

RIEMA-ICC
January 20, 2011
9:00 a.m.

ATTENDEES:

Mike Walsh, RIEMA
Joe McGarry, Providence Communications
Tim Cullinan, East Prov. Fire
Paul Budzenski, RIEMA
Ron Provost, Motorola Solutions
Tom Crotty, RISP
Brian Glancy, RISP – Retired
Joe Swift, RIEMA
David Schnell, Lifespan
Jerry Masso, RIDOC
Jeff Stevens, DOH/CEPR
Gina Caruolo RIDOC
John Vernancio, New England Ambulance
Brian Swann, Motorola Solutions
George Loftus, OSHEAN, Inc.
James Vierra, RIDOC
Peter Ginaitt, Lifespan
Sam Adams, DOH

Meeting called to order by Chairman Mike Walsh at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of minutes of: 11/18/2010 and 12/07/2010

Correction to minutes of 11/18/20, submitted by David Schnell, Jr., as follows:

Remove the sentence that begins with “Bryan Swan...” from the original minutes and add the following:

“IMC Issue: Chief Delvecchio will be putting a committee together with the Fire Chief’s Association on the restricted air cards used for IMC dispatch. Fire departments without IMC are having no problem with Patient Tracking. Departments with IMC, like Cumberland EMS, require two separate cards and the monthly expenses are high. North Providence Fire is using a Spring ‘Overdrive’ and that is (sic) works well. All departments will be required to use the Patient Tracking System since all first response vehicles will be equipped with the proper hardware. A new Electronic Patient Care Report (EPCR) will [insert (hopefully)] be introduced within the next twelve to eighteen months.”

Motion offered to approve minutes of November 18th as amended, seconded and unanimously approved by members present.

Approval of minutes of: December 7, 2010

Correction to spelling of OSHEAN.

Motion offered by Jeff Stevens to approved minutes of December 7th with single correction, seconded and approved unanimously.

Chief Walsh: Public attendance to solicit comments and suggestions is encouraged at meetings of the ICC. It is appropriate to review, under the statute, to see if there are changes to the membership and to recognize those members, and to affirm that while comments and suggestions are welcome by the public, only members of the Commission are allowed to vote. Members are as follows:

Adjutant General (or designee); President of RI Fire Chief's Association (or designee); member of the Police Chief's Association; Director, RIEMA; representative of the Rhode Island One Trauma Center (Peter Ginaitt has been designated by the president of the facility); chairperson of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (Dawn Lewis); Director of the City of Providence Communications Division (or designee, Joe McGarry); representative RISCO Center, North Zone (EMA Director, Jason Rhoades from Burrillville); South Zone appointment; Colonel of the Rhode Island State Police; Director of DEM; Director of DOT; Corrections (Gina Caruolo); DOIT (Tony Lupinacci); Director, DOH (or designee, Jeff Stevens and Sam Adams); RIPTA (Fred Scott); Turnpike and Bridge Authority; Associate Director of E-911; Sachem of the Narragansett Indian Tribe (Lieutenant Monore). Also, two members appointed by Chief Walsh (Chief Hoxie and another).

- A review of the law should be done to determine if the law directs whom the members should be or whom the law recommends.
- Chief Walsh recommended that George Loftus of OSHEAN would be a good addition to the Commission
- Monthly check of list of appointees and verification of a quorum at meetings (a quorum consists of eleven members present out of twenty-one)
- Statute requires twelve (12) meetings annually
- Next month's agenda will review the statute as it relates to membership
- Ongoing status of various sites and new construction. Cumberland is moving their equipment from a non-town owned tower to another site over the next four to five months. Their electrical meters are up and running, with the Town of Cumberland paying the electric bill. Meeting with Cumberland town officials on January 25th to discuss the town migrating over to 800 mhz
- Test coverage was performed in Burrillville. The police looking to migrate over to 800 mhz and looking at two possible site locations, one in Glocester and the other in North Smithfield/Burrillville, reception being the deciding factor.
- Quote has been obtained for removal and replacement of new Middletown tower. Motorola has yet to provide a quote for the site, itself. This new site offers redundancy, in the event another site goes down.
- North Kingtown site quote is higher than funding allows. The coverage is \$180K. Extra costs include underground utilities, fixing a generator and erecting a shelter.

- Woonsocket Police Department has two mobiles, so that they can mobile text. Depending on how well that goes, it will have to be decided how much the town is going to pay.
- North Smithfield should be going over to 800 mhz at the end of this week.
- Steve Preston met with Chief Garrity, Captain Moynihan and dispatch personnel and evaluated dispatch.
- Woonsocket Fire is interested and wants to know the cost to the town and how much FEMA gives them. Woonsocket has mobiles in all their front line apparatus. Woonsocket Police know how much it will cost them, what their portion will be and what we (FEMA) will be able to provide. They have to address financing. They have 16 line cars and need only 16 mobiles, which is not a huge expense. Detectives will work off portables.
- The 6 to 10 upgrade is waiting for the rest of the equipment to get in. We are waiting for radios. There will be ten channels statewide and the metro zone will have 12. Channel utilization evaluation will continue and define whether to go to 12 statewide, but indications are that eight are enough.
- CCRI project should be starting
- Waiting for the microwave for Regan, to convert Regan to the north. That is due at the beginning of February and is the hold-up with Cranston putting 7500s online.
- Tiverton Police Department has a console which needs installation. They will migrate to 800 mhz. We gave them the 5500 for North Providence that was from a 2005 or 2006 grant. Once the console is installed, we have the mobiles that were promised. Once the mobiles are installed, they will be on 800 full time.

