

**Antrim County 911 Board  
Meeting Minutes  
2/26/2020**

**Present:** Dan Bean, Leslie Meyers, Brenda Ricksgers, Pete Vandenberg, Burt Thompson, Bill Drollinger, Mike Bertram

**Absent:** Lt. Jason Nemecek, Wendy Dawson

**Others Present:** Mike Gank, Ted Schroeder, Corey Lecureux, Jessica Sprindler, Phil Vandenberg and Neil Pickard, and Mike Lee.

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Bean called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

**Approval of Agenda: Motion by Drollinger, supported by Meyers to approve the agenda with a correction to the next meeting date to May 13, 2020. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Public Comment:** Mike Lee thanked the 911 staff and board for all their hard work.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion by Meyers, supported by Bertram to approve the minutes of January 5, 2020 as presented. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**Financial Reports:**

Gank presented Accounts 259, 261 and 262 for January 2020. Bertram asked a question regarding fund 259. **Motion by Bertram, supported by Drollinger to approve the January 2020 Financials for all three accounts as presented. Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**New Business:**

- **Pandemic EMD Protocols:** Gank provided the board with information on the Coronavirus. He and Meyers will be having a conference call tomorrow morning with all fire chiefs (or their representatives), EMS and the Health Department. Purpose of the call is to discuss the latest from the Health Department and discuss protocols for addressing the issue. We may be best off following the lead of downstate counties and updating Ebola SOP's an Infectious Disease SOP.

**Old Business:**

- **MPSCS Mobile Radio Project:** 4 bids were submitted.  
OTEC: \$263,542.50. Their bid did not include dynamic regrouping.  
GTM: \$279,931.40. Their bid included a 5 year warranty while all others included only 3.  
Radio North: \$282,419.61  
TeleRad: \$323,675.65. their bid was with Motorola radios while all others were Kenwood.

OTEC stated that their bid would increase by \$21,000 to include the dynamic regrouping. This changed their bid to \$284,542.50.

The dynamic regrouping feature allows the dispatcher to temporarily reassign, selected radios operating in the same or different trunked modes, to a single, special mode so that they can communicate with each other. This feature would assist in large scale events and assist with interoperability.

It was also noted that GTM's bid did include Bluetooth.

Vandenberg noted that the ACES group did not request dynamic regrouping when it was discussed with them.

Discussion ensued regarding which options were optimal.

**Motion by Drollinger, supported by Meyers to accept the bid from OTEC in the amount of \$284,542.50 that includes the dynamic regrouping for the MPSCS Radio Project.** Meyers stated that she seconded the motion so that discussion could be had. The radios are very important for communications and interoperability for public safety, but getting the best price for like equipment was too. **Roll Call Vote: Bertram – no; Thompson – no; Ricksgers – no; Meyers – no; Drollinger – yes; Bean – no; Vandenberg – Abstained. Motion Fails.**

**Motion by Bertram, supported by Meyers to accept the low bid of \$279,931.40 from Grand Traverse Mobile for the MPSCS Radio Project.** There was discussion on the value of the dynamic regrouping feature.

**Roll Call Vote: Bertram – yes, Drollinger – yes; Bean – yes; Meyers – yes; Thompson – yes; Ricksgers – yes; Vandenberg – Abstained. Motion Carried.**

Sheriff Bean will forward this motion on to the County Board of Commissioners.

**Paging/Engineer Study Update:** Antrim County has several options available to improve Fire/EMS paging in the County. Some of the options will require a significant investment and implementation time, while others can be implemented in the short term and at lower funding levels.

It is Televate's conclusion that if the County finds it acceptable to operate using a "split network" hybrid approach which requires paging over two networks, the Hybrid approach is the most cost-effective means of obtaining more reliable countywide coverage. Additionally, this option could provide for a short-term solution as the County works toward a long-term approach, such as working with MPSCS to improve the MPSCS coverage in the County and eventually transition all users. Alternatively, if the County desires to have a single stand-alone paging network independent of the voice network, then the alpha numeric VHF paging system should be explored, since the repair of the existing VHF analog system may not provide the desired results. Televate's analysis indicates the alpha numeric system will provide better coverage and more consistent results than the analog paging system given the existing VHF environment. However, the County does need to consider the different operation of an alpha numeric system, when compared to the current tone and voice system.

### Suggested Course of Action

Moving forward, Televate recommends the County take the following steps toward development of an improved first responder paging solution:

- Review the options presented in this report
- Seek additional information and/or analysis on preferred option(s) as desired
- Identify a short- and long-term direction
- Develop a scope of work and potentially a request for proposal as required based on the direction chosen, and
- Establish a project, implementation, and transition plan for the solution(s).

The report added the possible causes for poor voice quality as follows:

1. Improper system optimization
2. High VHF noise floor and/or interference
3. Poor VHF pager performance
4. Simulcast system interference

After a detailed examination of the VHF simulation, Televate concludes that the VHF paging performance should be capable of providing adequate performance given the known parameters.

Televate concludes that the paging voice quality issues being experienced by Antrim County users are a result of a combination of the various issues described above. Some of these issues are contributing factors in certain areas and at certain times, while other issues are contributing factors at other times.

Therefore, a comprehensive improvement plan must address all of these issues. Additionally, it is recommended that the County review their dispatch procedures to help ensure consistent pager volume.

Discussion: Fire Departments continue to ask for 800 paging options. This begs the type of console that will be purchased as the current one is set to expire in early 2021. Vandenberg stated that the hybrid solution only addresses what we have and some reorientation and is a bargain at \$200k. This worth considering until the big dollar ticket items can be considered and budgeted for.

Gank will prepare short term and long term recommendations for the next meeting.

- **PFN Update:** Gank reported on the Statewide 911 outage of January 31, 2020. It was a failure of PFN with a failure of 911 calls to be forwarded to PSAPS. They are currently replacing all old equipment. As current protocol has 911 paging all fire personnel, this will be discussed at the next ACES meeting.

We are still waiting the changeover for ATT and Frontier.

- **MCT Update:** They are currently having some software vendor issues and some brackets need to be ordered to address mounting in the fire apparatus.

2-26-2020 Regular Draft Meeting Minutes (Rescheduled date)

**Communications and Operations:** EFD (Emergency Fire Dispatch) protocols are being reviewed by legal.

The console RFP will be complicated. Corey and Mike have visited other centers to see first-hand the options that will be available to us.

One dispatcher in training.

Call volume is up.

**Meeting Adjourned at 2:25 pm**

**Next meeting – May 13, 2020.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Meyers, 911 Secretary