

RENSSELAER COUNTY RADIO COMMITTEE

- ** Rensselaer County Public Safety Building, 4000 Main Street, Troy, New York 12180 518 270-4160 **
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REPRESENTING RENSSELAER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS AND AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

Mark Lacivita, Chairman Dave Jordan, Co-Chairman/Secretary

Web site: <http://sites.google.com/site/rensselaercountycommunications/home>

Radio Committee Meeting: Held at Clinton Heights FD, (Station 8) Bruen Hose Co, Station One, on February 21, 2018

Attendance: D Basle (*Batt 3*), A Manchester (*EMS-BPS*), J Lacivita (East Greenbush Chiefs), R McClave (*Batt 5*), T Grant (*Co Legislature*), T Stewart (*RACES - BPS*), B Stewart (*Batt 3*), R Mohan (*Wells Comm*), P Glasser (*BPS*), R Davis (*BPS*), D Valyou (*Batt 1*), B Gummer (*BPS*), K Allen (*EMS*), J Thomas (*BPS*), R McClave (*Batt 5*), J Vandenburgh (*HVCC*), M. Hubbs (*Batt 2*), M Lacivita (*Chairman – Batt 3*), D Jordan (*EMS/co-chairman*).

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Lacivita, at 1904.

1.) Reports

Director BPS – Ray Davis was expected to be late.

Deputy Director –

Communications Coordinator – No report.

Fire Coordinator – No report.

EMS Coordinator – No report.

Policy & Procedures – There are some proposed items, will be later discussed at this meeting.

Law Enforcement – No report.

Highway – No report.

RACES – No report.

2.) Update/Status reports / Ongoing Issues

- Appointments to the Radio Committee –List of names be submitted to the County Legislature. I Wagar had submitted names for Battalions, noting vacancies exist in Battalions 2 and 4. EMS reps will be Kathy Allen and Lee Crosier.
- First Net – This was discussed some time ago with David Cook. It is a federal program to provide data services to emergency response agencies. It is primary for Fire/EMS agencies and secondary to local government agencies. AT&T is the service provider; A briefing on this will be conducted at the Defreestville Fire Station on Tuesday, March 13 at 1300 and again at 1900 hours.

- Warranty info – had been sent out on the radio and pagers to all agencies. A sub-account can be sent up thru Motorola for agencies. The pager warranty has been extended thru September 2019. The mobile and portable radio warranty is not effective until “system acceptance.”
- Radio Training - Will still be available for agencies needing additional/refresher classes, All training must be done by county instructors. Per OFPC, this training will be provided to new firefighters as part of the Fire Communications class session, and will include a tour of the 911 facility. This has been discussed with D Lammerts for the EMS training.
- UID list - some agencies still need to file with BPS. This list provides the unit assignment of the radio. (For use when the emergency distress button is activated, this will define not only the radio’s UID but the specific unit the radio is assigned to.)
- Mobile installations continue to be done by Wells Communications with a plan in to have them completed by March 31.
- Blue Wing is reviewing the EF Johnson Ascend portable radio for use on the new system. Because of the age of these radios it is not likely that these radios will be certified. Nothing will be approved until after the Motorola acceptance.
- R Davis arrived and provided a general update on BPS activities
- 911 Center Update – Working the remaining minor items on the punch list.
- Tri-Tech –
 - o Working on resolution of outstanding items with Albany and Saratoga Counties
 - o Will probably going to stop assigning separate incident numbers to both fire and EMS agencies;
 - o Addressing to include cross streets – email any issues to report, trying to keep things basic before adding on to system.
 - o Currently working thru some RMS (Records Management) issues, and permission for Supervisory editing (Tri-Tech).
- IAR (I Am Responding) – some changes need to be addressed. Still doing some testing with some agencies.
- VHF Paging – No new problems reported. The reception issue in Stephentown seems to be resolved. Equipment and Hardware are functionally properly (verified). Any problems please contact J Burt or P Glasser at the Bureau.
- 800 system Update – Some isolated areas had some complaints, but good with coverage areas. The mobile radios may resolve this.
- Remedial Radio training – will do more of this after the radio acceptance is completed.
- Still plan to meet with Bennington County (VT).
- SICG 2017 Grant Award \$750,000.00- Working to identify interoperability options with Albany and Saratoga county
- There was some discussion with Troy Fire Dept, who are looking to upgrade their communications. Blue Wing and Motorola will provide guidance and Blue Wing will do a coverage needs analysis.

- Auditors looking at the VHF Pager Grant – wanted to know who has all the pagers. The inventory distribution list serves as the documentation. (all agencies using all pagers) Agencies should get their list up to date; memo will be sent out by the Bureau.
- There are now monthly meetings with Motorola customer service rep.

3) **Other Items:**

- Law enforcement radios – There is an extended warranty on the Harris. First year costs to be covered by Rensselaer County
- The Bureau's Web Page is being updated by the County IT Bureau
- Law enforcement agencies have been testing the Harris radios using the Motorola system. Two radios per agency have been set up for testing.
- There were 46 mobile radios exchanged for more portables and accessories, such as batteries, speaker mics, etc)
- Helicopter communications the use of VHF (155.715) will be tested and a policy drawn up. It is programmed at various towers. There will be a designated talk-group which will be connected by dispatch to .715.
- Decommissioning of Johnson System – After all the mobiles have been installed, (April) Wells Communications will be doing the de-programming, and then get the equipment off the tower sites.
- Alert Tones – the use of pre-programmed alert will be coming back soon.

Policy & Procedures

After some comments and requests, a number of the programming and profile changes will be considered. Further information will follow after final approval.

Meeting concluded at 2040

4.) Meeting Schedule

Next Radio Committee meeting – April 18 - at Pittstown Vol Emergency Corps (Station 57)

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Jordan Co-Chairman, Secretary