

1 **RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS COMMITTEE**

2  
3  
4 Sheriff's Department  
5 West Bend, Wisconsin

February 8, 2010  
1:00 p.m.

6  
7 Present: Brian Bausch, Rick Gundrum, Donald Berchem, John Stern, Daniel Goetz, Herbert Tennes.

8  
9 Also Present: Sheriff Dale Schmidt, Chief Dean Schmidt, Paul Fahey, Bill Kurer, Doug Johnson, Kim Nass, John Schrader,  
10 Mike Hetzel, Paul Labonte, Bob Klucka, Helen Neal

11 Present by phone: Dominick Arcuri

12  
13 Chairperson Stern called the meeting to order and read the Affidavit of Posting.

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15 **MINUTES**

16 There were no minutes to approve.

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18 **UPDATE OF COUNTYWIDE RADIO SYSTEMS PROJECT**

19 Via Telephone: Dominick Arcuri

20  
21 Dominick Arcuri of RCC provided an update on the project. He began with updates on the frequency sweeps, which were tested  
22 for interference. He gave an update on the cut-over plan.

23  
24 As reported at last meeting, RCC was in touch with Gen-Com to monitor frequencies and sites for the County system. They  
25 found a couple of issues, one being from Lifestar. Lifestar is on a tower across the street from a tower the County has on Lovers  
26 Lane. When the Lifestar frequency activates it causes a lack of sensitivity on received signals/channels. Also there was  
27 interference from a company called RL Transfer and also interference from Jail BDA's. Updates on these situations can be seen  
28 on a slide chart showing these issues. The slides will be made available when the minutes are sent to members. The Lifestar  
29 tower is owned by WE Energies. WE Energies is dropping all tenants and will use the tower only for their purposes. They are  
30 trying to get present tenants changed to other towers. They are also looking at relocating renters elsewhere in the County.  
31 Lifestar has lowered their antenna to 100' and is looking for another site to relocate their equipment. This will be a benefit to the  
32 County and reduce the effect on the Lovers Lane site. The actual effect will depend upon where they end up relocating and the  
33 antenna height they mount, and so on. John Eckert is familiar with the situation and they are looking at a site further north and  
34 away from the current site. Although this will be beneficial, RCC doesn't know how much it will improve the performance of  
35 the system. Chairman Stern asked if there was a completion date on this part of the project. At this time there is no exact date.  
36 They are actively looking now for a new tower, but it will take some time to move their equipment. It should happen before we  
37 cut-over. This is not a major roadblock. Per Mr. Arcuri, the issue may not totally go away because during the sweep they did  
38 see the effect that Lifestar did have on a couple of sites, not just Lovers Lane. Hopefully there will be reduced interference, but  
39 additional action may be needed. RCC has been talking to Harris to install filters at one or more of the County sites to filter out  
40 that frequency. That will have to be reevaluated once RCC finds where Lifestar will be relocated.

41  
42 The other issue was with RL Transfer, who was using a frequency that was close to one of the County frequencies, but it was  
43 beyond 12.5 kilohertz. This frequency is now off the air as RL is no longer transmitting. They are moving to a new broadband  
44 data system in a building 10 to 15 miles south of their present location. This will free up Channel 10, which was previously  
45 unusable. This should no longer be an issue for the County.

46  
47 An update of the cut-over plan was provided to Harris by RCC and the County. Harris is still reviewing that plan and working to  
48 correct issues. The reduced sensitivity on County channels is being looked at by Harris. Harris will work out the details and  
49 provide that information and solutions proposed for the buildings that have not passed building coverage. There are still a couple  
50 of issues with desense and sensitivity on some of the County's existing channels.

51  
52 **STATUS OF BUDGET**

53 Per Sheriff Schmidt, there was nothing to report regarding the budget. The spreadsheet previously distributed went through 2009  
54 and that still stands.

