

# *Antrim County Ad Hoc Sound System Committee*

*Karen Bargy*

*Chuck Johnson*

*Dave Heeres*

## **Minutes**

**August 5, 2015**

Members present: Karen Bargy, Dave Heeres, Chuck Johnson  
Members absent: None  
Others present: Bob Wilson, Sheryl Guy, Janet Koch

**1. The meeting was called to order by consensus at 9:05 a.m.**

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Sound System Review**

Karen Bargy said a quote for a system had been provided at the Board of Commissioner's meeting of July 9. A complete sound system for the Board room and hearing loops for both room 211 and the boardroom was quoted at \$22,680. A 2-loop system in the boardroom would be a total of \$23,668. Hearing loops only for both rooms was quoted at \$17,424.19.

Dave Barth of AscomNorth introduced his company and described the quote he'd provided for the Board of Commissioner's room. Mr. Barth said a sound system is only as strong as the system's weakest link; he mentioned that microphones must be spoken into directly. He told the Committee that a problem with wireless systems is someone has to be monitoring them regularly; charging them, checking the batteries, etc.

Mr. Barth said a Sound Mate Telex wireless hearing impaired system included a transmitter and receivers. The receivers are worn by an individual. A loop system, Mr. Barth said, would be installed under the carpet and would work with hearing aids that have T-coils. Mr. Barth said a processor shuts microphones off when they're not being used.

Ms. Bargy asked about confidentiality issues; Mr. Barth said a Radio Frequency (RF) loop system can "bleed." The only way to solve the issue completely is with an Infrared system, which is a line of sight system. Mr. Barth added that any hearing loop system could be turned off and that a Public Address (PA) system could be turned down or off.

The Committee discussed using the Board of Commissioner's room for different functions with a wired system. Mr. Barth said it would be "plug and play," with an equipment rack and a "snake" with a bundle of wires that feed under the tables to a box. Mr. Wilson said he preferred a hard-wired system.

Mr. Barth felt it was overkill to put a PA system into Room 211. He said using two microphones in Room 211 would work fine for recording the meetings; using the same microphones to feed the hearing assistance system would also pick up room noise, such as paper rustling. Mr. Barth suggested using a few table microphones that feed into a hearing system. The microphones should be as directional as possible; with hearing assistance only and no speakers, there would be no feedback. Sheryl Guy, County Clerk, and Janet Koch, Associate Planner, said that table microphones aren't practical in Room 211 as the space is used for many non-County functions and the tables are often rearranged.

The quotes were noted by Ms. Bargy as follows:

Board of Commissioner Room

- Quote from July 9 Board of Commissioner meeting - \$19,520.63
- AscomNorth - \$14,295.00
- CTSI - \$23,276.36
- Marshall Music – \$12,010.00 (wired system)

Room 211

- Quote from July 9 Board of Commissioner meeting - \$4,145
- AscomNorth - \$4,995 (with 3 hanging microphones)
- CTSI - \$4,839
- Marshall - \$6,917

Mr. Johnson said using a local company was preferred. Ms. Bargy said audiologists reported that the wireless RF systems worked better for their clients. Mr. Barth said their company was 4-6 weeks out for installation due to their contracts with schools.

**Motion by Dave Heeres, seconded by Chuck Johnson, to award a contract to ASCOMNORTH, Inc. for a sound system for the Board of Commissioner's room at \$14,295.00 and a sound system for Room 211 at \$4,995.00 for a total of \$19,290.00. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Mr. Wilson asked if the audio loop information had been passed onto the courtrooms. He added that Antrim County was obligated to meet ADA requirements in the courtrooms. Ms. Bargy said the "plug and play" units could be used in the courtrooms, also, and that a discussion of that issue could occur during the budgeting process.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.