

Rensselaer County Radio Communications Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2021 @ EGFD Park Station & via Zoom

In attendance: (In Person) D. Jordan, Co-Chair; P. Glasser, BPS; J. Lacivita, East Greenbush FD; D. Valyou, Batt. 1; D. Basle, Batt. 3; M. Shanhan, RACES; M. Hubbs, Batt. 2; B. Cassidy, Schodack Valley FD (Via Zoom) M. Lacivita, Chair; W. Stewart, Batt 3/Secretary; M. Sheline, Hoosick Valley; R. McClave, Batt. 5; K. Allen, EMS 2; M. Drinkwine, Center Brunswick FD

1) Reports

- a. Director – no report, not present.
- b. Deputy Director – will comment on items
- c. Communications Center Supervisor – no report, not present
- d. Law Enforcement – no report, not present
- e. Highway – no report, not present
- f. RACES – no report

2) Update / Status Reports / Ongoing Issues

- a. 911 Center Outage on 9/8 The Deputy Director reported on the incident that put the dispatch center out of commission for a short period. Details are in a memo to department chiefs, summary points are below.
 - i. National Grid power to PSB was lost and the generator (managed by Sheriff's Department) that powers the 911 Center turned on but the transfer switch failed to operate.
 - ii. This failure was identified by a Dispatch Supervisor about 20 minutes after the power failure. The BackUp UPS supplied stable power until approximately 20:26.
 - iii. Per protocols, 911 calls were transferred to COMSEC; dispatch/paging operations were transferred East Greenbush; and the MCC was put into operation.
 - iv. By 23:00 the 911 Center was back in full operation.
 - v. No calls were lost during the outage and ground operations were not affected; lessons learned are being incorporated into updated protocols.
- b. NYSTEC Report
 - i. An in-vehicle repeater demo supplied by Motorola will be set up to test its effectiveness in the Johnsonville area.
 - ii. A preliminary report from Motorola looks promising regarding a possible tower site to address issues in the Nassau/Berkshire Spur areas

Rensselaer County Radio Communications Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2021 @ EGFD Park Station & via Zoom

c. 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 mobiles, control stations and portables expires on 11/30/21.
- iii. P&P issues are being addresses with violators
- iv. Additional radios have been approved by the County Legislature, awaiting issuance of the purchase order; due to nationwide supply chain issues delivery of units may be delayed.

d. TriTech CAD

- i. Rensselaer County is leading the preparation for a revised setup with Albany County.
- ii. Some changes in setup of response plans and box alarms may be necessary for integration into the system.
- iii. 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.
- iv. Field Ops
 1. A limited set of software is 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.

e. I Am Responding (IaR) / Text Messaging

- i. All were reminded that IaR is secondary to minitors as the primary dispatching system.

f. 800 System Update

- i. The major software upgrade planned for the spring continues to be delayed; it was determined that the exisiting logging recorder is not compatible with the updated software and a new recorder is required which may be affected by nationwide supply chain issues.

Rensselaer County Radio Communications Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2021 @ EGFD Park Station & via Zoom

g. NYSOIEC Grant

- i. Interoperability grant is pending.

h. Field Inventory

As of this meeting a very limited number of agencies have replied to the inventory request; an intern is expected to be on staff shortly to assist with this project.

i. Interoperability Status Update

- i. Out-of-county EMS agencies on board include Waterford, CPHM, Colonie, Cambridge, Columbia & Bennington counties; FDs include Colonie and Saratoga County

j. Other Items

- i. Under consideration is a new identifier category of “Bus” for agencies that have busses used to transport personnel and/or for rehab purposes.
- ii. Concern was expressed that “Transport” may be more a more appropriate term to avoid confusion with the colloquial use of “bus” for an ambulance.

Next Meeting – December 15, 2021 7 PM at Poestenkill FD and by ZOOM

BY:

Bill Stewart, Secretary