

# Rensselaer County Radio Communications Committee

## Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2021 via Zoom

In attendance: M. Lacivita, Chair; D. Jordan, Co-Chair; J. Wilson, BPS; P. Glasser, BPS; M. Ciprioni, BPS; G. Myers, BPS; B. Mohan, Wells Communication; R. McClave, Batt. 5; D. Basle, Batt. 3; W. Stewart, Batt 3-Secretary; S. Kelly, Schodack Chiefs; K. Dott, Batt 7; T. Grant, Rensselaer Co. Legislature; R. Isby, Renss. Co. Tech Advisor; K. Allen, EMS 2; D. Valyou, Batt 1; M. Shanahan, RACES; J. Hohn, Batt 5;

Public Attendees: E. Heffern, West Sand Lake FD; B. Teal, Poestenkill FD; S. Willson, Brunswick FD #1; David Cook, FirstNet; John Hudson; Hoosick Falls PD; B. Cassidy, Schodack Valley FD

### 1) Reports

#### a. Director

- i. Welcome to all present; looking to include department representatives in future meetings via Zoom
- ii. Covid-19
  1. County has been conducting testing four days per week at Van Rensselaer Manor
  2. County has established a public vaccination site at HVCC; awaiting supply of vaccines
  3. All departments are encouraged to submit a list of personnel who need the vaccine.
  4. Reminder to all who have been vaccinated to carry the official record of vaccination with them.
- iii. Training Facility
  1. A geo-map of the creek has been completed as requested by DEC.
  2. Approximately 75% of building materials are on site.
  3. BEFO class is being held by Zoom at this point with all classroom material being front loaded; practical evolutions to be held in person as weather and OFPC Covid guidelines permit.

b. Deputy Director – will comment on items as they are addressed

c. Fire Coordinator – will comment on items as they are addressed

d. EMS Coordinator – no report, absent

e. Law Enforcement – no report, absent

f. Highway – no report, absent

#### g. RACES

- i. Thanks offered for equipment to establish a repeater location and to Mohan & Isby for their help in getting it operational
- ii. RACES currently working with the Red Cross

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- iii. Asked if there is a need in the CFOG for a section on RACES serving as a back-up

### 2) Update / Status Reports / Ongoing Issues

#### a. NYSTEC

- i. Contract has been approved by the Legislature, awaiting signature.
- b. Will be applying data in a multi-layered approach to address known areas of defficiency (Johnsonville, N.Greenbush-Main Ave, Hoosick-Rt 7, Nassau Village, Berkshire Connector)

#### c. Mobiles/Portables/Control Stations

- i. Reminder that this is the year for mobiles & control stations to receive required auto-tune preventive maintenance.
- ii. This is performed by Wells at each station on an hourly-basis cost.
- iii. If future issues with a given unit arise and there is no record of this service having been performed the individual districts/departments may bear a high cost.
- iv. Last year this maintenance should have been performed on portable units; records from multiple FD and EMS agencies have not been received.

#### d. TriTech CAD

- i. Current focus is on entering box alarms.
- ii. This is a meticulous process that takes time and agencies should not expect that data provided will be online “immediately” in the system; BPS will work with every agency to assure data entry is performed accurately.
- iii. Field Ops Software (In Vehicle) has been operational at Troy FD; roll-out to other agencies could begin in second quarter.

#### e. I Am Responding (IaR) / Text Messaging

- i. Making progress on enabling entry of call-taker comments to supplement the system standard notations.
- ii. Looking at ways to improve Covid-19 related information via IaR.
- iii. Will be adding specialized unit (i.e. K-9, rescue boats) information for access in the field.
- iv. Looking into the connection for “Audio Incidents” which will broadcast VHF Paging Dispatch transmissions

#### f. 800 System Update

- i. We are midway in the 10-year contract and a major upgrade in system software is anticipated to take place in March.

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- ii. There should be minimal impact on daily operations as this upgrade is performed and all agencies will be advised when this firmware is being installed.
  - iii. BPS does have some additional 800 equipment available to agencies upon written request; currently no spare portables are available.
- g. Policy Compliance/Radio Training
  - i. All agencies are strongly encouraged to arrange for a radio training to maintain the agency & personnel as authorized users; classes can be delivered via Zoom and can be done on a department or batallion basis. This refresher class is a 3 year requirement
  - ii. Initial radio training is being incorporated into BEFO classes.
  - iii. All training must be provided by an authorized County trainer; training by anyone else does not qualify under the Policy.
  - iv. Individual agency compliance issues will be discussed with the chief officer prior to that agency's training session.
  - v. Training on the use of Zones & TAC channels is seen as a need, including the assignment and use of Primary and Overflow Zones.
  - vi. Patching to helicopters via use of 800 is working well; use of VTAC14 is the preferred pathway.
  - vii. An explanation of auto-system isolation & bypass due to an element failure was explained.
- h. CFOG Updates – none
- i. NYSOIEC Grant – due to Covid-related budget issues at the state level no 2020 funds have been released; Awaiting guidance for 2021.
- j. Field Inventory
  - i. Working on a data collection form for compiling information from agencies on available specialty services/equipment that can be added for rapid field access.
- k. Interoperability Status Update
  - i. The following agencies are online: Bennington PD; Washington County; Columbia County; Berkshire County.
  - ii. A question was asked by Hoosick Falls PD regarding potential for interoperability.
  - iii. Conversations continue among Hemstreet Park, Waterford and Halfmoon-Clifton Park.

### 3) Next Meeting – To Be Determined (April or May) By Zoom

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Minutes recorded by William Stewart, Secretary