

Clinton County Communications Commission/ Technical Oversight Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 1:00 PM

Clinton County Law Center – Large CR/EOC (241 7th Ave N. Clinton, IA)

Present:

Communications Commission (CC)

Board of Supervisor – Jim Irwin
City of Clinton – Scott Maddasion
Sheriff's Office – Bill Greenwalt

Technical Oversight Board (TOB):

Camanche Fire – Dave Schutte
Clinton Fire – Greg Forari
Clinton Police – Kevin Gyrion, Pat Cullen
Camanche Police – Rich Schmitz
DeWitt Fire – Scott Besst
DeWitt Police – Dave Porter
Emergency Management – Chance Kness
Sheriff's Office – Steve Diesch

Eric Dau – Communications Manager

Brent Vogel – Technology Systems Manager and TOB & BOD Secretary

Not Present:

CC EMS Association President
CC Fire Association President
City of Camanche Mayor
City of Dewitt Mayor

Public: None present

Press: None present

1. Call meeting to order – The CC meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM by Sheriff Greenwalt. The TOB meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM by Chief Deputy Diesch.
2. Roll Call
 - a. Roll call was taken for the TOB – Quorum was present (see above, >5).
 - b. Roll call was taken for the CC – Quorum was present (see above, >3).
3. Approval of previous TOB meeting minutes (1 27 22)
 - a. TOB Motion: A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from 1 27 22 was made by Chief Porter and seconded by Chief Schutte. Motion carried.
4. Approval of previous Communications Commission meeting minutes (1 27 22)
 - a. CC Motion: A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from 1 27 22 was made by Supervisor Irwin and seconded by Mayor Maddasion. Motion carried.
5. Update on Radio Project
 - a. Dau stated there are three fire departments left for installation (Lost Nation, Charlotte, and Goose Lake). Delmar has been installed however, we are waiting on them to provide a date for training.
 - b. Brent has been working with Clinton Fire this past week to deploy the APX NEXT XE Radios. Some of the APX 8500 XE's that we will getting back will need to be re-conditioned which will done in house to be re-deployed to the remaining fire departments.

- c. An issue has been discovered with the BDA's (the in building signal amplification system in the public safety buildings in Clinton) when we tried to shut down the temporary ADM Tower. We tested an APX 8500 in the jail with the ADM Tower turned off and could not get a radio signal however, as soon as the ADM tower was turned back on we had no issue. It was discovered that the BDA's that are installed in the buildings are only for 700 mhz. Our new radio tower is an 800 mhz tower. The ISICS system is 700 or 800 mhz. When we bought the BDA's from Electronic Engineering we were never given the option to buy multi-band BDA's, so now with our new tower being an 800 mhz tower the BDA's that we have installed are not compatible with that tower. The decision was made with the 911 Board's Executive Committee to purchase multi-band BDA's and redeploy the BDA's that are currently installed in Clinton to the schools in western Clinton County. This will be possible since all of the other towers in the area are 700 mhz.
- d. We have had some issues with Genesis Dewitt Ambulance. Since they are a private company we cannot pay for radios or installation. They have chosen to use the vendor that they use for the Quad City operation and that vendor sold them radios that are not Motorola brand and there have been some programming issues as a result of that.
- e. There are also some operational issues with Genesis Ambulance. Genesis has a primary crew and a backup crew that is on duty in Dewitt. The primary crew is at the hospital and is the first out for everything including 911 calls and transfers. The backup crew is paid an on call rate and responds to the hospital/ambulance when there is a second call and the first crew is busy. The problem that Genesis did not take into account is that transfers are paged by the hospital due to this being the private side of their operation. With the current VHF system when the first crew gets paged for a transfer the backup crew is able to hear the page and knows that the primary crew is busy and knows that the next call is theirs. When the primary crew is done with the transfer they will call over the radio back in the county and available. This lets the backup crew know that they don't have to go on the next call. Genesis needs to buy a consolette so that they have the ability to page for transfers from the hospital like they currently do with the VHF system. All of the fire departments that Genesis works with have made the switch to ISICS so this has created a communications and safety issue when they are responding to calls together. Dau was approached by Genesis EMS Management and asked if we would be willing to page their transfers. Dau advised that he has agreed to do this for no longer than 1 month while they get the consolette and get in programmed and installed. Dau said the only reason that he agreed to it was due to the inherent safety issues that there with Genesis not being able to communicate with the fire departments that they work with. Dau is meeting Genesis Management next week to finalize the details.
- f. Chief Gyrion said that although he has been a very vocal critic of the project now that we are towards the end Dau and Vogel have done a great job and it has turned out well.
- g. Dau thanked Vogel for all of his hard work on this project and his willingness to do things that are outside of his job description to get this project done. By doing this Vogel has saved the taxpayers large amounts of money.

