

RENSELAER COUNTY RADIO COMMITTEE

- ** Rensselaer County Public Safety Building, 4000 Main Street, Troy, New York 12180 518 270-4160 **
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REPRESENTING RENSELAER 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 Pittstown Volunteer Emergency Corps, (Station 57) on April 18, 2018

Attendance: D Basle (*Batt 3*), A Manchester (*EMS-BPS*), R McClave (*Batt 5*), T Tessman (*Co Legislature*), T Stewart (*RACES - BPS*), R Mohan (*Wells Comm*), P Glasser (*BPS*), J Thomas (*BPS*), D Valyou (*Batt 1*), J Burt (*BPS*), K Allen (*EMS*) I Wager (*BPS*), J Hohn (*Batt 5*), J Adams (*Wells Comm*), M Hubbs (*Batt 2*), J Coon (*Hoosick Falls FD*), C Coon (*Hoosick Falls FD*), R Hunt (*Hoosick FD*), B Patiere (*Hoosick Falls FD*), J McAuleko (*Hoosick Falls FD*), T J Spallane (*Hoags Corners FD & Amb*), J Baker (*West Hoosick FD*), G Fox (*North Hoosick FD*), A Bornt (*North Hoosick FD*), J Lacivita (*East Greenbush chiefs*), L Funk (*Speigletown FD*), D Cook (*FirstNet*) T Senecal (*Hoosick FD*), B Cassidy Jr. (*Schodack chiefs*), S Kelly (*Schodack chiefs*), K Ryan (*Motorola*), C Grant (*Batt 5*), J Harris (*Batt 2*), E Coburn (*Tsatsawassa FD*), G Morin (*West Hoosick FD*), W Weeden (*Batt 1*), J LeBarron (*Pittstown FD & EMS*), W Rifenburg (*Hoosick*), M Lacivita (*Chairman*), D Jordan (*co-chairman*).

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Lacivita, at 1900.

1.) Reports

Communications Coordinator – No report, but will speak on items thru the meeting.

Fire Coordinator – No report.

EMS Coordinator – No report.

Policy & Procedures – There are some proposed items, will be appointing a new work group; looking for volunteers at this meeting.

Law Enforcement – No report.

Highway – No report.

RACES – No report.

2.) Update/Status reports / Ongoing Issues

- A list of appointments to the radio committee approved by the County Legislature was distributed. All appointments are for a four year term. Jason Harris has resigned due to his activity level, and I Wager will check on a Battalion Two replacement.
- 911 Center – Work is all done, just one issue with a door,
- Tri-Tech – Project with Albany and Saratoga County – there are issues with programming. Meeting planned to restructure data. There is a “governance board” which consist of two persons from each county.
- IAR is all complete, will be entered once all is ready with TriTech (Formatting issue). It was noted that currently the IAR uses a Gmail address from the Bureau. The Alpha-Page system is old but still in use, the IAR is what the majority of agencies are using. There are still some ‘Rip and Run’ issues to work out and some additional details to finalize and will be contacting agencies.
- 911 Phone system – doing some upgrades, but we have not had a problem with the phone system;
- 800 Project – is moving along with no major issues. Mobile installations are almost complete. Some single installs to be finished up. The agency sign-offs will be next; installation documents by WCS for Motorola and then MOU for County. (Turns equipment over to agencies ownership).
- The Preventive Maintenance will be the same cycle, but not needed for 2018.

- Training – Glen Myers was appointed to the radio committee for training. The BEFO Class will include radio training, and we will be developing a training program for EMS later, working out some details with Debbie Lammerts.
- Radio Profiles – Discussed, Some changes were approved (See Update of 4/11), Only one was tabled for further discussion. There will be some programming to change. The Fire/EMS positions (primary-tac will be an agency decision) Quick Select end settings need to continue to be the same – county dispatch and Countywide. Scan no more than FIVE channels (5 is optimum number). Fire dispatch available to EMS; EMS dispatch available to Fire, was approved. It was mentioned that portables can be programmed one way and mobiles another. Other points of discussion included the mobiles can scan off-hook, and they don't go "home" when booting up. The portables have Blue-Tooth capabilities; one department is testing this feature with SCBA. All items will be reviewed at a Policy and Procedures meeting to be scheduled.
- Decommissioning of old equipment – It was mentioned that as of 4/2/18, the Johnson system was turned off, and the old equipment is being removed from all the tower sites. Hoosick and PSB in Troy have been done so far; all sites expected to be completed in two weeks.
- It was noted that 8/30/18 is the cut-off date for installations to be completed and paid for by the project
- VHF Paging – Have addressed some low volume technical issues and some issues at the ECC. (Such as simulcasting, etc.) Please contact Paul Glasser for any paging issues. Pager programming settings may be a problem lengthy dispatch messages, such as multi-agency dispatches.
- Interoperability – Still have to meet with Bennington; Columbia County has asked for a meeting, have an interest in use of a tower site to the north. Washington County – to discuss the link/patch between other counties. Upcoming Meeting with Albany County.
- First Net – We had a briefing on 3/13. 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.
- The Bureau's web page has been updated for Public Safety. Box alarms are on the webpage, additional changes being made

3). Other items:

- It was mentioned that information that was presented by the Warren County Fire Coordinator Brain LeFleur concerning intentional blocking of radio signal interference exist, and can include GPS as well as radio spectrum Interference.
- Pager audits – DCJS is conducting an audit on the grant we had received for the pager purchasing. Agencies need to conduct a check of their inventory (Serial numbers and count) to account for all pagers received.
- Radio Training - It was noted that Wes Weeden had done the radio training for the Easton FD.
- Law Enforcement Group – The police users group reporting now on the use of Harris radios on the 800 radio system. The proposed fleet map will be reviewed and finalized. It will be designed for simple use and interoperability.
- Rensselaer City 800 – FD Harris and Motorola radios will be programmed with County Fleet, RFD will have their own talk group;
- Town of Hoosick fire departments have presented some concerns, and functional operation concerns (such as command has to use 2 radios). There was a discussion and some of this will be addressed by the policy and procedure group.
- Some highlights from this discussion: Grid testing that was completed did not count out of county locations. When testing was done, tiles that failed were tested again later from that spot. Portable coverage is 98%.
- The problems with scanning of trunked channel and conventional channel discussed.
- The warranty period is three (3) years after system acceptance.
- Fleet map – There are 3 channels to use for incidents; Zone 2 or 3 doesn't scan,
- Other discussion items – Box Alarms – what info to provide... Recommendations – not unit specific

- Cover assignments requested through the Incident Commander – Policy is NIMS compliant and follow ICS protocols, such as Single point ordering and resource management under the control of the incident commander. The policy states “when practical”.
- Dispatch sequence – Use of Alert tones – under discussion, may be changing soon. CFOG needs some updates tracking changes, updates are being sent out.
- Please report any problems or signal issues.
- Incident location name – ECC will use whatever the incident commander calls it.
- Once agencies sign off on the MOU; they are expected to follow CFOG procedure.
- The Policy & Procedure group will meet before the next committee meeting.

Meeting concluded at 2134

4.) Meeting Schedule

Our next Radio Committee meeting – 6/20/18 – Defreestville
Policy and Procedures Work Group- 5/23/18 - Defreestville
Other meeting dates are: 8/15, 10/17, and 12/19

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Jordan

Co-Chairman, Secretary