

# Rensselaer County Radio Communications Committee

## Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2022 in-person and via Zoom

In attendance: M. Lacivita, Chair; P. Glasser, BPS; W. Stewart, Batt 3-Secretary; M. H u b b s , Batt 2; J. Thomas, BPS; M. Shanahan, RACES; A. Haley, Batt 5; J. Lacivita, EGB; B. Cassidy Jr., Batt 4

Via Zoom: B. Mohan, Wells Communication; K. Allen, EMS2; M. Sheline Jr., Batt 1; D. Vallyou, Batt 2; B. Maloney, Legislature; B. Patire, Legislature

### 1) Reports

- a) Director – no report
- b) Deputy Director – will comment on items as they are addressed
- c) Fire Coordinator – no report
- d) EMS Coordinator – no report
- e) Law Enforcement – no report
- f) Highway – no report
- g) RACES – no report

### 2) Update / Status Reports / Ongoing Issues

- a) NYSTEC
  - i) Engineers used existing data for a much deeper analysis of the system's coverage, including info from Blue Wing reports, to aid in the foundation for current recommendations
    - (1) Due to cost and complexity it is not efficient/effective to use in-vehicle repeaters on a county-wide basis; this approach might only affect issues in one or two areas. The use of the APX Next LMR/LTE option based on testing appears to be the better solution to addressing "pocket" issues faced by FDs in areas such as Nassau, Berkshire Spur, and along Rt 67 corridor; may be best deployed to assist Law Enforcement operations. his option provides for a seamless move between & among radio/cell/wifi connections
- b) TriTech/CAD
  - i) No changes at this time; not be well supported by our CAD vendor and is proving difficult to modify. Other counties encountering similar issues.
- c) Shared Radio Core
  - i) Albany/Rensselaer/Schenectady counties collaborating on a grant for a shared core.
  - ii) This would provide Rensselaer with a backup core and expand coverage
  - iii) Will require reprogramming of all radios for operational changes and to prevent a conflict of UIDs between/among counties
- d) Field Ops Software
  - i) Progress on hold while staffing and other priorities are addressed

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- e) I Am Responding (IaR) / Text Messaging
  - i) Individual departments have inquired about changing how information is sent to them; the system will only allow changes on a town-wide basis so all FDs in a given town will have to agree on format.
  - ii) Adding box alarms to IaR may not be possible; investigating of a field exists to permit this to happen.
  - iii) Awaiting review of grants to determine how Bureau would pay for all agencies with a countywide account
- f) 800 System Update
  - i) Motorola promises to update in 2022; may be coordinated with APX Next LMR/LTE if the latter is adopted, and the new recording system
- g) Policy Issues
  - i) Non-compliant radio use continues to be addressed by the deputy director
  - ii) Agencies are advised to notify BPS of need to assign "Car" designations, even temporarily, beyond Cars 1,2 & 3; this is necessary to properly record them in CAD.
  - iii) The 800 patch to Rensselaer City FD has worked well during recent mutual aid calls into the city.
  - iv) Refresher training is proceeding; many EMS agencies have not responded to this need as well as a few FDs. A list of those FD's and Squad's not completing training is included
- h) Field Inventory
  - i) Project is ongoing but progress is impeded by agencies that have not responded. A list of those FD's who have not submitted an inventory is included.
- i) Interoperability
  - i) Battalion 1 and those Saratoga agencies likely to respond into the county are on board
  - ii) Colonie EMS is still not complete
  - iii) Other Colonie agencies that may be special call responders (i.e., trench rescue) will be managed via an 800 patch
  - iv) The 3 locally based Life Net aircraft are now equipped with Tac 8 capability; others can be reached by means of an 800 system patch.
- j) Radio Committee Appointments
  - i) Alex Haley was welcomed as a new member representing Batt 5; he replaces Ric McClave who has stepped away after several terms on the committee and he was thanked for his years of service.
  - ii) All members were reminded to sign the appointments book at the County Clerk's Office.

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k) Other Items

- i) Jim Condo (EGPD) will be serving as the point person representing Law Enforcement on the committee, replacing representatives from individual agencies.

**Next Meeting: June 29, 2022 at Averill Park FD**

### REFRESHER RADIO CLASS NOT COMPLETED

#### **FD**

Berlin

Buskirk

Clinton Heights

Hoosick Falls

Pleasantdale

Speigletown

#### **EMS**

Town of Hoosick

Nassau

Taconic Valley

NO Squads with Paid staff or Commercial Agencies have submitted the required documentation for their approved in-house training

### FIELD INVENTORY NOT SUBMITTED

Berlin

Best Luther

Buskirk

Center Brunswick

Grafton

Hemstreet Park

Hoosick Falls

Johnsonville

Melrose

Nassau

North Hoosick

Pleasantdale

Rensselaer

Schaghticoke

Speigletown

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