

# Rensselaer County Radio Communications Committee

## Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2022 in-person and via Zoom

Stephentown FD Fire Hall

In attendance: M. Lacivita, Chair; P. Glasser, BPS; W. Stewart, Batt 3/Secretary; M. Hubbs, Batt 2; J. Thomas, BPS; A. Haley, Batt 5; D. Valyou, Batt 1; D. Basle, Batt 3; B. Mohan, BearCom; S. Kelly, Batt 4; B. Cassidy, Batt 4; R. Hunt, Hoosick FD;

**Via Zoom:** M. Sheline Jr., Batt 1; J. Lacivita, EGB; D. Pasinella, Melrose FD; M. Shanahan, RACES; Hoosick Valley Rescue.

### Reports

- a) Director – no report
- b) Deputy Director – will comment on items as they come up
- 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) TriTech/CAD
  - i) This 3-county system has fallen apart as Albany & Saratoga are going their separate ways.
  - ii) Rensselaer County will still have a fiber connection to Albany & Saratoga Counties.
- b) Getting prices for mobile interoperability with CAD; seeking the ability to have unlimited units; even if purchased now implementation would take 12 months.
- c) Field Ops Software
  - i) Progress on hold while CAD is under review
- d) I Am Responding (IaR) / Text Messaging
  - i) Funding for a county based IaR has been identified, awaiting actual receipt of grant funds. Agencies that pay for IaR prior to the changeover will be reimbursed for overpayment.
  - ii) All agencies are reminded that maintaining membership contacts are their responsibility. The county will update only for BPS staff and Coordinators.
  - iii) Requests to increase the information issued via IaR will be worked on given the demise of TriTech.
  - iv) Voice aspect of IaR will require additional software and is on hold until the upgrade is completed.
- e) 800 System Update
  - i) APX Next LMR /LTE radios have been received to serve Fire & LE; server installation needs to be done before implementation.
  - ii) Which agencies will most benefit from/receive the new radios is based on a “deep dive” evaluation of data of signal coverage and trouble spots by NYSTEC
  - iii) Next step will be to seek radios for EMS

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### f) Policy Issues

- i) A memo was issued to all chiefs regarding accountability of portables assigned to non-chief officers; inventory reports of portable radios and their assignment are needed.
- ii) Radio training is incorporated into the BEFO classes.
- iii) Radio training is not being incorporated into EMT classes.
- iv) EMS agencies especially are reminded of the need for initial & refresher training; no training reports have been received from paid/commercial EMS agencies.
- v) All are reminded if training is not maintained, no radios free of charge will be issued.

### g) Field Inventory

- i) Agencies that have not yet complied are receiving reminders; for the system to work as planned and to the benefit of all greater participation is necessary.
- ii) Still seeking a new intern to assist with data organization and input.

### h) Interoperability

- i) A Bennington County patch RENSICO radios to its system via Bennington FD is under evaluation. This plan in would include a control station to be installed at Bennington FD dispatch center for when it takes over from BPD for fireground operations; likely a patch to our Tach 5 to their VHF frequency.
- ii) Bennington FD ladder will have a RENSICO 800 radio on board.

### i) Grants

- i) We have been notified of recent grant awards including funds to assist in outfitting the new training facility.
- ii) A grant application may be submitted related to the County's response to the Governor's Executive Order requiring local threat management plans.

### j) Other Items

- i) Concerns have been expressed about the perceived lack of EMS representation on the Committee.
- ii) There are two vacancies for EMS and work is being done with the EMS Coordinator and the Legislature to remedy this.

Next Meeting: November 16, 2022, at Schodack Valley FD

Meeting notes taken by W. Stewart, secretary