

Rensselaer County Radio Communications Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2019 @ PSB

In attendance: M. Lacivita, Chair; D. Jordan, Clinton Heights FD; J. Lacivita, East Greenbush FD; Paul Glasser, Deputy Director BPS; J. Adams, Wells Communication; T. Stewart, RACES; M. Shanahan, RACES; M. Hubbs, Batt.2; J. Thomas, BPS; D. Valyou, Batt. 1; T. Grant, Rensselaer Co Legislature; R. McClave, Batt. 5; K. Allen, EMS 2; R. Isby, Rensselaer Co. Technical Advisor; D. Basle, Batt. 3; W. Stewart, Batt 3.

1) Reports

- a. Director – no report
- b. Deputy Director – no report; will comment on topics
- c. Communications Center Supervisor – no report
- d. Law Enforcement
 - i. While progress is being made on the transition from VHF digital to the 800 system, it is slow going: may be completed within the next 2-3 months. Additional equipment installations in progress at COMSEC, East Greenbush, Schodack and Rensselaer PD's
- e. RACES – no report

2) Update / Status Reports / Ongoing Issues

- a. TriTech CAD
 - i. U Albany Student Interns have been entering the necessary data to move this project along
- b. Box Alarms – Response Plans
 - i. Two communications supervisors are receiving training from TriTech for programming Box Alarms
 - ii. The polygon mapping aspect will be delayed until the training has been completed.
- c. Field Ops Software
 - i. Field Ops application “CAD in Car” – when completed this will be rolled out over a 2-3 week timeframe and involve the use of Ipads/Tablets/Smart Phones
 - ii. The County has 250 licenses for this software
 - iii. Troy Fire may be the first to be online in Rensselaer County
 - iv. Saratoga County is online

Rensselaer County Radio Communications Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2019 @ PSB

- d. I Am Responding (IaR) / Text Messaging
 - i. The current issue regarding 2nd messages for the same call is acknowledged.
 - ii. Correction of the issue requires a manual entry of all members in every department, an effort that is approximately 75% completed.
 - iii. Once all entries have been made, greater clarity on second dispatch messages should be achieved.

- e. 800 System Update
 - i. Final Paperwork – BPS has been using an U Albany Student intern to comb through all County files and scanning them.
 - 1. Emails will be sent to the respective chiefs to verify the information which is to be collected by the battalion coordinators
 - ii. Coverage Issues – Blue Wing Contract
 - 1. The contract has been approved but not yet signed.
 - 2. The terms include a coverage analysis of known deficient areas which is targeted for completion in May.
 - iii. Policy Compliance
 - 1. Each agency will need to sign the MOU, compliance will be mandatory and enforcement will follow.
 - 2. The use of unauthorized radio IDs was again raised; the need to follow established standards was stressed
 - a. This is especially important to the identification of radio assignments during emergency situations
 - b. The matter will be addressed by BPS.
 - iv. Training -New and Refresher
 - 1. Reminder was made of the importance of radio use training and that classes can be adjusted to meet the needs of a given department; three refresher levels are available.
 - 2. Original classes are part of BEFO and EMS classes.
 - v. Law Enforcement – no report
 - vi. NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code
 - 1. New Construction-Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS)
 - a. Involvement of emergency services in new building plan/project approvals is required.
 - b. All departments should be mindful of the inclusion of DAS with any new construction projects in their

Rensselaer County Radio Communications Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2019 @ PSB

- jurisdictions to help assure emergency radios will work indoors.
 - c. Various design options are available from basic to advanced.
 - d. There is a testing process to determine the need for and nature of a DAS based in part on building construction and physical relationship to a tower.
 - e. If emergency services are not involved up front and a project is given the green light following a municipality's planning process, then it is too late to accomplish.
 - f. Next month the County Planning Director will be meeting with building officials from the several towns and will inform them of this.
- vii. Field Inventory
- 1. This project, which will be assigned to an intern, has not yet started; it will be detailed in nature.
- viii. Interoperability
- 1. BPS and Wells will be meeting with all counties involved (Bennington, Berkshire, Columbia & Washington) but will not be completed by April 1.
 - 2. Washington & Warren seeking microwave connection.
- ix. EMS Agencies Out-of-County
- 1. Radios for Waterford, Clifton Park-Halfmoon and Valatie are being programmed
 - 2. North Bethlehem FD for rehab response
 - 3. Waterford on hold given passing of Ops Chief Swart
- x. Albany/Rensselaer/Saratoga Counties
- 1. Waiting on DHSES-OIEC Targeted Grant Announcement
- xi. Policy Inquiry – EMS Agencies
- 1. An inquiry was received regarding the use of "10" codes for emergency situations where clear-speech transactions might not be possible.
 - 2. It was noted that procedures designed specifically to address such situations are detailed in Sections 14.17.1, 14.17.2 and 18.4.1 of the Field Operations Guide.

Rensselaer County Radio Communications Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2019 @ PSB

3) Other Items

a. Spare Portable Radios

- i. BPS noted that it has a limited supply of extra portable units which are made available according to the number of "Scott seats" in each apparatus plus 10%, and up to 3 chief units per agency.
- ii. Requests will be accommodated as best as possible, within reason.

b. Mutual Aid Responses

- i. It was noted that the Mutual Aid response communications policy is not being followed by identified agencies.
- ii. This causes confusion and can result in unwanted safety situations.
- iii. The matter will be addressed by BPS.

c. New Committee Member

- i. It was announced that Bob Isby, a member of RACES and the FCC Region 30 Committee will serve as a non-voting member of the County Radio Committee

d. Recognition of Service

- i. Dave Jordan was recognized and thanked for his 12 years of service as the secretgary to the Radio Committee.
- ii. He will remain a member and co-chair of the Committee.
- iii. Bill Stewart, Batt 3 representative, will serve as secretary.

4) Meeting Schedule for 2019

- a. Next Meeting = JUNE 19 @ PSB
- b. Topics to include FirstNet update from Dave Cook