

Rensselaer County Radio Communications Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2021 @ BPS & Zoom

In attendance: (In Person) M. Lacivita, Chair; D. Jordan, Co-Chair; P. Glasser, BPS; J. Mainello, BPS; J. Lacivita, East Greenbush FD; B. Mohan, Wells Communication; M. Hubbs, Batt. 2; D. Valyou, Batt. 1; D. Basle, Batt. 3; W. Stewart, Batt 3/Secretary; M. Shanhan, RACES; S. Kelly, Schodack Chiefs; (Via Zoom) J. Thomas, BPS; M. Sheline, Hoosick Valley; G. Meyers, BPS; J. Hudson, HFPD; R. Parker, Empire EMS; S. Wilson, Brunswick #1

1) Reports

- a. Director – absent, on fire scene.
- b. Deputy Director – no report, will comment on items
- c. Communications Center Supervisor – no report
- d. Law Enforcement – no report, absent
- e. Highway – no report, absent
- f. RACES
 - i. Work with the Red Cross continues.
 - ii. New Repeater site in Castleton is helpful

2) Update / Status Reports / Ongoing Issues

- a. Recent Coverage Inquiries
 - i. A complete review of the existing raw data on problem areas which involved a multi-layer analysis was conducted.
 - ii. The Director received a full report; an executive summary was sent to the County Executive.
 - iii. Reports affirmed existing knowledge and include a mix of expensive and less costly potential solutions.
 - iv. Awaiting response from County Executive
- b. Highway Portables - All portables have been distributed
- c. Policy Work Group - No activity
- d. Mobiles/Portables/Control Stations
 - i. Members were reminded to encourage departments/agencies to arrange for auto tune work on portables and control stations..
 1. Regular maintenance is critical to maintain radio system integrity.
 - ii. The warranty on portables expires on 11/30/21
 - iii. The Deputy Director summarized the existing policy on responses by BPS to requests for additional radios.
 - iv. P&P issues are being addresses with violators

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Meeting Minutes

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- v. Additional mobiles are available for apparatus; requests should be sent to the Deputy Director; arranging for programming and installation is the responsibility of individual departments/districts.
- e. TriTech CAD
 - i. Box alarms
 - 1. These continue to be entered. The process requires meticulous detail; not all data was provided in a common format and the information needs to be loaded into the system according to a single format to be efficient and effective.
 - ii. Field Ops
 - 1. A limited set of software licenses are currently available.
 - 2. When operational it will be a tool similar to real-time CAD information and include background information on special need situations (e.g., hazards) and will help reduce radio traffic.
- f. I Am Responding (IaR) / Text Messaging
 - i. Progress continues on enabling call-taker comments to supplement system standard notations.
 - ii. A grant application has been submitted to assist in the cost of refinements.
 - iii. Working on incorporating audio two-tone into IAR.
 - iv. All were reminded that IaR is secondary to minitors as the primary dispatching system.
- g. 800 System Update
 - i. The major software upgrade planned for the spring has been delayed for up to 12 months; it was determined that the existing logging recorder is not compatible with the updated software and a new recorder will have to be ordered.
- h. NYSOIEC Grants
 - i. Some funding dollars are beginning to flow in.
 - ii. A shared core project with Albany is in planning to provide limited issues involving NGPD, RPD and TPD.
- i. Field Inventory
 - i. Awaiting intern availability.; interviews are being conducted.
 - ii. As of this meeting only 13 of 41 FDs and none of the EMS agencies have replied to the inventory request.

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- j. Interoperability Status Update
 - i. Washington County & Columbia County will be on separate talk groups.
 - ii. Still waiting on Saratoga County to program its radios for Rensselaer County use.
- k. Other Items
 - i. A change in the use of TAC 7 for (31. Rensselaer City Mutual Aid Communications Protocol) was presented and discussed. The Rensselaer FD UHF Frequency 1 will be patched to TAC 7 whenever Mutual Aid is dispatched to Rensselaer.
 - ii. Motion made by D. Valyou, seconded by S. Kelly to approve and pass on to BPS; all in favor: passed

Next Meeting – September 15, 2021 Location TBD