

Rensselaer County Radio Communications Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2022 in-person and via Zoom

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

Via Zoom: P. Glasser, BPS; J. Lacivita, EGB; T. McDonald, RPI; K. Allen, EMS; M. Drinkwine, Batt 2; Center Brunswick; M. Church, Taconic Valley; B. Patire, Legislature.

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) APX Next LMR/LTE Portable Radio Purchase
 - i) Customer Design Review with Motorola completed, anticipated operational date set for March 2023
 - ii) 290 radios have been purchased
- b) Bennington Fire Department
 - i) A system patch for Bennington VHF to 800 will require additional equipment for links to work properly; getting information and quotes. Still some policy issues.
 - ii) Bennington Ladder 1 has an 800 mobile unit
- c) Additional Portable Radio Requests
 - i) According to established policy, radio training by each agency must be completed or no radios will be issued that are purchased at County expense
 - ii) EMS agencies are delinquent in training and are considered non-compliant with the policy (see Policy Issues below).
- d) CAD Related Issues
 - i) TriTech/CAD Three County initiative is officially dead; Albany and Saratoga Counties are going their own way
 - ii) A new \$1.4 million expenditure request is working its way through the legislature to replace CAD, which will include be a benefit for all agencies.
 - iii) CAD system will be by Tyler and allow for an unlimited number of units to have mobile access to some feature level; an 8-12 month implementation is expected once funding is approved.

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- e) I am Responding (IaR) and Text Messaging
 - i) An updated quote has been received and a resolution is with the legislature to approve acceptance of a grant award to cover the cost.
 - ii) County will not be performing programming; individual agencies are responsible for this to meet their own needs.
 - iii) County Emergency Management and all FD and EMS agencies will be in the system; Voice 2-tone is included.
 - iv) IaR will interface with CAD but how to handle sensitive law enforcement information still needs to be addressed.
- f) 800 System Update
 - i) The core upgrade had been completed and integration was seamless.
 - ii) Interface issues with digital recording for some talk groups was observed and have been addressed by Motorola.
- g) Policy Issues
 - i) An update to the Field Operations Guide (FOG) has been moved up in timing to accommodate an upcoming federal exercise involving multiple counties.
 - ii) Radio training is incorporated into the BEFO classes although some students attending “boot camp” course are not getting the same level of training.
 - iii) Radio training is not being incorporated into EMT classes.
 - iv) Since initiated in 2019, none of the paid EMS agencies have complied with the radio training requirements.
 - v) All are reminded that if training is not completed and maintained, no radios purchased by the County will be issued to non-compliant agencies.
- h) Grants
 - i) The County’s grant submission for Albany, Renss and Schenectady shared core cost was denied.
 - ii) Grants were received for PSAP and Emergency Management as was our application for SHSP funding.
- i) Field Inventory
 - i) Still seeking a new intern to assist with data organization and input; won’t be available until Spring 2023 semester at the earliest.
 - ii) Agencies still need to provide their inventory data regardless of intern availability.
- j) Interoperability
 - i) Meetings with Albany & Schenectady Counties continue.
 - ii) Menands FD has added DeFreestville to its 3rd alarm box which will require DFD to gain access to Albany County talk groups; any additional similar situations will be dealt with based on box alarm status.
 - iii) Saratoga County and Battalion 1 interoperability is working well.

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k) Other Items

- i) All agencies are reminded to submit concerns and/or complaints to Deputy Director Glasser on the proper form so BPS can best research and respond in each case.
- ii) The Bureau's confidential assistant has left for another job.
- iii) Move to new County Office Building on Rt 4 in East Greenbush (at I-90 Exit 90 is anticipated for January.

Next Meeting: **February 15, 2023 at DeFreestville FD**

Meeting notes taken by W. Stewart, secretary