

MULTI AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 15, 2009

The Multi Agency Communications Center (MACC) Board of Directors met January 15, 2009 at the National Guard Armory, Classroom #105. Chairman Roger Hansen called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Board Members present were:

Cindy Carter	Grant County Commissioners
Joe Varick	Grant County Police Chiefs
Joseph Gavinski	Largest City or Town – Moses Lake
Dwight VanderVorste	EMS Emergency Medical Council
Frank DeTrolio	Grant County Sheriff's Office
Mike Thompson	Grant County Cities and Towns
Roger Hansen	Grant County Fire Chiefs and Fire Commissioners

Other present were: Dan Williams, Pacific Electronics, Inc.; Elton Miller, Day Wireless Systems; Chief Don Fortier, Grant County Fire District 3; Cameron Probert, Columbia Basin Herald; Chief Dave Hargroves, Grant County Fire District 8; Chief Tom Taylor, Moses Lake Fire Department; Chief Ken Krebs, Warden Police Department; John Turley, Grant County Sheriff's Office; Mary Allen, Sherri Camacho, Jennie Salinas, Jennifer Kriete, and Dean Hane, MACC.

ELECTION BOARD CHAIR – VICE CHAIR: Chairman Hansen called for nominations. Frank DeTrolio noted the upcoming retirement of Board Member Joe Varick and Board Alternate Ken Krebs. He felt that an election for the MACC Board Chair and Vice Chair should not be held until the new representatives for the Grant County Police Chiefs were in attendance.

Joe Varick moved to table action until such time the Grant County Police Chiefs representatives were chosen. Motion seconded by Frank DeTrolio. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

On behalf of Fire District 3's Board, Chief Don Fortier, commended and extended appreciation to MACC Staff for the informative newsletter sent out about the progress of the emergency communications system. Chief Dave Hargroves voiced additional agreement.

Frank DeTrolio commented that the method used to withdraw from the current Backup PSAP was sleazy and underhanded. He was against spending the money on moving the Backup PSAP and felt

the MACC Board acted irresponsible. Frank challenged the MACC Board position held by Dwight VanderVorste as being one that an EMT, Fire Chief or Fire Commissioner should hold and questioned Dwight's qualifications to hold that chair.

It was noted that the EMS Trauma and Care Council elects the representative for EMS representation on the MACC Board. It was also noted that Dwight is a Fire Commissioner for Fire District 10.

MINUTES: Motion made and seconded to approve minutes of December 11, 2008 meeting. m/s (Gavinski/VanderVorste). Motion passed.

REPORTS

ACTIVITY REPORT: Director Allen provided the December Activity Report.

New employees Charli Dittmann and Gloria Sundblad have begun training.

Review and updating Training Program is being worked on. Trainers scheduled to attend Communications Training Officer program provided by the Washington Criminal Justice Training Commission are Kristi Whitney, Cindy St. Pierre and Justin Rowland. Planning for creation of CTO Program in-house is being worked on.

Supervisors are holding weekly meetings.

Employee recognition celebration held with awards provided for five and ten years of service along with best performance throughout the year. Service awards for five years were presented to Melissa Call, Sarah Stuber and Kristi Whitney. Ten year award to Becky Stokoe. Cindy St. Pierre and Tammy Hewlett for best performance.

Barbara Erichsen, ACCESS TAC for MACC, continues to work on reviewing, revising and creating ACCESS policies to comply with the Washington State Patrol.

Helen Terry has been selected to attend the National Academy of Emergency Dispatching annual conference with Jennifer Kriete. Conference to be held in April at Las Vegas.

Cindy St. Pierre has been selected to attend the National APCO Conference in August at Las Vegas with Supervisor Jennie Salinas and Mary Allen.

Preparation has begun for the installation of the new upgrade to the Spillman server. Written approval from the State E911 Office for this project is pending.

Work continues with the WCIA regarding MACC policy revisions.

Mary also wanted to thank Dean Hane and Jennifer Kriete for the work done on the January newsletter. Over 250 copies were sent out and the newsletter is posted on the MACC website.

FINANCIAL REPRORT: No updates.

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: Dean Hane provided information on notable events over the month of December:

Temporary equipment has been removed from Wahitis.

Bids for the Frenchman site are expected to go out soon.

Work has begun on the Backup PSAP. Construction costs under \$30,000.00.

Discussion held about upcoming decisions to be made regarding radio equipment technology. Fire agencies are reviewing information received from the presentations made over the last few months. However, participation from law agencies is needed in order to make decision that will work for all involved.

Frank DeTrolio questioned how the upgrades to the Backup PSAP are being funded. It was noted that there was \$50,000 budgeted under Project 300 (Emergency Communications) for this project.

Short report from Dan Williams, Pacific Electronics.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GRANT COUNTY ILA: No meeting.

TAC MEETING

No TAC meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

GRANT COUNTY REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST – RICHARD STEVENS: In the absence of Richard Stevens, Grant County BOC, Cindy Carter reported that the \$40,000 requested was based on County dollars spent fixing and tearing the old jail down.