55  
56 **DPW RADIO PURCHASE – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

57 Per Chairman Stern, everyone should have received a sheet/hand out the Sheriff sent out in January which had a revised count  
58 for different DPW's; that is what the Committee will be using for today's discussion. At the last meeting, it was proposed by  
59 Supervisor Tennes that the County pay for 50% of DPW radios. Everyone reviewed the spreadsheet in front of them, viewing  
60 the 2009 column with the revised costs. Discussion ensued on how the County should pay for the DPW's for the municipalities.  
61 The question was asked if this spreadsheet reflected our final costs for the radios or would there be extra costs along the way.  
62 Chairman Stern explained that some townships qualified for a grant that was obtained by Rob Schmid. A prior inquiry to  
63 municipalities in Washington County asked if they would be interested in seeking a grant to assist in paying for the radios. The

1 price of the radios shown on the spreadsheet shows what was quoted to the County. Supervisor Tennes again recommended that  
2 the County pay only 50% of the cost of the radios. Supervisor Bausch asked how this would be implemented. Supervisor  
3 Tennes said the radios would be ordered as requested previously by the municipalities and the municipality would pay 50% and  
4 the County would pay 50%.

5  
6 A discussion ensued regarding whether the municipalities with grants would be reimbursed at 50%. It was agreed that the grant  
7 would be first taken out of the costs and then the County would pay 50% of balance. Thus the bottom line costs should go down  
8 once the grant money is applied. The question arose as to whether the Committee had promised the municipalities in the past to  
9 pay for the radios in full. After much discussion Doug Johnson stated that in a meeting 3 years ago, the Committee had stated  
10 they would pay for radios for first responders: fire, EMT and law enforcement, but they could not promise they would have  
11 enough money to pay for radios for DPW. Johnson also stated the minutes clearly show that the committee considered paying  
12 100% if monies were available. Since that meeting, there have been conversations about getting them back in. Some committee  
13 members thought the committee would pay 100% and other members thought if we got the DPW's back in, it would be a cost-  
14 sharing venture. The Sheriff discussed the workload needed to handle instituting DPW radios into the system. By 2013  
15 municipalities will have to do something different with their radios that they have now. If the Committee would fund all of the  
16 radios, then the solution is taken care of for the 2013 changeover. This incentive would make it more likely that the  
17 municipalities would come on board. If the Committee funds only a portion, it would mean municipalities could come into the  
18 system piecemeal and it is likely some won't come on board at all by 2013 or after. Internally, although it would be more work  
19 up front, it would be best to get everyone on board in the beginning; figuring 95% of DPW users would come in and we could  
20 get everything set up and running. In the long run this would be more cost-effective than having municipalities coming into the  
21 system one at a time at different intervals. This project is a good example of trying to use the County taxpayer money to benefit  
22 all of the taxpayers in each municipality of the County. It was confirmed that the must-cover is not an additional cost to the  
23 budget. The County should have a clear picture within the next 30 days. It appears there is approximately \$3.2 million left in  
24 the budget which would easily cover the DPW radios.

