence - None

Public Testimony - None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

I.T. Services – T. Klotz stated that with two tone limitations by USDD, further investigation of the Zetron model 25 showed it as a possible solution. It gives better flexibility as to what tones to send under certain scenarios.

Radio Systems – D. Taylor provided a brief update of current TCERN system progress.

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TCERN Newsletter – With the newest release of the newsletter there are several links that will be helpful to member agencies. One is the link under Subscriber Equipment for training materials and the other for Motorola’s White Glove Warranty Repairs and Services. The latter provides more information about and explains the process for the white glove warranty service.

Interoperability – The interoperability meetings with Pierce County and Washington State Patrol have resumed.

Subscriber Equipment – Over 1,700 radios have been registered on the system and by the time cutover takes place that number should be around 1,900. The true up order has been placed and should arrive sometime in the first quarter 2024.

DVRS – Once configurations have been finalized, the DVRS order will be placed with an expected ship date of late 2024. DVRS installation will be the receiving agency's responsibility.

Site Work – Over 75% of site work is complete. Of the 15 sites, there are four still pending. Two of those have not been started and the other two, Bald Hills and Hawks Prairie, are under construction now. Motorola is caught up on the radio infrastructure for the sites that are completed.

FLAC Subcommittee Report – J. Elkins gave a few highlights from the last FLAC meeting. One agenda item discussed was checking history over 90-days for law enforcement. These requests from officers take a lot of research time for the dispatchers, especially if more than 90-days and the request isn’t involved in an incident. The HIRL Drill that took place on November 1st went well and a lot of good feedback was received. Agencies stated the live Zoom link was really helpful and asked that the link be shared 24-hours in advance of the drill in Spring 2024 so any technical difficulties can be worked out prior to the drill taking place.

Old Business

Phone System Update – W. Hill stated that TCOMM in conjunction with the Consortium has made the decision to start looking for a new phone system vendor with the goal of implementation prior to July fourth. Several technical and sales pitch demos have already been viewed. TCOMM is still moving forward as a part of the Consortium, but is looking at stand-alone options as well. Vendors will be narrowed down after the holidays followed by site visits for dispatchers to interact with the top vendors.

Staffing Update – W. Hill stated with the five academies held in 2023 our number of open positions has dropped to six. The HR Manager and Training Supervisor are working hard to get us fully staffed and have scheduled an additional four academies in 2024.

UPS Replacement Update – W. Hill stated the project has not yet started. . The contractor stated dispatch can stay at the ESC for the two to three weeks that it’ll take to replace the equipment. However, one thing recommended was that a temporary UPS be put in place to make sure there are no interruptions to Operations should utility power be out. Discussions have taken place regarding the cost of a rental versus purchasing a second UPS and having a redundant system for the long term. TCOMM has been able to provide input while this option is researched.

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New Business

Fire Response to Welfare Checks – B. Miller-Todd asked that calls coded as welfare checks on the law enforcement side but then roll over to fire be coded as a service call, unless there is something that specifically makes it appear that there's a medical need. A discussion took place and a unanimous vote to implement fire response to welfare checks was made.

Meeting adjourned: With no further business or good of the order, the Board meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

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