

Clark County Communications Sub-Committee

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2013

6:30 PM

Greenwood Area Fire and Ambulance

Members Present: Mark Renderman (Clark County Board of Supervisors/Chief, O-W-C FD & EMS), Greg Herrick (Clark County Sheriff), John Ross (Clark County Emergency Management), Matt Meyer (Fire Chief Neillsville FD), Tom Abel (Fire Chief Greenwood FD & EMS), Bob Mitchell (Fire Chief Humbird FD), Danielle Boushon (Granton 1st Responders/Clark County Dispatch), Rick Rinehart (Fire Chief Dorchester FD), Jeff Gurney (Dispatcher Clark County Sheriff's Department), Gary Leichtman (OIC Dorchester PD/Clark County Board of Supervisors), Jim Backus (Chief Deputy Clark County Sheriff's Department), Gordon Haselow, (Clark County LE/EM Committee), Sheila Nyberg, (Clark County Economic Development Corp.), Travis Nixdorf, (Abbotsford EMS)

Members Absent: Dale Mitte, (Clark County LE/EM Committee), Jason Foth (Fire Chief Spencer FD/Clark County ESA President), Ron Gosse (Police Chief Colby-Abbotsford PD), Scott Strzok (Deputy Clark County Sheriff's Department), Leon Newswanger (Dorchester FD Assistant Chief), David Martin (Dorchester FD Lieutenant 1), Mike Ruff, (Clark Electric Cooperative),

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by Mark Renderman.
2. **Approval of April 17, 2013 meeting minutes:** Motion made by Danielle Boushon and second by Travis Nixdorf to approve minutes. Motion carried.
3. **Discussion regarding funding:** John passed along information received from Mike Ruff regarding USDA funds that may be available through Clark Electric Co-op. No grants currently available but may be able to access approximately \$350,000.00 in zero interest loans for a new system. Sheila Nyberg discussed need for public/private partnerships to be explored as well as need for broadband serviced in Clark County. She included handouts showing cell phone coverage gaps in the county as well as explaining a new application available on cell phones to track areas of limited service. Mark Renderman provided background information regarding Finance Committee work being done to plan for budgetary needs within the county over the next several years.
4. **Discussion regarding Portage County Information:** Danielle Boushon was unable to obtain information for this meeting. Will include on agenda for next meeting when scheduled.
5. **Discussion of any issues/concerns regarding current system:** Mark Renderman discussed testing completed and installation of new O-W-C FD repeater in Owen. Seems to have had success with

use of new repeater on their frequency. The issue of sound quality on pages was discussed. It was determined that there may be problems with the equipment on the Dispatch end of the system. Hopefully new tower with new equipment being installed at Courthouse will provide some improvement. Sheriff Herrick informed the group of a meeting that was scheduled with Northway Communications regarding system and possible testing of options. Meeting is scheduled for May 22nd.

6. **Discussion regarding possible options to address any concerns/issues identified:** John Ross will contact Elert & Associates to see what cost would be to have their report enhanced to answer questions related to project options and budgets as well as options to address current concerns while plans are being made for possible system upgrades. John Ross will also contact other vendor to see what cost estimate would be to do another study. Jim Backus discussed CAD enhancements that are being installed which will allow for emails and text messages to be sent to responders when calls are entered into system. Standardizing the programming of radios was also brought up by Gary Leichtman. This would help avoid confusion as to instructions as to which channels units should be using at an incident. Rick Rinehart brought concerns about need to address significant issues sooner rather than later and how that can be done.
7. **Discussion on items to be added to the next agenda:** Items identified to be included:
 - Discussion regarding possible options to address any concerns/issues identified:
 - Northway Presentation
 - Portage County Information
 - Cost to update Elert report
 - Funding
8. **Public Comment:** There was no Public Comment.
9. **Set next meeting date & time:** Committee decided not to set next meeting date pending new information being obtained about Elert report and vendor presentations.
10. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Ross
Recording Secretary