25  
26 Another discussion began on the grant Rob Schmid obtained. The total grant was \$19,206.24. This was the amount granted  
27 after he heard back from the municipalities who wanted to participate in the grant. There was some concern that not all  
28 municipalities applied for the grant. Some municipalities may not have participated because in the grant there must be a local  
29 match. If the County was to pay 100% of DPW radios, then the local match can be taken out of the general pot for DPW radios.  
30 If the County pays 50% then the municipality must fund a smaller portion of the radios. If this was not budgeted, the  
31 municipality might be hesitant to go ahead with applying for the grant. Several people were concerned that if the municipalities  
32 were asked to pay for a portion of the radios, they might opt to not participate. The onus would be to the communities that did  
33 not budget for these radios. Bob Klucka from General Communications stated the letter came out that the grant was awarded.  
34 This means the government is promising to put up their share, which was 75% up to \$1,000 per radio. When that came out we  
35 still did not know what the new Tier 1 radio costs would be. Instead of ordering the old Tier 1, several municipalities withheld  
36 judgment, and others held back on the grant waiting to see if the County would pick up 100% of the DPW radios. Some  
37 municipalities expressed to Bob they could not afford to get on the system so they opted to do nothing. In the grant, the  
38 municipality would need to pay for the radios in full, give Rob the receipt and he would turn the receipts into O.J.A. and the  
39 participating municipalities would be reimbursed when Rob was refunded by the grant. Several municipalities contacted Rob  
40 and he then applied for the Grant. Supervisor Goetz reiterated that even if a municipality currently has a communication system  
41 it uses, if it doesn't communicate with the Sheriff and surrounding municipalities it is lacking. It is for the safety of the people in  
42 each municipality to have the best communication possible. A list of municipalities participating in the grant was read by  
43 Chairman Stern and how many radios they have ordered. Further discussion as to whether there might be additional costs to the  
44 project. There is no definite answer to that but most felt it would not exceed what would be left over after paying 100% of the  
45 DPW radios. Supervisor Tennes reiterated that the County has provided a lot of money already into this venture. It was  
46 questioned where the money would go if we did not pay for the DPW radios at 100%. Supervisor Tennes said it would most  
47 likely go to the Capitol Projects Fund. Another question was stated if a Capitol Project would be better than providing for the  
48 DPW radios. Supervisor Tennes said that would be up to each committee member. He further stated it should be stated that the  
49 County is putting the sales tax money received into this project and it is going to benefit each municipality in the County.

50  
51 Mr. Klucka from General Communications mentioned that he has worked with Ozaukee, Waukesha and Sheboygan counties on  
52 their radio projects. Waukesha County made every agency buy into the system and buy their radios. To this date they don't  
53 have 100% interoperability within the County and it is fractured. The best thing to do is not get out a book to locate a number in  
54 an emergency, but to flip a switch on a radio and be in contact with the person you need to speak with in any municipality. The  
55 system benefits and how it was paid should be promoted throughout the County through press and as many ways as possible to  
56 show each municipality how their sales tax is being used to everyone's benefit. Bob also stated that as of 2013 all radio users  
57 (using voice communications) must change the way they license their radios. This would mean they would change to narrow  
58 banding, which is much less useful than what is in place now or what could be achieved through the new radio system the  
59 County is implementing. The municipalities will need a new updated FCC license and may or may not need new radios. This is  
60 a cost of a few hundred dollars verses several thousand dollars. In this economy most municipalities are not spending more  
61 money and don't want to go back to the taxpayers asking for more money. This may make some municipalities postpone getting  
62 on board even after 2013.

1 It was clarified that the grant did have a finite amount for total grant. It will pay 75% up to \$1000 per portable radio and up to  
2 \$2000 for a mobile radio. The total grant was dependant on the number of radios that are purchased. The grant was approved  
3 for only the municipalities that contacted Rob before he wrote the grant. This would still be a savings to the County when  
4 paying either the 50% or 100%. The grant would be deducted from the total for each community.  
5

