



MEETING MINUTES for

Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE May 6, 2020 – Regular Meeting

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee was called to order by Chief Karianne Thomas electronically via telephonic/video conference in accordance with Michigan’s Executive Order 2020-15 due to COVID-19 at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 6, 2020.

ITEM 2 – MODERATOR MEETING STATEMENT

ITEM 3 - ROLL CALL

Members Present: Karianne Thomas (KDPS), Bryan Ergang (KTPD), Angel Ouwinga (MSP), Nicholas Arnold (PDPS), Jeff Christensen (KCSO), Scott Merlo (WMUPD), Gerry Leudecking (KCFCA)

Others Present: Chip Everett, Scott Sanderson, Ryan McGregor, Steve Stryd, Don Benthin, Bill Irwin, Jeff Troyer, Jon Moored, Marty Ftacek, Sarah Clark, Chris McComb

ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- A. April 1, 2020 – Regular Meeting
- B. April 9, 2020 – Special Meeting

“Motion by Mr. Ergang, second by Mr. Arnold to approve the April 1, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes and the April 9, 2020 Special Meeting as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6, No – 0, No response – 1. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ITEM 5 - CITIZEN’S TIME

There was none.

ITEM 6 – FOR CONSIDERATION

- A. Administrative Monthly Report

Mr. Troyer provided a summary of the monthly report. He thanked the agencies for bearing with the dispatchers on Tuesdays when they move to the backup area so the center can be cleaned. Marketing Resource Group will be reaching out to agencies to ask for support for dispatch to use in advertising. The April statistics are included and the numbers are significantly lower. It will start picking back up as weather gets nicer. He noted the wait time report for 911 call answering shows how quickly calls are being answered, with 98% in 15 seconds or less and 99% in 20 seconds or less.

B. Old Business

1. Update – CAD EMS Agency Buildout

Mr. Troyer stated staff has been working with Tyler, but it has been a struggle. There aren't many configurations that can be made on the alert side so that is holding us up. We continue to work with Tyler on it.

Mr. Ftacek stated he spoke with a Tyler specialist this morning and he observed the problem. Everything is configured correctly so he will forward everything to the web CADViewer to troubleshoot.

C. New Business

1. COOP Plan Levels

Mr. Troyer stated dispatch is continuing to work at Level 2. We anticipate rolling that back starting May 18 and we will begin staffing LEIN primarily in busier hours, everything except between 3:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. As things start ramping back up, that's our plan. If anything changes, we will let everyone know.

2. MPSCS Expansion in Kalamazoo County

Mr. Troyer stated due to the pandemic, the testing that this committee authorized us to do for the Station 6 tower site has not been completed. Nothing we will see today will move forward unless testing is successful. We will start coordinating those efforts with KDPS on May 18. It is important to start associating budgetary numbers to a county-wide public safety communications system as requested by the Committee. Today, we will review the existing coverage and several proposed new sites. The proposal is for new towers at WMU and along 131 in south Portage, a leased SBA Tower on the south side of W. Main in Oshtemo and the Village of Augusta water tower. There is no way for us to expand the system and add more than one site without simulcasting the system.

Ms. Thomas confirmed that this is just computer modeling at this point.

Mr. Troyer stated that it is just computer modeling and there is still a lot of work to be done. What is shown will be 90 – 95% accurate when implemented. Computer generated models are much better than they were 10 years ago and they do account for over urban building densities and rural areas. However, it will not account for various types of building construction materials. Troyer used an example of a building composed of mostly concrete and rebar versus wood. The buildings and areas that are a concern for KDPS and WMU need to be identified so testing can be completed.

Mr. Arnold inquired what concerns there are with going to simulcast.

Mr. Troyer stated that KCCDA has no concern with going to simulcast. The concern was voiced by the agencies because they said they would not be able to travel outside the county and still hear their home talkgroup. Home talk groups will work in adjacent counties but once you get more than one county away, the coverage will decline. Motorola originally provided a quote to expand coverage in the City of Portage. Administration worked with them to go back and look at the county-wide picture to give us some budgetary numbers for it. He would like to have the numbers as we move forward because the millage proposal includes a request for funds to build out the county-wide communications system. We need to have the financial information so we can answer residents' questions on what the money is intended for. In the event we do testing downtown from site 5106 and we are unable to move the site

due to poor test results, we will still have to replace the tower. We will work with agencies to test areas and buildings of concern. He noted that we cannot expect to have 100% in-building coverage from the system; it is impossible. If we can identify the buildings though, we can possibly use BDA's to assist with coverage.

D. Other Items

1. Member Comments

Mr. Leudecking inquired about the outage of the VHS system and how the ring system was going to be corrected.

Mr. Troyer stated we have been working with Roe Comm on the ring network. He stated they went into detail about this at the Fire Comm Ops meeting held on April 23rd. Changes have been made to the network and we haven't experienced any issues since. There is an unrelated issue that we are trying to troubleshoot as well at one of the sites but we have to wait for the issue to occur and techs have to be on site to visually see what is occurring before drawing a conclusion.

Mr. Ftacek stated that Roe Comm believes the problem is solved but until we get another high wind day and it occurs, we cannot be certain. They found an issue that they believe was the problem.

2. Next Meeting

The next Technical Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Chief Switalski Meeting Room.

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55.