

## RENSELAEER COUNTY RADIO COMMITTEE

- \*\* Rensselaer County Public Safety Building, 4000 Main Street, Troy, New York 12180 518 270-4160 \*\*
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REPRESENTING RENSELAEER 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 the Defreestville FD (S/9) on December 19, 2018

**Attendance:** D Basle (*Batt 3*), S Kelly (*Schodack chiefs*), P Glasser (*BPS*), J Wilson (*BPS*), J Burt (*BPS*), K Allen (*EMS-BPS*), W Weeden (*Batt 1*), J Lacivita (*East Greenbush chiefs*), B Stewart (*Batt 3*), B Cassidy Jr. (*Schodack chiefs*), T Grant (*Co Legislature*), I Wager (*BPS*), G Myers (*BPS - training*), T Stewart (*BPS*), M Lacivita (*Chairman*), D Jordan (*co-chairman*).

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

### 1.) Reports

Director BPS/ Wilson – Thanked the radio committee; remember to keep things positive, and not negative as were some recent emails. Any problems we will address them. He wished everyone a great holiday.

Deputy Director/Glasser – No report, will comment as we go thru the agenda  
Communications Center Supervisor/Burt – No report..

Fire Coordinator – Radio training requests, s/26 and Battalion 4, waiting for a response.

EMS Coordinator – Not present – no report

Policy & Procedures – No report.

Law Enforcement – There was a meeting earlier today, individual police agencies moving over to the county system for testing on their own. There are some coverage issues, and doing some programming. Some state agencies are included (NYS Parks, EnCon., etc).

Highway – No report; no representative.

RACES – No report; need to get with Wells Communications

### 2.) Update/Status reports / Ongoing Issues

- Did some recent testing of the Albany system in our county, specifically in the city of Rensselaer. It performed well on “Metro Cell”, which covers from Port of Albany to Cohoes. It was even tried in the elevators of Van Rensselaer Heights and Renwyck Apartments, and in the school.
- Tri-Tech and CAD – I Am Responding (IAR), is all loaded, will be coming off of the alpha page system. Per P Glasser, received a few complaints, and making changes. CAD info is good and being sent out; doing some data entry work for cross streets. Have met with Albany County and response plans/box alarms have been set up (Response plans of Troy FD). The only different consideration is the dynamic

plan recommends units, where our plan should do departments for fire and ems agencies. The midnight shift has been tasked with these. Working with Albany to get calls back and forth. The text messages will work with IAR messages.

- Re-dispatches require resending the message, w/o creating another CAD call.
- Final Acceptance of the Motorola system was made ten (10) days ago. (12/07/18)  
The system has met the specs. This is the end of the Motorola installation/implementation project.
- BPS have four (4) interns from U Albany College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity, ten (10) hours per week for fourteen weeks.
- Radio warranties – There is info / instructions printed on the website. For mobile repairs that are going in for warranty work Wells will swap out the radio to be repaired. Pager warranty is good thru 12/30/19. V-tronic receivers (Station siren units) are covered by the county. Please note that this coverage is provided during business hours, week days. Anything else (nights/weekends) will be at each departments expense. Departments should be budgeting for annual preventive maintenance and for repairs after warranty expires.
- It was mentioned that maintenance (PM) has recently been completed on all system equipment.
- Coverage Issues – two areas were mentioned as issues with coverage, in Schodack and town of Hoosick. Bureau staff will be checking further into this. It's proposed that Blue Wing perform some additional coverage testing in the areas with known issues. It was mentioned that the testing was done two years ago.
- A discussion of “Distributive Antennae Systems” where it was mentioned that local emergency services should consider their communication needs when being involved in site plan process. The local Planning Boards (towns, villages, etc) should be involved. A recent article about this, by the fire coordinator of Warren County, was in the Size UP magazine.
- Johnson radio equipment is “surplus” , has no value and departments can dispose of their old inventory.
- Conventional channel scanning – adding to the scan list in your radio will create issues even with the upcoming Motorola software release The Bureau's position is that it remains not recommending it.
- Policy compliance – still some issues, attempting to resolve.
- The website will have a “frequently asked questions” section which relates to warranty, CFOG compliance, talk group use, Fail Safe program, interoperability, incessant talking, and storm damage.
- There are also standards describing the use of, or definition of signals: 10,20, etc.
- Field Inventory – will be tasked to the interns to complete. Please pass the word at battalion meetings, many departments need to update their equipment list
- Interoperability – have met with all neighboring (Bordering) agencies; Washington county has had their training, and Wells Communications will be installing equipment in Washington and Columbia County. We are purchasing twenty-five (25) VHF portables on Columbia county frequencies using grant funds.
- OIEC grant award for further interoperability is expected soon
- A console patch with Albany County and Rensselaer County is in place, this will help with city fire mutual aid.

- Talk groups on Albany County system, it was noted that their system has tower sites in our county (RPI tower), and at Alfred Smith Building, Albany. Testing is planned at various locations in East and North Greenbush. It was also noted that Mechanicville is using our system for communications to the Saratoga County 911 Center.
- Training – G Myers will be doing training to the BEFO class of firefighters, no word yet from EMS doing the radio training as part of the EMT training.
- Radio Room tours – encouraged, groups should contact P Glasser to arrange scheduling, he will try to accommodate..

### **3). Other Items**

#### **Meeting Schedule for 2019**

Discussion on changing our meeting schedule to quarterly; and updates and other information will be distributed out as needed. It was decided to hold meetings quarterly, following the February meeting.

Our next Radio Committee meeting –

February 20, 2019 at the Public Safety Building

Adjournment – Meeting concluded at 2008.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Dave Jordan*  
Co-Chairman, Secretary