6 Chairman Stern reiterated that the committee needed to consider whether they want to pay 50% of the DPW radios or 100% of  
7 the cost. Another thing the committee needs to decide is what the committee will do for the municipalities that did get the grant  
8 and pay their matching amount. Examples of what municipalities purchased and their costs were given. Several committee  
9 members expressed their viewpoints on the payment. It was moved by Supervisor Berchem and seconded by Supervisor Goetz  
10 to pick up the entire cost of radios for all the municipalities in Washington County. Clarification was requested as to  
11 municipalities that did apply for the grant; does the County pick up the matching portion? It was agreed that this would be  
12 included in the 100% payment. The dollar amount: \$1,013,206 would be the entire cost of the radios before the grant money is  
13 taken out. The motion was opened for debate. Supervisor Tennes asked if we would only order what was originally indicated  
14 by each municipality or now that the County is paying 100% would the municipalities be able to order more radios. It was  
15 clarified that there are three towns that do not have DPW's, and therefore did not have an order or indication for radios. This  
16 does not mean they do not need radios, it just means the spreadsheet is showing they don't have any DPW's. It was agreed that  
17 the original inventory stands for what the County will pay. If municipalities want more radios than they originally stated, they  
18 will need to purchase at their own expense. Supervisor Tennes requested that the motion be amended to include wording "fully  
19 funded by the County Sales-Tax money". Supervisor Goetz asked if there wasn't other money other than sales tax in this  
20 venture. Kim Nass clarified that there was borrowed money, but that was already spent. Paul Labonte supported this stating  
21 borrowed money must be spent first based on the agreements for this money. Both Supervisors Berchem and Goetz agreed to  
22 amend the motion to include this wording.  
23

24 Question/Discussion: Supervisor Bausch was contacted by some citizens, a Town Chair and a Town Supervisor – not from  
25 Farmington, who expressed concern about the portable radios. They read that these were the same radios in Milwaukee and they  
26 were said to be inferior. How does he answer this question? Several members indicated these are not the same portable radios as  
27 Milwaukee is using, although the Milwaukee portable radios were said to be working fine. There has been a lot of bad press  
28 concerning the radios in Milwaukee and for the most part it is inaccurate as they have been successful in achieving the goals set  
29 by Milwaukee.  
30

31 Chairman Stern asked if there is any further discussion.  
32

33 Kim Nass re-read the motion back to include the wording proposed by Supervisor Tennes "The County will pay 100% for the  
34 purchase of the radios for the municipalities that were indicated on their inventory sheet and not to exceed the \$1,013,206.55 less  
35 whatever grant money is funded and is fully funded by the County Sales Tax money."  
36

37 Chairman Stern asked if there is any further discussion. A call for the vote: All those in favor: 5 members; All those opposed: 1  
38 member. This motion was carried.  
39

#### 40 **NEXT MEETING DATE**

41 Question: Do we have a two-prong project going on - one project with the building coverage and one for the cut-over of the  
42 system? Discussion: Sheriff Schmidt indicated that there are two Project Managers; an On-site Project Manager and Harris'  
43 Project Manager. Dennis Buchholz is the On-site Manager. Joe Carruso was the Harris Project Manager, but he has recently left  
44 the project. Dennis Buchholz is undertaking both Project Manager roles until another Project Manager for Harris can be brought  
45 up to speed. There is still only one project. Much will be discussed at a meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2010 with Harris and  
46 the Sheriff. Information is being gathered, building plans and permission from all of the building owners on the original list.  
47 They do not have all of them to date. RCC states the next meeting should be after Harris comes up with the solutions to the  
48 building coverage and this is not known yet. No meeting date was set pending the discussion and meeting with Harris' new  
49 Project Manager, his Supervisor one of the regional sales people and the Sheriff. When Harris comes up with a solution,  
50 Chairman Stern will contact all of the Committee members and schedule a meeting at that time.  
51

52 Another follow up item: Did we get what we needed in writing between the Tier 1 and Tier 2 rating yet (Tier 1 for Tier 2 price)?  
53 Sheriff Schmidt indicated we have not received that yet, but it should happen. What about the over-the-air programming, has  
54 that been resolved? Sheriff Schmidt indicated it has not been resolved because that is part of the must-cover buildings and we  
55 don't know where that will end up yet. Chairman Stern: Is there anything the committee would like to be done to resolve this  
56 issue? The Sheriff thought it needed to sit out there a bit until the must-cover building issues are resolved. No further general  
57 comments by members.  
58

#### 59 **ADJOURNMENT**

60 Moved by Supervisor Bausch and Second by Rick Gundrum to adjourn at 2:30.  
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62

Dale K. Schmidt