- h. Sheriff Greenwalt has asked that Dau draft a letter to thank the Des Moines Police Department for their assistance with this project and the training that they have provided to Vogel at no cost.
6. Discussion/Possible Action-Talk group Sharing with Scott County
- a. On April 25th Director Dau, Chief Besst, and Chief Stankee met with several Scott County stakeholders to discuss fire department interoperability. There had been several informal discussions prior to this meeting. In the informal meetings the plan had been that we would have a zone in our radios with Scott County Talk groups and they would have a zone in their radios with Clinton County Talk groups. This is exactly what is going to happen. We will be sharing all of our County Fire and PS TAC Talkgroups with the exception of the PS TAC encrypted talkgroup. During this meeting the discussion came up that Scott County would be willing to share their Sheriff's Office Talkgroups with us if we are interested. Dau advised that he told Scott County that we would probably be interested in sharing our Law Enforcement Talkgroups as well as long as this group approves it. Chief Gyrion made a motion to share Talkgroups with Scott County. The motion was seconded by Chief Porter. The TOB motion was carried. Supervisor Irwin Motioned to share talkgroups with Scott County. Mayor Maddasion seconded the motion. The motion was carried.
7. Discussion/ Possible Action – Rollover Funds Available in the Communications Budget and Possible Uses of the Funds.
- a. Dau and Budget Director Nick Manrique discussed that there will be approximately \$70,000-\$100,000 left over from the bond. There is no spending authority budgeted for that money in the next fiscal year however, that can be accomplished by a budget amendment. The money has to be used for communications related equipment. Dau discussed several possibilities for equipment such as purchasing digital pagers, and a lower cost radio option for the Corrections Officers, and putting money towards the replacement cycle towards the new radios.
 - b. At the last meeting there was discussion as to how much money was in the Communications rollover fund. Dau talked with the Budget Director and if the entire amount of the Communications Budget is spent, on July 1st we would have a balance of \$1,716,395.11.
 - c. Dau discussed with the group investigating the purchase of core connected consoles. The current dispatch consoles have some limitations because of them not being Motorola consoles. The current consoles are approaching end of life. The budgetary quote that we received was \$750,000-\$1,000,000 depending on what type of backhaul is used meaning microwave or fiber. Chief Gyrion made a motion that the TOB recommend to the Board that we pursue the purchase of the core connected consoles. Chief Schutte seconded the motion. There was further discussion from Chief Porter in regards to rolling over the money from the bond into this project. Sheriff Greenwalt asked if there would be enough to build a tower if need be. Dau advised the group that at this point the coverage is adequate to where a tower would be more of a nice to have than a need. Coordinator Kness questioned that he was under the impression that there should be operating expenses available for 5-6 months available which in our case should be \$750,000. Manrique advised that 3-4 is more realistic. Dau advised that

there would not be a point where we would have to pay all \$750,000-1,000,000 at one point. Kness also wanted to know what the life span of the consoles are. Dau advised that he is not sure but he would assume that it would be the typical 10-15 year life span that most 24-7 electronic equipment is on. Vogel advised that it would not be the entire price tag for the replacement it would be smaller amounts and typically no more than half. Sheriff Greenwalt asked to have Motorola come and do a presentation in front of the Communications Commission and TOB. The motion was carried. The same motion was made on the Communications Commission by Supervisor Irwin and seconded by Mayor Maddasion. The motion carried.

- d. Dau will be getting a meeting set up in the coming weeks for Motorola to do a presentation.

8. Communications Staffing Update.

- a. Communications is currently up to our authorized full time staffing of 16 employees plus two admin positions. Probationary Telecommunicator Bartels will be released from training today. Probationary Telecommunicators Warren and Andersen have just finished their classroom training and have been assigned to their on the job trainers and are 4 to 5 months away from being on their own.
- b. Communications has had a work study student from Northeast High School since January. This is the first time that Communications has done this program. It has worked out very well. The intern is Chase Burken. He will be going to the University of Iowa in the fall. We have treated him like any other trainee with the exception of sending him to the certification classes. He has expressed interest in working her on the weekends and during breaks. Dau said it would be an easy transition to do this plus it would allow us to have additional staff available on the weekends. His hours would be kept under 29 hours to avoid paying insurance and his salary would come from the overtime. There was discussion about what the union would think about this and if he would be to add to employment or to supplement the current staff. Mayor Maddasion asked if this would create a safety issue by having a part time person who is not there all of the time. Maddasion stated this is a big concern for him. The group would like a letter of agreement from the union. Chief Gyrion asked how much the certifications would cost. Dau advised it would cost approximately \$2,000. Chief Schutte made the motion that we allow Dau to bring the person on with letter from the union. Chief Schmitz seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mayor Maddasion made the same motion for the Communications Commission. The motion carried.

9. Other business

- a. Chief Gyrion, Chief Schutte, and Chief Schmitz all again thanked Vogel and Dau for all of their hard work on the radio project. Chief Deputy Diesch specifically noted that he has seen Brent working on parts on this project and is amazed at the knowledge that Brent has.

10. Adjourn – Chief Porter Second Chief Schutte made a motion to adjourn at 2:06 PM