Region 19: Approval for the five sites that weren't licensed has been obtained, and we are in the process of licensing those five sites. Licensing for the new four channels for the north must go through Region 19.

Sixteen frequencies have been cleared for us. Going forward with the RIPTA project, testing is going to be done by RIPTA contractors to provide information to the Region 19 subcommittee. Important to make sure we don't interfere with each other's 700 frequency going forward. We are looking towards grabbing 700 frequencies out of Maine and Vermont, because they have no plans of using them. If they work here and don't interfere with anybody else, a presentation will be made to this committee and move forward with this. We will notify Region 19 of what we plan on doing, and they will notify Regions 8 and 30.

Connecticut is in the process of re-banding. Fairfield County is being converted to 700. They will be interoperative with Springfield and plan to migrate to 700 statewide, west to east, and keep that with the 800 channels they have. More and more agencies that have the 800 channels and are not on a trunk system are popping up as we reband.

We are still waiting for the five sites to be licensed before we can reband. The infrastructure is scheduled to be done next month. Change orders cannot be fulfilled by Nextel until the five sites are licensed.

There was a meeting between RIPTA and Motorola recently (last week). There are some issues with the vendor providing the software that will transfer data between the buses and their headquarters. RIPTA is waiting until July 2011 because they want their computers updated to Windows 7 to interact with ACS and not Vista.

UHF/VHF interoperable channel requirements

- It should be mandatory that each city and town, over time, have VHF and UHF, BETAX and UTAX in their radios if possible.
- Nearly everyone, with Providence being an exception, has VHF because of the fire intercity. Having resources to support reprogramming HT1000s has to be discussed. There is a statute which outlines authority. It has to be determined by counsel whether reprogramming can be mandated, and if so, who provides the funding (are the costs passed along to the community)?
- Narrow banding takes place in 2013. And since the frequencies are being assigned, there is a likelihood that unless there is a switch over to narrow banding, frequencies will interfere with each other.
- Suggestion: Formation of a small group to review the issues of narrow banding and bring the answers to next meeting. Also, tack on providing guidance for all municipalities on narrow banding. Since this will affect municipalities' budgets, this Commission should address and answer the issues surrounding narrow banding ahead of time. Feedback should be ready for the Investment Justification stakeholders group meeting, which is where the issue of funding takes place.
 - Motion to form committee to address the talking points of narrow banding made and seconded. Passed unanimously.

MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio System) Radio

ICC was approached about MARS providing additional operating frequencies. This is overseen by three branches of the military (Navy, Army and Air Force). Those frequencies are delegated by those particular branches of the armed services. An application was submitted a month ago for these particular frequencies, and we have just received approval documentation, as well as the call signs. We were delegated three separate call signs: (1) strictly used by our EOC, (2) used for mobile vehicles, and (3) under our jurisdiction to grant to any specific municipality requesting these frequencies. How they are delegated is still under review.

North Smithfield had requested a call sign to be delegated as a pilot program. These frequencies can be expanded by adding symbols (- and #) after the call sign, up to number 15. However, they are not limited to 15; we can request as many as we want, and

we would have precedence over their use. Each call sign is tied to one specific VHF band frequency.

There was a discussion of the use of ham radios and the attendant problems among the ham operator groups.

DOIT and other agencies involved in grant support:

There is a question as to who owns RICOP, and who is going to continue to pay for the infrastructure. Cox had been providing the back-off but ran out of money in the original grant, but Cox hasn't shut it off. John Washburn has interceded on our behalf to bring RICOP here and having us assume responsibility for it. It makes sense for the monitoring system to be housed at RIEMA. John Landers is involved in determining what is involved in moving the system here. OSHEAN will be involved to ensure that everyone is integrated and can benefit from it.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

There was a brief discussion of Region 19 frequencies. Also that cities and towns are not utilizing top-line vendors (Motorola, Cybercom) and, therefore, don't qualify for federal funds if their systems are not interoperable.

Sherry Martin is the training coordinator for Motorola. She forwarded a revised training scheme that is tailored to the SOP and 205, and which can be immediately available. MCC7500 training will begin at the end of February or beginning of March, once the dates are approved.

George Loftus: At this point, Mr. Loftus gave a presentation of Beacon 2.0. Details can be seen on www.OSHEAN.org. Mr. Loftus indicated he would be interested in being added to the membership of the ICC.

East Providence water tank project: Motorola has the site plan. It's a matter of waiting for them to provide the plan for East Providence to look at. Pricing can commence once the site is approved.

David McCauley is the new acting assistant director for RIDOC.

Next Meeting:

February 1, 2011 (first Tuesday of February)

Meeting Adjournment: 10:50 p.m.