Chairman Hansen voiced several points regarding this issue:

- The MACC Board approved the move of the Backup PSAP to the old jail a year ago in good faith that the project was “free” and the remodel to be completed in a 40 day timeline. He voiced concerns about this project being drug on for a year and questioned the availability of the room now. The last time it was visited, the room was being used for training of County employees.
- Roger asked whether the County was being a good steward of taxpayer money on this remodel which was to have been for MACC when office space is short for County employees?

- With the Grant County Sheriff openly voicing that he is actively seeking alternative dispatching methods putting the MACC Backup PSAP in the old jail would set up the GCSO with means to have their own dispatch center.
- An agreement was not ever in place between MACC and the County for the space which was part of the process agreed to by the MACC Board. An agreement was being worked on but apparently stalled out in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Cindy Carter noted that it would have to be the County that pulled out of MACC, not the Grant County Sheriff's Office.

Frank DeTrolio commented that the County remodeled the old jail to Hane's specifications and it is ready to move equipment in. He continued that the old jail is still ready and a viable Backup PSAP but Hane did not want to move in.

Dean Hane explained that the MACC Board has wanted to upgrade the Backup PSAP for several years and he was directed to find a viable solution. Several locations were researched and a downtown Moses Lake site had been selected and recommended to the MACC Board to proceed in locating the Backup PSAP there. After the Sheriff voiced absolute disagreement, the MACC Board reconsidered and agreed to use the old jail in the Courthouse. After extensive consideration, the MACC Board agreed to the proposal with a 40 day timeline and an agreement in place. The agreement went nowhere and not having an agreement is not good business practice. Several visits to the old jail showed that it was occupied and the project has been in a "holding pattern." In the meantime, the Grant County Sheriff began making plans to pull out of MACC and seek an alternative dispatch. Since the beginning of upgrading and construction of the emergency communications system, the intent has been for MACC to "stand on its own two feet" and not rely on services of others. This concept has played an important part in strategy and executing of the plan. Keeping the Backup PSAP in a high risk area where one of the most important users does not want to be a part of MACC was not a good business decision.

Chief Dave Hargroves voiced concerns about the Board's apparent inability to work for the "common goal." He pointed out that nitpicking and personal attacks seem to be an ongoing problem at Board meetings. He voiced that the Board's duty and responsibility was to act as a body. Chief Hargroves also noted the progress MACC has made in recent years with the hiring of Dean Hane and proceeding with a game plan. Dave felt the User Agencies are confident with MACC and trust is in place.

Frank DeTrolio commented that with the direction MACC is going, he would love for the County Commissioners to withdraw from MACC. He noted that he is looking out for the taxpayers money and the taxpayers are taking a beating with the spending by MACC.

Chief Tom Taylor disagreed that the “taxpayers are taking a beating” and noted that good expenditure decisions have been made. MACC is working within its budget and the taxpayers are the beneficiaries of what MACC has accomplished.

Frank DeTrollo disagreed that the 1/10th of 1% Sales Tax would not pay for all of the radio system which was going to cost \$15 million dollars. Dean replied that the radio system was not going to cost \$15 million dollars and didn’t know where that information was coming from.

Dean Hane explained MACC’s financial position, timeline and financial forecasts. An estimated \$5 million dollars has been budgeted in 2009 for radio equipment to be purchased after the radio sites are constructed. The monies needed to purchase radio equipment may or may not need to be borrowed depending on revenues of the Emergency Communications Sales and Use Tax and 2009 radio site construction costs. Site construction costs had previously been estimated at \$500,000 per site. Actual costs have been well under that estimate and under budget.

Chairman Hansen relayed that he is proud of how much MACC has accomplished in the past couple of years and urged User Agencies to remember the original radio system.

Director Allen stated that five years ago the Grant County Deputy Association presented a “vote of no confidence” letter. Since that time, the 1/10th of 1% Emergency Communications Sales and Use Tax was passed by the voters of Grant County and great improvements have been made to MACC’s emergency communications system which serves MACC’s User Agency first responders and the public. By following the strategic plan, MACC has been able to make great strides while staying within the budget.

Joe Gavinski cautioned that without an agreement, for MACC to reimburse the County the \$40,000 may be considered “gifting”.

Discussion of the \$.50 911 Wireline and Wireless monies was held. Cindy Carter noted that the County Treasurer has advised that documentation for the \$.50 911 tax reporting has not been received. Sherri explained the reporting process for the State E911 Operations Contract that shows all monthly revenues and expenditures that is submitted to the State E911 Office and the Grant County Auditor’s Office each month.

The Interlocal Agreement Committee will work towards completing the agreement with the County Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business Agenda Items.

Tom Taylor reported on the training session coming up in February for fire agencies to take advantage of the push to talk option on radios.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion made to accept the Consent Agenda as presented (See attached). m/s (Gavinski/Thompson) No discussion. Consent agenda passed.

AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 12, 2009 MEETING:

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Sherri Camacho

Administrative Services Manager