

User Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Time: 10:30 A.M.

Location: EOC

Present at meeting:

Members Present:

Walter Wobig – Proctor PD

Linda Bergstrand – Fredenberg and Grand Lake Fire Departments/Arrowhead EMS

Gail Lanyk – Arrowhead EMS/McDavitt Fire Department

Michael Hamilton – LNFF Coalition/Embarrass Fire Chief

Barbara Johnson – Arrowhead EMS

Dan L’Allier – Virginia Fire Department

Jim Crace – Hermantown PD

Pete Stauber – SLC Commissioner

Cory Suonvieri – Floodwood PD

Kurt Rogers – Lakewood Fire Department/Lakehead Association President

Interested Parties:

Jason Maki -Cloquet Fire District

Duane Johnson - St Louis County 9-1-1 Communications

Steven Steblay – St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office

Lisa Johannessohn – St. Louis County 9-1-1 Communications

Bruce Hegrenes – St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office

Grant Gimpel – 148th Air National Guard/Grand Lake Fire Departments

Dan Lysher – 148th Air National Guard/Grand Lake Fire Departments

Patsy Kingsley – St. Louis County 9-1-1 Communications

Meeting Minutes:

1. Call to Order

Walt Wobig called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Linda Bergstrand made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Gail Lanyk.

3. Communications

Dewey Johnson – none.

4. Unfinished Business

ARMER Update

Cloquet site – on air and running

Vermilion Dam site – road is in and they are working on the tower base

Soudan site – contracts agreed to and the bid process in ongoing

Palo site – road is in and they are working on the tower base

Argo Lake site – contract is in, waiting on Cypress. Bid is on the street.

Lake 1/Snowbank site – tower up –will be running in next couple of weeks

Line Lake site (replaces Lost Lake site) – tower base is in. No shore power till next year.

Running on solar/wind/generator till then.

Hibbing site –working on a 40 foot extension

Temporary site at the Fire School in Fondulac –MNDOT and MINSCU negotiating contracts

Molda site – tower is to be replaced, antenna are up but it is currently not budgeted

Erie site- working a tower base

A grant has been received for an additional channel in the Duluth Simulcast system that will enable Douglas County and St Louis County to communicate.

Shaw and Arrowhead sites are busy. A channel is to be added.

Some sites will be expanded.

Simulcast paging system - All ARMER towers need to be completed before Simulcast and Paging can be installed. The county will be broken up into three paging zones: southern third will be Zone 1, and the northern part will be broken up into 2 zones. Work will begin soon on the south zone as all tower sites are completed.

Reprogramming

Fleet map changes have been completed and the new code plugs are being created.

Radios will all need to have Flash upgrades, be programmed and tuned. This will take some advance planning. The programming will be done at the fire departments and it will take a full day to do it. The departments will not be without radios during this time.

Motorola

There are only about 18 months left on the warranties for some radios so now is the time to buy new ones. Departments will have to replace them at their own expense.

5. Other Business

Dewey

Communications

911 has hired 3 new dispatchers. They will be starting on September 24th.

Sue Audio will be retiring the end of September.

All dispatchers have started attending EMD and CPR classes.

New lights will be installed in dispatch. Steve invited everyone to stop in and check out the old lighting system and then return to check out the new lighting system once its installed.

ARMER

The Coast Guard is now on the ARMER paging system with Duluth fire and rescue. They have been given a portable radio and a base station. They have credited 4 rescues with the fact that they are on the system.

Air Show

Everyone was on the ARMER system. More event talk groups were created for the event. The command post on scene worked well. The show was a big success.

Airport Incident

All went well with this incident also.

Automated CPR Device

A grant is available for this device through the MN Department of Health. Barb brought in the Duluth News Tribune with an article about it.

Bruce

Updated on the FirstNet Board which is planning for a nationwide wireless data.

Lisa

I Am Responding –This is not to be used as a primary means of communication. It is a useful tool only. Lisa will draft a letter that explains what I Am Responding is, how it works and the responsibilities of the agencies. I Am Responding is not the primary means of paging. Agencies still need to carry their pagers as they are the primary means of paging. Motion was made by Linda and seconded by Kurt.

Steve

With Paul Lee retiring the County is in the process of hiring a new Emergency Management Coordinator. When that person is hired the EOC will be fully operational again. Scott Camps is filling in for Paul Lee until the position is filled.

Lisa

Only a few agencies responded to the email that was sent out soliciting information about a mobile user group. On October 8th there will be a Ticket Writer user group meeting .

Grant thanked Dewey and Bruce for their help during the live airport drill.

The next User Board meeting will be at 10AM on November 12th with the location to be determined.

A motion was made by Gail to end the meeting and seconded by Grant.

