

## Clark County Communications Sub-Committee

### Unapproved Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2013

6:30 PM

#### Greenwood Area Fire and Ambulance

**Members Present:** Dale Mitte, (Clark County LE/EM Committee), Mark Renderman (Clark County Board of Supervisors/Chief, O-W-C FD & EMS), Greg Herrick (Clark County Sheriff), Jim Backus (Clark County Chief Deputy), John Ross (Clark County Emergency Management), Tom Abel (Fire Chief Greenwood FD & EMS), Bob Mitchell (Fire Chief Humbird FD), Matt Meyer (Fire Chief Neillsville FD), Danielle Boushon (Granton 1<sup>st</sup> Responders/Clark County Dispatch), Rick Rinehart (Fire Chief Dorchester FD), Scott Strzok (Deputy Clark County Sheriff's Department), Jeff Gurney (Dispatcher Clark County Sheriff's Department), Gary Leichtman (OIC Dorchester PD/ Clark County Board of Supervisors), Ron Gosse (Police Chief Colby-Abbotsford PD), Leon Newswanger (Dorchester FD Assistant Chief), David Martin (Dorchester FD Lieutenant 1)

**Members Absent:** Jason Foth (Fire Chief Spencer FD/ Clark County ESA President)

**Invited but did not attend:** Sharon Verges (Police Chief Thorp PD)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Chief Deputy Jim Backus. Introductions of members of the committee took place.
2. **Appointment of Chair:** Motion made by Mark Renderman and second by Gary Leichtman to appoint Dale Mitte as Chair. No other nominations were made. Motion carried.
3. **Discussion regarding purpose of Sub-Committee:** Dale Mitte spoke to the group regarding the purpose of the committee and the need for input from the membership. Jim Backus and John Ross spoke regarding the need to plan for a possible project of this scope and size and the timeframes associated with completing a project if it moves forward.
4. **Background on current system:** Jim Backus explained the current system to include current tower sites for LG and Sheriff Channels. He also showed photographs of the Communications Center work stations and consoles and explained how the process of choosing towers to transmit on works as well as how paging and siren activation work.
5. **Discussion of Elert & Associates Report (August 2012):** John Ross provided an overview of the report and the recommendations made by Elert & Associates including budget estimates for each option. There was discussion regarding the reliability of the budget estimates and the possible benefits and disadvantages of each option.

6. **Discussion of any issues/concerns regarding current system:** Roundtable discussion took place regarding issues and concerns. Scott Strzok informed the committee about some testing he had completed regarding the use of current radio channels and P25 digital channels and discussed the fact that the P25 Digital seemed to work well in areas where current channels did not work. This testing was done from unit to unit and did not involve conversations with Dispatch. Discussion topics also included radio coverage difficulties in certain areas of the county. Mark Renderman brought up an issue related to missed pages due to lack of radio coverage. Other issues brought up were past use of mobile repeaters in Law Enforcement vehicles to boost coverage as well as use of 100 watt mobile radios to enhance capabilities. Rick Rinehart spoke regarding an issue he has experienced regarding loss of ability to use radios near and under the high tension power lines in Colby. The group discussed the issues driving the study and possible options for system changes. The conversation focused on coverage, capacity of the system, equipment age and the cost of the options provided.
7. **Discussion regarding possible options to address any concerns/issues identified:** This conversation was addressed as part of Item 6 on the agenda as well. Other items included were the Option document that John Ross had drafted for the LE/EM Committee. John Ross provided information regarding this document and will forward it to the committee members. The Elert & Associates Report will also be available to members of the committee. John did ask that the document be treated with care as some of the information included is considered to be sensitive.
8. **Discussion on items added to the next meeting agenda:** Dale Mitte asked the members of the committee to go back to their respective organizations/areas and discuss concerns and issues which may exist and bring information back to the next meeting. If anyone on the committee has specific topics for the next meeting agenda they should get them to Dale Mitte, John Ross, Jim Backus or Greg Herrick to make sure they are included.
9. **Public comment on any item on the agenda may be called by the chairman, pursuant to Rule 19 of the Board of Supervisors Rules and Regulations:** There was no public comment.
10. **Set next meeting Date, Time, and Location:** Discussion regarding the next meeting and it was scheduled for April 17, 2013 at 6: 30PM at Greenwood Area Fire & EMS. Dale Mitte thanked everyone for their participation and thanked Tom Abel for hosting the meeting.
11. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Ross  
Recording Secretary