

Rensselaer County Radio Communications Committee
Meeting Minutes August 16, 2023 Pittstown Fire Station

In attendance: M. Lacivita, Chair: J. Thomas, BPS; J. Lacivita, EGB; A. Haley, Batt 5; D. Valyou, Batt 1; D. Basle, Batt 3; S. Kelly, Schodack Chiefs: M. Hubbs Batt 2; D. Pasinella, Melrose FD; G. Conover, Hemstreet Park FD; T. Celuzza, RPI EMS; B. Maloney, Legislature; J. Wilson, BPS; E. Heffern, BPS; B. Cassidy Batt 4

Reports

a) Director Wilson

Introduced Ed Heffern as the new Deputy Director

Reviewed the proposed new CAD System, Received many letters of support from FD's and Squads, Estimated implementation time 18 months. Will include box alarm function and Mobile Data. Information will be out soon on iPads, Tablets etc needed. Estimated cost \$1.7 M. The Committee supports this new CAD System.

b) Fire Coordinator – no report

c) EMS Coordinator – no report

d) Law Enforcement – no report

e) Highway – no report

f) RACES – No Report.

2) Update / Status Reports / Ongoing Issues

a) Assistant Chief George Conover, Hemstreet Park FD was in attendance to discuss radio coverage concerns in the Fire District. He provided various maps and reports outlining the specific areas of concern, all of which were recently tested. Indicated that all radios had been recently auto tuned by Bearcom. Director Wilson advised he had also recently checked some of the reported areas and found no issues. After a lengthy discussion a motion was made by Bill Maloney, Seconded by Jack Thomas to recommend BPS further evaluate the coverage complaints and report back to the Committee when completed. Assistant Chief Conover also asked that BPS replace a HPFD radio installed in the County Boat. Director Wilson advised he would follow up.

b) APX Next LMR/LTE Portable Radio Purchase

All radios are deployed and in use except Rensselaer FD. When final system adjustments have been addressed and training is completed, RFD will switch over to the County 800 System. Law Enforcement is handling the WiFi connectivity at schools and other identified locations.

c) I am Responding (IaR) and Text Messaging

i) The Legislature accepted new grant funding on May 10; the County will now pay for IaR and it is possible some agencies may be eligible for a rebate on fees they may have already paid directly to the vendor. This should be happening soon.

d) 800 System

i) Chiefs are reminded that any radio issues of an immediate nature should be reported to the on-duty 911 Center supervisor; non-emergency issues should be reported to John Mainello.

e) Training

i) EMS training is now approved using the ON-LINE program on the BPS Page of the County Web Site. Updates will be made and the link will be sent to all EMS Agencies. FD training remains classroom only.

Next Meeting: October 18, 2023 7 PM Melrose FD