



TOLLAND COUNTY MUTUAL AID FIRE SERVICE INC.

56 TOLLAND GREEN P.O. BOX 6 TOLLAND CT. 06084

Proudly serving since 1950

Dispatch – 860-875-2543 Operations Director – 860-872-2421 Finance Director – 860-871-8684

Fax – 860-872-0382



Minutes of the Radio Committee October 11, 2012

Meeting Location: TN Board Room

Attendance:

Jack Turner

Wayne Fletcher

Tyler Millix

William Stanek (Consultant)

Mark Dittrich (via Conference Call)

Jack Fisher

Open Project Status:

Hebron preparation. Bill Stanek indicated that he hopes the new FCC license changes required for Hebron will be completed by the July 1st start up. We should be able to begin operational testing before that as once the paperwork has been submitted for a period of time without rejection we should be OK to move forward.

Tyler will be meeting with Hebron Selectmen later this month to confirm the requirements for tower changes as proposed by the structural analysis company and Tactical Communications. Once that meeting confirms and approves the changes Tactical will be able to provide the final quotation for material and labor to complete the Hebron project.

TN / Tactical Maintenance Contract: We have submitted the final list of equipment that we are proposing Tactical provide a quotation to cover.

Microwave Concerns: Tactical Communications has returned the microwave system to full operational status and with re-programming of the system has established a full hot standby system. For now we are out of the woods but still need to look down the road to either replacing or providing an alternate such as the new PSDN network as the current MDS system is at full capacity and we currently need more circuits. Also future maintenance support does not look promising on the MDS system.

TN Dispatch Center Tower: We have received the report from the Structural Analysis on the tower at the dispatch center which puts this tower well overloaded as per the current code. Bill Stanek pointed out that when this tower was constructed it was well within the loading specifications however those specifications have since changed but as long as we do not make any modification to the existing tower we should still be OK. This leads to the issue of possible replacement of the current microwave system. If we can maintain the current frequency range (5.9 gig) we could probably still use the same dish antennas and thereby not be required to alter the current tower configuration. We will ask Tactical to provide a quotation for a system in the same range.

Dedicated 911 and dispatching services for the following communities:

ANDOVER - ASHFORD - BOLTON - COLUMBIA - COVENTRY - EAST WINDSOR - ELLINGTON
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TN's FCC Licenses: Over the past many years as TN has grown and expanded from the original 4 or 5 radio frequencies to the now 67 frequencies on 12 licenses. As we have added new frequencies and locations of those frequencies where used, the licenses have become very disorganized and extremely difficult to manage. Especially since the FCC only likes to see a maximum of 6 sites per license. Bill Stanek is working with an FCC Coordinator to look at all our licenses and frequencies to try to determine the best way to realign the licenses. His estimate of costs will be in the order of \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 for the low band frequencies and about the same for the UHF licenses.

New Business: The Committee had received a request for radio call number for Finance Director Jack Turner in view of the fact he no longer has an Ellington number. After review and consideration the Committee felt that as HQ 52 has always been issued to the TN Manager that we should stick with that format and issue Jack HQ 152. If further TN managers require number they could be HQ 252 etc.

The replacement of the 33.94, 33.88 & 33.78 radios at Bald Hill were discussed. The Committee and the Board has agreed with the replacement program and making the 33.78 radio a crossband radio. This will clear up some much needed floor space at the tower and also enable Tactical to place these radios under the proposed maintenance contract.

Tyler will contact Fiber Tech to see what the cost would be to replace our existing telephone line from the Dispatch Center to Bald Hill with a fiber cable.

A long discussion was had concerning the future status of the Box Mountain tower site and the possibility of securing a long term agreement or the possibility of a future purchase of the property. Bill Stanek will look at options for the next 30 to 60 days to see what makes the most sense for him then TN can consider the options.

Mark Dittrich will work on plans to build out the 453.275 network now that we have obtained the licenses for the additional tower sites.

Our next Radio Committee meeting will be December 6, 2012 @ 10am, @ TN.

Respectfully:
Jack Fisher Chairman

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